

The 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.

State Level Prizes Awarded:

Students who compete in the contests have the opportunity of receiving money awards toward their future school endeavors. Local Legion Post awards will be determined by the individual Posts, and the district awards by the various districts. On the state level, the first place winner will receive \$1,500, second place \$500, third place \$300 and fourth place \$125.

National Level Prizes Awarded:

At the National level, each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the National Oratorical Content's 1st round receives \$1,500 and those who advance through the 1st round get an additional \$1,500. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000.

More Information:

For additional questions and information pertaining to the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact Oratorical Chairman Dale Midgley at 207-590-3532 or via e-mail at midgleyd@earthlink.net. More information can also be obtained by visiting www.mainelegion.org, your local American Legion Post, or The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229.

Check out the State and Local Oratorical Contests by visiting www.legion.org

The national finals contest will be held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West April 17-19, 2020 in Indianapolis.



The American Legion Department of Maine

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The American Legion Department of Maine

High School Oratorical
Scholarship Program

February 8, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Snow Date: Feb.15, 2020
9:00 a.m.

**Thomas College
180 West River Rd.
Waterville, Me.**



"A Constitutional Speech Contest"



Purpose:

The main purpose of the 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.



Contest: 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's 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 75 years.

Eligibility: Who is Eligible to Participate? Eligible participants in the contest shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the national contest that is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve (12). Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest. High school students that graduate early during the school year



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 either 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 Prepared Oration: The subject to be used for the Prepared Oration must be 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.