

THE AMERICAN LEGION | HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Winners receive thousands in scholarships

The three finalists of the national contest earn some of the most generous scholarships college scholarships available to students: **\$25,000** for first place, **\$22,500** for second place and **\$20,000** for third place. Each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the first round of the national contest receives a **\$2,000** 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 **\$2,000** scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

Scholarships awarded by the national organization of The American Legion may be used to attend any U.S. college or university.

Each department (state) is represented

Each department of The American Legion may certify one contestant for 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 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 is online at legion.org.

Who is eligible to participate?

Eligible participants shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

All contestants must be younger than 20 years on the date of the national contest and enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited homeschool) in which the curriculum is considered to be high-school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at



any level of the American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.

High-school students who graduate early are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

Contestants must be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department. The three finalists of the national contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.

The orations

The prepared oration – The subject used for the prepared oration must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with an emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations. 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 be delivered in no fewer than eight minutes

and no more than 10 minutes. It must be delivered in the English language.

Assigned topic – The purpose of the assigned topic oration 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 it relates to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. Generally, the topic is a constitutional amendment; it could be the entire amendment or specific articles.

The assigned topic oration must be between three and five minutes. Each year, the list of assigned topics is made available prior to the contest and posted online at legion.org/oratorical/topics.

Contest judges

Fair and unbiased judging is integral for maintaining quality and integrity throughout all stages of the contest. The qualifications of all contest judges are carefully considered, and all judges have a thorough understanding of their roles.