

State Level Prizes Awarded:

Students who compete in the contests have the opportunity of receiving money awards toward their future school endeavors. All 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 \$2,000 and those who advance through the 1st round get an additional \$2,000. The overall national contest winner is awarded a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third receives \$20,000.

More Information

For additional questions and information pertaining to the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact Oratorical Chairperson Maureen Malley at:
maureenmalley.66@gmail.com.

More information can be obtained by visiting www.mainelegion.org, your local American Legion Post, or The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229. Please check out the State and Local Oratorical Contests by visiting National's website at:
www.legion.org/oratorical.

The national finals contest will be held May 17-19, 2024 at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan



The American Legion Department of Maine

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AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Maine

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

February 10, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Snow Date: February 17, 2024
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 all 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, beginning 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 Assigned Topics

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.

The list of Assigned Topics are made available and posted on the Legion website at www.legion.org/oratorical/topics. They are



also listed in the Oratorical Contest Rules brochure which is available for download at www.mainelegion.org or www.legion.org/oratorical/resources.

The Prepared Oration

The subject to be used for the prepared oration in the Oratorical Contest must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis to the attendant 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.

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room. The copy may be electronic or paper form. They may consult the copy of their prepared oration until they exit the holding room in order to begin the contest. At that time the copy of the prepared oration will be surrendered to the contest official who is monitoring the first holding room. In the prepared oration, as well as in the assigned topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

