



Important Dates

Intention to compete due by:
December 5, 2025, visit the website below to register.

All District contests must be completed by: **January 25, 2026**

All Zone contests must be completed by: **February 22, 2026**

Department contest will be:
March 28, 2026 at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, MI.

To register for the 2026 Contest scan the QR code below or visit www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical



Contact Us:



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212 N. Verlinden Ave.
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High School Oratorical

Scholarship Program

A Constitutional Speech Contest

**WIN UP TO \$2,000
STATE LEVEL**

**WIN UP TO \$25,000
NATIONAL LEVEL**

Prepare to Win:

- Dress in business attire.
- Watch previous National oratorical contest speeches at legion.org/oratorical/videos
- Practice, Practice, Practice with a coach.
- Watch your timing.
- The speech is not about you.
- Have a prepared speech for each of the assigned amendments.
- Props are not allowed.

Notes on the stage are not allowed.



This contest is for students who Welcome Learning

For the student who looks for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn about our country's Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 80 years.

Eligibility

To participate in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- High school can be public, parochial, military, private or home school.
- Citizen or lawful, permanent resident of the United States of America. Under the age of 20, on the date of the National Contest.
- Must be enrolled in a Michigan high school, in which the curriculum is considered to be of high school level, with grades 9 - 12, during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

Scholarship Opportunities

State Level

1st Prize- \$2,000

2nd Prize- \$1,500

3rd- 5th Prize- \$1,000

National Level

1st Prize- \$25,000

2nd Prize- \$22,500

3rd-Prize- \$20,000

What to Prepare

The prepared oration: The subject to be used for the prepared oration must be on some aspect of the United States 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 8 minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery.*

The assigned topic: 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. *The assigned topic must not take up less than 3 minutes or more than 5 minutes for delivery.* The assigned topic shall be drawn at random by the contest official in full view of the audience.

**All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in English.*

2026 Assigned Topics

• **Amendment IV**

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.

• **Article III**

Section 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court. The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

• **Article IV**

Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

• **Article VI**

Clause 3. The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.