



Department of Illinois



The American Legion

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

\$13,075 in Scholarships

FOREWORD

The purpose of this contest 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, 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.

The scholarships awarded by the Department of Illinois, The American Legion, to the Department winners may be used to attend any College, University, Junior College, or Vocational Educational Institution, within the United States and within four (4) years after graduation from high school unless interrupted by service in the Armed Forces. Funds for the scholarships awarded by the Department of Illinois are provided by membership dues to the Department.

PROGRAM FACTS

The American Legion National High School Oratorical Program, following successful Department Competition, was first conducted as a National Contest in 1938 with eleven Departments competing. In recent years approximately 30,000 contestants have participated each year, representing fifty-two Departments of The American Legion.

Besides providing excellent experience for thousands of students participating in the program, the program

affords a vast audience of The American public the opportunity to better understand the meaning of the United States Constitution.

The Department of Illinois awards \$13,075 in scholarships each year to Department Finalists.

The National Organization provides \$128,000 in scholarships to the National Finalists, Semi-Finalists and winners to the National Finals.

A Department of Illinois
and
National Americanism Activity
of
THE AMERICAN LEGION

APPROVED BY:

- ◆ The National Association of Secondary School Principals
- ◆ Illinois Department of Education
- ◆ The Illinois High School Association

YOUR LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION CONTACT:

Name: _____

Phone: _____



Scan here to visit our American Legion
Department of Illinois website

RULES FOR CONTESTANTS

SUBJECT TO BE USED FOR PREPARED ORATION

The subject to be used for the prepared oration in the Oratorical Contest must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations 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 (8) or more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. The penalty for plagiarism will be disqualification. It must bear a title which is to be announced by the contest Moderator when he or she introduces the contestant; i.e.: "Contestant No. 1, the title of their oration is", etc.

THE ASSIGNED-TOPICS

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse 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 full text for the assigned topic, will be made known to each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the U.S. Constitution, selected from Articles and Sections as listed under assigned topics for this year's contest in this brochure.

In the prepared oration and/or assigned topic, quotations must always be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally. It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases in a foreign language to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. It should be understood that the vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must still be delivered in English. Singing is not permitted and will result in immediate disqualification. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song(s) provided proper attribution is made.

CERTIFICATION

Each of the (5) five Divisions may have up to six (6)* contestants compete at the Department of Illinois Oratorical Contest that is scheduled on the first Saturday in March. *Divisions may have and are limited to NOT MORE than (6) six Alternates. Division Chairmen shall determine their 6 contestants. The Oratorical Application, Communication Agreement and a sponsor check in the amount of \$125 for each contestant must be sent to the respective Division Americanism Chairman **no later than January 22, 2016**. It is highly recommended that either the Post, County, or District. ***Division level is required to host a CONTEST or an detailed contest ORIENTATION with contestants ensuring they are prepared for the next level of competition.***

ELIGIBILITY

All contestants must be Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States of America and bona fide students in secondary schools (Public, Parochial, Military, Private and Home Schools) under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Finals Program whose academic curriculum is of Public High School level, and enrolled in classes equivalent to the regular 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades on January 1 of the year when such National Programs are conducted.

AWARDS

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Contestants will compete in five groups of six (6) in the semi-finals.

1st Place Advances to the finals
2nd Place Receives \$450 scholarship
3rd Place Receives \$350 scholarship
4th Place Receives \$250 scholarship
5th Place Receives \$125 scholarship
6th Place Receives \$100 scholarship

Finals

1st Place Receives a \$2000 scholarship
2nd Place Receives a \$1500 scholarship
3rd Place Receives a \$1200 scholarship
4th Place Receives a \$1000 scholarship
5th Place Receives a \$1000 scholarship

ALL Department scholarship awards are payable to accredited Universities or Colleges in the United States.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1st Place.....\$18,000.00
2nd Place.....\$16,000.00
3rd Place.....\$14,000.00

First Round Contestants will receive a **\$1,500.00 scholarship**, and each Second Round Contestant who does not proceed to the National Finals will receive a **\$1,500.00 scholarship**.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION and DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS FORMS PLEASE GO TO: WWW.ILLEGION.ORG

79th Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

By action of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics shall be used in all 2016 contests. They are as follows.

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2016

Amendment 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article 1 Section 6 Clause 1

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

Amendment 26

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Article 1 Section 9 Paragraph 2

The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

ATTENTION: POST AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

THIS PROGRAM CAN BE SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, SPEECH TEACHER OR OTHER PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPEECH CONTESTS IN THE SCHOOL HAVE RECEIVED THIS BROCHURE, AND ARE AWARE OF THIS PROGRAM. CHECK WITH THEM TODAY.

SPONSOR A CONTESTANT THEY ARE OUR FUTURE.



***Rowan Macwan
Junior - Home Schooled
Naperville, IL***

**The American Legion
Department of Illinois**

**High School Oratorical
Scholarship Program**

~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

2015

**AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
ORATORICAL HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

FINALIST

and

**2ND PLACE AT THE
NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST**

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

1938	Thomas McEllin, Aurora	1979	Sarah Tsiang, Wheaton
1939	Fleetwood McCoy, Chicago	1980	Douglas F. Curtis, Wheaton
1940	Kenneth Anderson, Chicago	1981	Kenneth Rice, Des Plaines
1941	Jane Croessmann, DuQuoin	1982	WILLIAM KEPHART, JR., CHILLICOTHE*
1942	David Smothers, Wheaton	1983	Cathy Sarnecke, Wheaton
1943	BURTON BERNARD, GRANITE CITY*	1984	Julie Theriot, Wheaton
1944	Melvin Cornfield, Chicago	1985	Steven William Brandy, Danville
1945	David Gray, DeKalb	1986	Kent Ramler, Downers Grove
1946	William North, Park Ridge	1987	Brent Damrow, Frankfort
1947	James Werner, DuQuoin	1988	Stephen Osunsami, Peoria
1948	Philip Angeloff, Granite City	1989	Shawn Chen, Glen Ellyn
1949	Donald Pulliam, Danville	1990	Jane Park, Chicago
1950	Ralph Billeter, Maywood	1991	Brian Baker, Glenview
1951	Barbara Miller, E. St. Louis	1992	Brian Baker, Glenview
1952	Gerald Goldman, Chicago	1993	Richard Janor, Harwood Heights
1953	Herbert Lassiter, Chicago	1994	Adam Smith, Northbrook
1954	Robert B. Rosenberg, Chicago	1995	Richard Janor, Harwood Heights
1955	David G. Sills, Peoria Heights	1996	Jamie Aussieker, Highland
1956	Kenneth Schurter, Chicago	1997	Michael Masters, Winnetka
1957	David Cohler, Chicago	1998	Julia Barrett, Oak Park
1958	Paul V. Black, Lansing	1999	Julia Barrett, Oak Park
1959	ROGER R. MAJAK, LANSING*	2000	Robert Goedert, Oak Park
1960	Douglas Grandgeorge, Somonauk	2001	April Kusper, Oak Park
1961	James Edward Bond, Peoria	2002	MEGAN WYKES, PLANO*
1962	Robert I. Gordon, Highland Park	2003	Lucas Mette, Teutopolis
1963	William (Bill) Thieman, Peoria	2004	JACQUELINE KEIDEL, BERWYN*
1964	Frederick McDowell, Aurora	2005	JOSHUA WILSON, GRIDLEY*
1965	Thomas J. Santefort, South Holland	2006	Casey Verkamp, Lisle
1966	Michael Duncheon, Danville	2007	JARED CANFIELD, NAPERVILLE*
1967	David Lenny, Collinsville	2008	Heidi Erbsen, Pearl City
1968	David Lenny, Collinsville	2009	HEIDI ERBSEN, PEARL CITY*
1969	Kathy Best, Peoria	2010	Matthew Schuhriemen, Naperville
1970	Richard Prigge, Western Springs	2011	Athena Saldanha, Schaumburg
1971	Joel Richard Levin, Morton Grove	2012	ATHENA SALDANHA, SCHUAMBURG*
1972	Roger Jones, Chicago	2013	Jacob Custer, Buffalo Grove
1973	JOHN WESLEY FROST, PEORIA*	2014	Sarvasva Raghuvanshi, Naperville
1974	Joseph Arthur Bates, Winnetka	2015	ROWAN MACWAN, NAPERVILLE*
1975	GRETCHEN WINTER, CHICAGO*		
1976	Dale J. Trela, Evergreen Park		
1977	MARK R. THOMPSON, GLENN ELLYN*		
1978	Jon Kastelic, Granite City		

* NATIONAL SEMI FINAL OR FINALS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

THE AMERICAN LEGION ~ DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

All contestants must complete this form and give to their respective District Americanism Chairman who will then forward to their respective Division Americanism Chairman. The Division Americanism Chairman shall mail it to: Oratorical Contest Coordinator—The American Legion, Department of Illinois P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, IL 61702 by the contest deadline—January 29, 2016.

****Communication between the contestant and the Oratorical Contest Coordinator shall primarily be through email. Failure to communicate via email may result in the disqualification of the contestant. Please respond promptly!***

The 2016 American Legion, Department of Illinois High School Oratorical Scholarship Semi-Final/Finals is March 4-5, 2016 in Peoria, IL at the Peoria Civic Center. All contestants and chaperones will arrive Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants and chaperones will stay at the official contest hotel. A mandatory pre-contest orientation for all contestants will take place Friday evening of the contest weekend. The Department of Illinois winner must be available for the 2016 National Finals April 15-16 in Indianapolis, IN at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. *(Information and instructions will be provided to the Department of IL winner)*

The contestant shall have ready a (8-10) minute prepared oration on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizens to our government. The contestant must also be prepared to present a (3-5) minute oration on any one of the (4) four assigned topics. *(see Oratorical brochure for copy of Assigned Topics)*

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Email Address: _____

(Please print legibly)

High School: _____

High School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Current grade in school: _____ 9th _____ 10th _____ 11th _____ 12th *(check one)*

Contestant signature: _____

PARENT INFORMATION:

Parent Name: _____ Parent Phone: _____

*Parent Email Address: _____

(Please print legibly)

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

POST (Sponsor*) INFORMATION:

Post #: _____ District: _____ Division: _____

Post Officer name: *(printed)* _____

Post Officer signature: _____

* Sponsor must send the \$125 fee, Oratorical Application, and signed Communication Agreement to their respective Division Americanism Chairman **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 22, 2016**. Checks payable to: American Legion Department of Illinois.

(after the January 29, 2016 deadline for the fee is non-refundable)



P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2910
2720 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, Illinois 61704-6010

CONTEST EMAIL COMMUNICATION UNDERSTANDING & AGREEMENT

As a condition of my participation in the Department Semi-Final & Finals of The American Legion High School Oratorical Program—"A Constitutional Speech Contest", I, the contestant, understand and agree to abide by the contest email communication requirements.

Communications between the contestant and the Department Oratorical Contest Coordinator shall primarily be through email. It shall be the contestants responsibility to read all material emailed, and to respond promptly to all email communications from the Department Contest Coordinator.

The contestant will receive an informational email within 5 days after the application certification deadline—January 29, 2016. Emails will provide the contestant with detailed information concerning the 2016 Department Semi-Finals & Final of The American Legion High School Oratorical Program.

Contestant (*please print*) _____

Signature of Contestant _____

Contestant Email Address: _____
(Please Print legibly)

Parent or Legal Guardian (*please print*) _____

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Email Address: _____
(Please Print legibly)

The 2016 American Legion Department of Illinois Semi-Finals & Final American Legion High School Oratorical Program is March 4-5, 2016 in Peoria, IL at the Peoria Civic Center. All contestants and chaperones shall arrive Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants and chaperones shall stay at the official contest hotel. A mandatory pre-contest orientation session for all contestants will take place Friday evening of the contest weekend. In addition, a pizza party honoring all contestants will be Friday evening following the pre-contest orientation.

Telephone: (309) 663-0361
Web: <http://www.illegion.org>

Fax: (309) 663-5783
E-mail: hdqs@illegion.org