



Department of Illinois



The American Legion

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

2019

\$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 & REGULATIONS 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.

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. A raised platform is not mandatory; however, it is strongly recommended. The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker's stand or any manner of prompting is not permitted. Props are not permitted.

For a full review of Oratorical Contest Rules and Regulations go to: <http://www.legion.org/oratorical/rules>

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.

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 18, 2019.** It is highly recommended that either the Post, County, or District host a contest. **The Division level is required to host a CONTEST or at minimum a 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

82nd Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2019

By action of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics shall be used in all 2019 contests. They are as follows.

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment 4

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment 13

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 21

1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.
2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.
3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

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.



**Patrick Kilcullen ~ Lindenhurst, IL
Freshman, Grayslake North HS**

Sponsored By Grayslake American Legion Post 659, Dist.10, Div. 2

The American Legion Department of Illinois

High School Oratorical
Scholarship Program

~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

2018 AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS ORATORICAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FINALIST

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*	2016	Thomas Kilcullen, Lindenhurst
1976	Dale J. Trela, Evergreen Park	2017	Ryan Park, Naperville
1977	MARK R. THOMPSON, GLENN ELLYN*	2018	Patrick Kilcullen, Grayslake
1978	Jon Kastelic, Granite City		

* NATIONAL SEMI FINAL OR FINALS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS



THE AMERICAN LEGION ~ DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

ORATORICAL CONTEST
EMAIL COMMUNICATION UNDERSTANDING

~ and ~

MANDATORY PRE-CONTEST ORIENTATION ATTENDANCE
AGREEMENT

The 2019 American Legion Department of Illinois Semi-Finals & Final American Legion High School Oratorical Program will be held **March 1-2, 2019** in Springfield, IL at the Crowne Plaza—Springfield.

The contestant will receive an email within 5 days after the application certification deadline-*January 25, 2019*. Emails will provide the contestant with detailed information regarding the 2019 Department Semi-Finals & Final of The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest Program.

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 Oratorical Contest Coordinator.

Furthermore, in order to compete and earn any Department of Illinois scholarship monies it is **MANDATORY** that **ALL** Contestants and Chaperones arrive Friday of the contest weekend to **ATTEND** the scheduled Pre-Contest Orientation.

All contestants and chaperones will stay at the official contest hotel. Reservations will be made in advance by the Department Oratorical Contest Coordinator. Contest details will be emailed expecting your response.

Finally, 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 and Mandatory Pre-Contest Orientation attendance with my signature below.

Contestant *(please print)* _____

Contestant Signature _____

Contestant Email Address: _____
(Please Print legibly)

Parent or Legal Guardian *(please print)* _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature _____

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



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

All contestants must complete this form and give to their respective District Americanism Chairman who will then forward it to their respective Division Americanism Chairman. The Division Americanism Chairman shall mail it to: Department Oratorical Contest Coordinator—The American Legion, Department of Illinois P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, IL 61702 by the contest deadline—**January 25, 2019.**

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

The 2019 American Legion, Department of Illinois High School Oratorical Scholarship Semi-Final/Finals will be held March 1-2, 2019 in Springfield, IL at the Crowne Plaza Springfield. The Department of Illinois winner must be available for the 2019 National Finals held April 5-7, 2019 in Indianapolis, IN at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. (Instructions will be provided to the Department of Illinois winner)

IMPORTANT NOTE: 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. In addition, 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 during the Assigned Topic portion of state and national contests. (see Oratorical brochure for copy of Assigned Topics)

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Email Address: _____
(Please print legibly)

High School: _____ City: _____

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 / Pre-Contest Orientation Agreement to their respective Division Americanism Chairman → **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 18, 2019.**
Checks payable to → **American Legion Department of Illinois.** (after the January 25, 2019 deadline the fee is non-refundable)