This contest is for students who

Welcome Learning

For the student who looks for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship monies, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn valuable information about our country's Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 70 years.

"...none of these framers of the constitution were gods; none of them had supernatural powers; none of them had divine foresight. They all had very human flaws and attributes, but they all contributed to the creation of a powerful, lasting government."

– Spencer Harjung, MD
First Place 2008

The main purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

For more information on The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, look on the Legion web site at **www.legion.org**, or contact the following office of The American Legion:

- For dates, sites and deadline information concerning local, district and state level competition, individuals should contact their local American Legion Post or their respective State Headquarters Office of The American Legion.
- For information concerning the National Contest, contact: **The Americanism and Children & Youth Division**, The American Legion, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206; telephone (317) 630-1249; or e-mail acy@legion.org.

www.legion.org

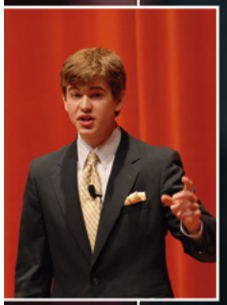
Artwork# 62ACY0508

Stock# 22-008

THE AMERICAN LEGION
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

Strive for Excellence

Compete for Scholarship Monies



Embrace Your Country's Constitution

www.legion.org

Scholarships are awarded.

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the Final Round of the National Contest as follows: **1st place — $18,000; 2nd place — $16,000; 3rd place — $14,000.** Each Department (State) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the National Contest will receive a **$1,500 scholarship**. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the Final Round, will receive an additional **$1,500 scholarship** to pursue education beyond high school.

The scholarships awarded by the National Organization of The American Legion may be used to attend any college or university in the United States. Funds for the scholarships awarded by the National Organization are provided by the American Legion Life Insurance Fund.

"The impact that this contest has had on me, and the importance of the scholarship monies I have been awarded through it cannot be exaggerated."

— Matthew Vandenberg, Bossier City, LA

"We really had no idea how involved and dedicated each and every person was..and what commitment it took from these people to make an event of this scale run smoothly, professionally and to still maintain an air of individuality. Thank you for giving my son the opportunity to be a small part of something so honorable."

– Deborah Boyajian, parent,
Portland, Maine

Department Contests get students started.

Each Department (State) organization of The American Legion may certify one contestant into the National Contest. If for any reason the Department Winner is unable to compete in the National Contest, the Department first runner-up may be substituted following approval by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission.

For information about the Oratorical Contest in your state, contact your local American Legion Post or State Headquarters. A listing of State Headquarters' addresses and phone numbers can be found on the Legion web site at **www.legion.org**.

"The kids are brilliant and The American Legion does a wonderful job of organizing and hosting the event. This is a worthwhile event and I feel privileged to have been asked to judge."

– Gene Rodriguez, National Finals Judge
WISH-TV 8, Indianapolis, Indiana

Who is eligible to participate?

You are eligible to participate in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program if you are a citizen or a lawful resident of the United States. Further, all contestants must be bona fide students under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Contest and must be enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home school) in which the curriculum of the high school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade twelve. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

"I want you to know that this was a very pleasant experience for us and a wonderful opportunity for my daughter. Each phase of the contest and on to the National Finals has been a valuable learning experience as well as a lot of fun for our entire family."

– Sara Snyder, parent,
New Martinsville, West Virginia

What topics do contestants speak on?

The prepared oration. The subject to be used to be used for the Prepare Oration of the contest must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same subject and oration used in the Department Contest must be used in the National Contest.

The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight minutes or more than ten minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

Assigned topic. The purpose of the Assigned Topic is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States.

The assigned topic must take no less than three minutes and must not exceed five minutes for time of delivery. Each year, the list of Assigned Topics will be made available prior to the contest and posted on the Legion web site at **www.legion.org.**

"It is through programs like The American Legion Oratorical Contest that America's youth will be steered in the right direction."

– Clark Lenz,
Torrington, Wyoming

Judges for the contest are chosen carefully.

The judges are an integral part of the contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Five judges are used in the process, which ultimately results in the selection of a National Champion each year.