

AMERICAN LEGION Department of ILLINOIS



87TH ANNUAL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A CONSTITUTIONAL
SPEECH CONTEST

A Scholarship Opportunity

For students seeking an academic challenge and an opportunity to earn college scholarship money, the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. For more than 80 years, this constitutional speech contest has educated youth on our nation's founding document, with an emphasis on citizenship.

The main purpose of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among students. Participants also grow in leadership ability, their capacity to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and understanding of the rights, responsibilities, obligations and privileges of U.S. citizens.

\$13,075 in Scholarships

Scholarships awarded may be used to attend any college/university, junior college or vocational educational institution within the United States. They must be used within 4 years from high school graduation (unless interrupted by service in the Armed Forces). Funds for scholarships are provided by department membership dues.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
AMERICAN LEGION
CONTACT TODAY!
(LISTED BELOW)

 Name _____

 Phone _____

 Email _____



RULES & REGULATIONS

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>*

CONTESTANT CERTIFICATION

Each of the (5) five Divisions may have up to three (3)* 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 \$150 for each contestant must be sent to the respective Division Americanism Chairman no later than January 12, 2024.** 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.**

CONTESTANT 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.

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.

2024 ASSIGNED TOPICS

By action of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics shall be used in ALL 2024 contests. They are as follows:

Amendment II – A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed

Amendment XXIII – The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the State, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Amendment XXV, Section 3 – Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Amendment V – No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, not be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIPS

Semi-finals (contestants will compete 5 groups of six (6))

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

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1st Place.....\$25,000.00
2nd Place.....\$22,500.00
3rd Place.....\$20,000.00

First Round Contestants will receive a **\$2,000.00 scholarship** and each Second Round Contestant who does not proceed to the National Finals will receive a **\$2,000.00 scholarship**.

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

2023 AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER APRIL ZHANG OF NAPERVILLE, IL A STUDENT OF NEUQUA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Pictured below (from left to right) are 2023 Finals Contestant winners, April Zhang (1st place; advanced to Nationals), Avani Rai (2nd Place), and Samantha Findysz (3rd place).

visit <https://www.illegion.org/programs-services/americanism-commission/> for a full list of previous Department of Illinois Scholarship winners.



AMERICANISM COMMISSION:

Chairman: Micheal M. Carder

Vice Chairman: Celeste Latham

Chairman Emeritus: Philip H. Mette

Members by Division:

1st Division - Micheal M. Carder

2nd Division - Celeste N. Latham

3rd Division - Norman W. Flowers, Jr.

4th Division - Mark Young

5th Division - Ralph W. Rounds, II

5th Division - Phil Mette '23

NATIONAL SEMI FINAL OR FINALS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS FROM ILLINOIS

1943	BURTON BERNARD, GRANITE CITY
1959	ROGER R. MAJAK, LANSING
1973	JOHN WESLEY FROST, PEORIA
1975	GRETCHEN WINTER, CHICAGO
1977	MARK R. THOMPSON, GLENN ELLYN
1982	WILLIAM KEPHART, JR., CHILLICOTHE
2004	JACQUELINE KEIDEL, BERWYN
2005	JOSHUA WILSON, GRIDLEY
2007	JARED CANFIELD, NAPERVILLE
2009	HEIDI ERBSEN, PEARL CITY
2012	ATHENA SALDANHA, SCHUAMBURG
2015	ROWAN MACWAN, NAPERVILLE (PICTURED ON FRONT COVER)
2019	CALEB MAUE, HOMER GLEN