

2022-2023 ALABAMA AMERICAN LEGION



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CONTENTS

ELIGIBILITY.....	3
PREPARED ORATION.....	4
ASSIGNED TOPIC.....	5-6
CONTEST REGULATIONS.....	7-8
DEPARTMENT CONTEST DATES.....	9
DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL FINALS	
SCHOLARSHIP.....	10
SAMPLE LETTER TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS.....	11-12
ORATORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS.....	13

2022-2023 ALABAMA AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Willie Rogers – Chairman – 334-467-5039

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 Contestants who are 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 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.

In order 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

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 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.

ORATORICAL CONTEST ASSIGED 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 assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his or her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and 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 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 TOPIC FOR 2023 ORATORICAL CONTEST

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Amendment XIV, Section 1

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Amendment XVI

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

CONTEST 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.

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

DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA ORATORICAL CONTEST

DATES

(May be held earlier but not later than)

- School Contests Not later than: **28 Jan 2023**
- County/Zone/Post Contest: **4 Feb 2023**
- District Contest: **18 Feb 2023**
- Division Contest: **4 Mar 2023**
- Department Contest: **11 March 2023.**
- National Finals: **April 21 - 23 2023 – Indianapolis, IN**

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

STATE FINALS / NATIONAL FINALS

First Place	\$2,500.00	\$25,000
Second Place	\$1,500.00	\$22,000
Third Place	\$1,000.00	\$20,000
State Winner (Certified)		\$ 2,000

The American Legion will pay travel and lodging for Department winners and their chaperones to the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana, **21-23 April 2023**. Each Department winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the National Contest will receive a \$2,000.00 scholarship. Each first round winner 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



Principal/Counselor,

First, I would like to introduce myself. I am xxxxxx, Commander, American Legion Post #xxx. We are pleased to announce the Department of Alabama's 2023 State High School 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 \$138,000 in scholarships are awarded each year. The national contest held in Indianapolis, IN, awards scholarships of \$25,000, \$22,000, and \$20,000 to the first, second, and third place finishers, Whereas the Department of Alabama awards \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000 respectively. **The 2022 National Oratorical winner was Ms. Emma Noble, from Birmingham, Alabama, who was awarded a total of \$29,500 in scholarships.**

I have included a brochure explaining the scholarship program and how your outstanding students can compete for local as well as national scholarships offered by the American Legion. The American Legion National website will provide more details of the program:

<http://www.legion.org/oratorical/about>

For more information concerning the participation of any of your outstanding students please contact me directly at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Your name here

Commander

American Legion Post # XXXX

ORATORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chairman	Willie Rogers - 334-467-5039
Vice-Chairman	Richard Kaster – 205-243-0763
Member	Sherrie Rogers – 334-358-3837
Member	Brett Davis – 334-318-9783
Member	Jeff Gibson – 334-614-4777
Member	Jerry McClain – 206-412-3548
Member	Glady's Leonard – 703-283-6909