

2020-2021 ALABAMA AMERICAN LEGION



**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

2020 – 2021 ALABAMA AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Earnestine Doubek – Chairman – 708- 691-3447

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible participants in The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any students under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home school) in which the curriculum of said school is considered to be of high school level commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve (12). Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.

The three finalists of the National Contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.

To receive the first-place award at any level within the Department of Alabama, the winner must represent the American Legion at the next level of the contest.

PREPARED ORATION: The subject to be used for the Prepared Oration **must be** on some phase of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The **Same subject** and **oration used** in the Department Contest **must be** used in the National Contest.

In the Prepared Oration, as well as in the Assigned Topic Discourse, quotations must 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.

The Prepared Oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their Prepared Oration in the first Holding Room.

They may consult the copy of their Prepared Oration, until they exit the Holding Room in order to begin the contest, at which time the copy of the Prepared Oration will be given to the contest official that is monitoring the First Holding Room.

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2020 – 2021 ORATORICAL CONTEST

ASSIGNED TOPIC: 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 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 Assigned Topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her Prepared Oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States, selected from the Articles and Sections as listed under Assigned Topics for the current year's contest in this brochure. All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same Assigned Topic:

Assigned Topics for 2021 Oratorical Contest

Article I, Section 7

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States;[2] If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Article II, Section 3

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Article III, Section 1

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Amendment XXII, Section 1

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

REGULATIONS

A drawing shall be held by the contest official to determine the order in which the contestants will appear. The Contest Chairman shall announce the title of the contestant's prepared oration immediately after introducing the student as Contestant Number 1, Contestant Number 2, etc. The Chairman will request the audience to refrain from applause until the Judges have made their decision.

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

The time allotted for each contestant to deliver their Prepared Oration shall not be less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes and for the Assigned Topic, not less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes.

An official shall be named by the Contest Chairman whose duty it shall be to keep an accurate time record of each contestant and shall be located on the main floor in full view of the contestants.

The timekeeper shall begin timing each contestant at the start of the Prepared Oration. The timer should be equipped with a stopwatch and cards marked 8, 9, and 10 for the Prepared Oration and cards marked 3, 4 and 5 for the Assigned Topic Discourse. When eight minutes have been used during the Prepared Oration, the time warning card with the figure 8 thereon shall be placed in view of the speaker, following with 9 and 10 as the speaker progresses. The same procedure shall be used with cards bearing 3, 4, and 5 during the Assigned Topic Discourse. The Contest Chairman shall announce the time consumed by each Contestant for the Prepared Oration and the Assigned Topic immediately after each contestant speaks for the benefit of the Judges.

Contestants are required to remain in a private room where the discourse of the other speakers cannot be heard until it is their turn to speak (contestants will be under the supervision of an individual appointed by the Contest Chairman). As the contestants conclude their Prepared Oration, they must return to private

waiting room. As each speaker concludes his/her Assigned Topic discourse, they shall not be allowed to associate with the contestants who have not fulfilled the Assigned Topic requirement.

Approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of the delivery of the Assigned Topic Discourse, Contestant Number 1 will be informed of the topic drawn for the Assigned Topic and shall be permitted to retire to privacy under the direction of an individual appointed by the Contest Chairman, whose duty it shall be to see that no contestant is permitted to consult any text matter or notes having any connection with the subject matter upon which he/she is to speak, other than the actual words of the topic provided on the card drawn.

Each succeeding contestant will be called upon in the order in which he/she previously appeared. He/she shall also, in turn, be informed of the topic of the Assigned Topic Discourse and shall then be escorted to privacy in the manner as provided for Contestant Number 1.

National Regulations and Rules apply in all contests. Judges' scorecards for Department and the National contest will not be divulged to anyone at the site of the contest. The Judges' scorecards become the property of The American Legion National Headquarters. The decision of the judges is final.

I have also included the website at National Headquarters that have step-by-step instructions on conducting the oratorical contest.

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/how-to-videos>

DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA ORATORICAL CONTEST DATES

DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA ORATORICAL CONTEST DATES

(May be held earlier but not later than)

Information on the Department of Alabama's representatives for the National Finals must be submitted to the National Headquarters **not later than March 15, 2021:**

Schools Not later than: January 9, 2021

County/Zone/Post Contests Not later than: January 23, 2021

District Contests Not later than: February 13, 2021

Division Contests Not later than: February 27, 2021

Department Contest: March 6, 2021

National Finals: April 9 – 11 2021 - Indianapolis, IN

The 2021 National Finals will be April 9 – 11 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46241, (317) 248-2481. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 10, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 11.

All contestants and chaperones will arrive the Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants and chaperones will stay at the official contest hotel.

A mandatory pre-contest orientation session for all contestants will take place the Friday evening of the contest weekend. A banquet honoring all contestants will be Sunday afternoon, following the national championship contest. All contestants and chaperones will depart for home later that afternoon.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

DEPARTMENT FINALS / NATIONAL FINALS

First Place	\$2,500.00	\$25,000.00
Second Place	\$1,500.00	\$22,500.00
Third Place	\$1,000.00	\$20,000.00
State Winner (Certified)		\$2,000.00

The National Headquarters American Legion will pay travel and lodging for the Department winner and one parent or chaperone to the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana, **April 9 - 11 2021**. Each Department winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the National Contest will receive a \$ 2,000.00 scholarship. Those first-round winners who advances to and participates in the second round but does not advance to the final round will receive an additional \$ 2,000.00 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

SAMPLE LETTER TO PRINCIPAL/COUNSELOR



Date

Principal/Counselor Last name,

First, I would like to introduce myself. I am xxxxxxxx, Commander, American Legion Post #xxx. I am the focal point for the Department of Alabama's 2020-2021 State High School Oratorical Contest in our county. We are pleased to announce the 2020-2021 Alabama American Legion Oratorical Contest. The Oratorical Contest presents our nation's high school participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Not only do we provide them the academic challenge, but young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$203,500 in scholarships are awarded each year. High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. Also, the Department of Alabama awards the three-state finalist monetary scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000.

I have attached a booklet (**don't forget to attach the booklet! if you do not think it's needed just remove this sentence**) explaining the scholarship program and how your outstanding students can compete for local as well as national scholarships offered by the American Legion. I have also included the Alabama American Legion Oratorical website along with the National American Legion website which will provide more details of the program:

<http://www.legional.org/oratorical-competition.html>

<http://www.legion.org/oratorical/how-to-videos>

I would very much like to meet or speak with you or a representative of your school concerning this outstanding program and the participation of any of your outstanding students.

I can be reached at XXX-XXX-XXX and if you cannot reach me please contact Mrs. Earnestine Doubek (or whoever's name you want here), State Chairman for the Alabama Oratorical Program, at 708 691-2447

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Your name here

Commander/xxxxxx

American Legion Post # XXXX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Legion invites high school students to compete in speech contest

Winners will earn monetary scholarships and the opportunity to compete in national finals

High school students of **(community)** have been invited by **(name of post)** Post No. ##### of The American Legion to compete in the 52nd Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. The invitation to enter the competition was extended today by Post Commander **(or Post Oratorical Chairman)** **(full name)**.

The contest for **(your county or district)** students has been arranged with the full cooperation of local school officials and **(full name and title)** of the **(school name)** faculty who will assist with the contest arrangements.

The subject in the prepared oration portion of the contest must be about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the United States government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must be 8-10 minutes in length.

The Department of Alabama American Legion awards the three-state finalist monetary scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000.

In addition to the awards by winners of the various elimination rounds of competition, college scholarships of \$25,000, \$22,500, and \$20,000 will be awarded to the first through third places in the national finals. Each state winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The top three youth orators who have won all previous elimination rounds of the contest will vie for top honors in the national contest in April in Indianapolis.

The American Legion will pay the expenses of state winners at the national contest.

High school students in **(community)** who are interested in entering the competition will find complete rules and contest information at:

www.legion.org/oratorical

Contact (list name of contacts, email addresses and phone numbers)

American Legion Oratorical Contest

Public Service Announcements

30 Seconds

Education ... protecting the foundation of freedom that we as Americans cherish. American Legion Post **(number)** has information on over \$138,000 in scholarships for students in **(community)**. The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program can provide a steppingstone to further education. For more information contact **(your local high school)** or American Legion Post **(number)** at **(phone number)**.

College. Money. Two words that go together. It takes a lot of money to pay for a college education. For high school students, there is a way to talk your way to college. This year The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program will award over \$203,000 in college scholarships. Contact American Legion Post **(number)** at **(phone number)** for details. Find out today how you can get involved and talk your way to college.

20 Seconds

Are you in high school? Planning on college? Need some college money? Then consider talking your way to college. You can if you are a winner in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. Contact American Legion Post **(number)** at **(phone number)** for details. Talking can pay big dividends.

Do you know someone at your high school who is an excellent speaker? Could this individual use a college scholarship? Your local American Legion post has information on how to qualify for over \$138,000 in scholarships. Contact American Legion Post **(number)** at **(phone number)** for details.

10 Seconds

Talk your way to college? You can if you are a winner in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. Want to find out more? Contact American Legion Post **(number)** at **(phone number)** for details.

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program offers students over \$203,500 in scholarships. Contact American Legion Post **(number)** at **(phone number)** for details.

For more information, please visit www.legion.org/oratorical

Contact (list name of contacts, email addresses and phone numbers)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Date: _____ Speaking Order: _____ Final Placement: _____

(Contest: School / Post/County / District / Division /Department)

SCHOOL WINNER: _____
(HIGH SCHOOL NAME)

COUNTY WINNER: _____
(Post/COUNTY NAME)

DISTRICT WINNER: _____
(DISTRICT)

DIVISION WINNER: _____
(DIVISION)

DEPARTMENT WINNER: _____
(DEPARTMENT)

TITLE OF SPEECH: _____

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

STUDENT'S GRADE: _____ STUDENT'S SSN: ONLY ON REQUEST

STUDENT'S SPEECH COACH: _____

PARENT'S NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PARENT'S PHONE NUMBER: _____ email _____

STUDENT'S PHONE NUMBER: _____ email _____

AMERICAN LEGION POST SPONSOR: _____

DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE? _____

NAME OF COLLEGE: _____

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND IT TO THE SPONSOR AT THE LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION POST
THIS FORM WILL BE USED AT EACH CONTEST LEVEL**

The American Legion



Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate of appreciation is gratefully presented to

Tom McKinney

In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service
As a chaplain which contributed to the advancement of
The American Legion First Division Department of Alabama
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

Presented this 22nd Day of February 2020

Charles Marsh
First Division Commander
The American Legion
Department of Alabama

Earnestine Doubek
First Division Coordinator
The American Legion
Department of Alabama



Certificate of Distinction

2nd PLACE

**Miss Kattie Jett
Moulton, AL Post 25**

is awarded this certificate of Appreciation
of and Recognition for Active Participation
in
The American Legion
Department of Alabama High School Oratorical Contest

Presented by
Mr. Charles Marsh
Commander, First Division
22 February 2020

Commander

Coordinator

Post Chairman's Guide to the Oratorical Contest

You can download the Post Chairman's guide from the following internet site:

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/resources>

Oratorical Commission Members

Chairman	Earnestine Doubek	708-691-2447	ewdoubek@yahoo.com
Vice Chair	Willie Rogers	334-467-5032	32ndccrogers@gmail.com
Member	Norman James	251 300-9915	Stormandrose88@gmail.com
Member	George Krigbaum	256-739-5916	georgekrigbaum@gmail.com
Member	Barry Blount	205-663-3806	bkblount@gmail.com
Member	Richard Kaster	205-663-3805	richardkaster@bellsouth.net
1 st Div Cmdr	Charles Marsh	256-990-6018	cnpmarsh@charter.net
2 nd DIV Cmdr	Van Daughtry	334-322-1004	vanndaughtry@charter.net
3 rd DIV Cmdr	Don Madden	251-401-6544	bama.madden@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact any of us for Oratorical questions or assistance.

Choosing to serve veterans,

Earnestine Doubek
Chairman, Oratorical Commission
The American Legion
Department of Alabama