



THE AMERICAN LEGION ~ DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Oratorical Contest Email Communication Understanding ~ and ~ Mandatory Pre-Contest Orientation Attendance **AGREEMENT**

The **2026** American Legion Department of Illinois Semi-Finals & Final American Legion High School Oratorical Program will be held **March 7, 2026** in Normal, IL at Heartland Community College.

The contestant will receive an email within 5 days after the application certification deadline—*February 20, 2026*. Emails will provide the contestant with detailed information regarding the 2026 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.**

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 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—**February 20, 2026.**

**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 2026 American Legion, Department of Illinois High School Oratorical Scholarship Semi-Final/Finals will be held March 7, 2026 in Normal, IL at Heartland Community College. The Department of Illinois winner must be available for the 2026 National Finals held May 15-17, 2026 at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. *(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 **\$175** fee, Oratorical Application, and signed Communication / Pre-Contest Orientation Agreement to their respective Division Americanism Chairman → ***NO LATER THAN JANUARY, 2026.***
Checks payable to → **American Legion Department of Illinois.** *(after the January 16, 2026 deadline the fee is non-refundable)*