



**THE
AMERICAN LEGION
HIGH SCHOOL
ORATORICAL CONTEST**

“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

**2018 - 2019 RULES
& REGULATIONS**

**An Americanism Program
of
The American Legion
Department of Indiana**



**Approved by
The Indiana Department of Public Instruction
and
The National Association of Secondary School Principals**

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of The American Legion State Oratorical Contest are to:

- develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of the United States on the part of Indiana high school students;
- give each participating student an opportunity to utilize this knowledge in an atmosphere of competitive public speaking; and
- offer students an avenue to obtain scholarship awards to assist them in pursuing a college education.

ELIGIBILITY

The American Legion State Oratorical Contest is open to any student who is enrolled in classes equivalent to the regular 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades. Students must be under twenty (20) years of age. Students must be enrolled in an Indiana high school during any and all levels of participation in this contest. Contestants must be a citizen of, or lawful permanent resident of, the United States. Students may only enter one District/Zone/State competition.

The student must compete in the District in which his/her sponsoring Post is located.

RULES

1. The subject to be used in the Oratorical Contest must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the duties and obligations of a citizen of our Government.
2. At the Zone level and State finals of oratorical competition, a contestant will be required to deliver an 8-10-minute prepared oration and a 3-5 minute assigned topic oration. The assigned topic portion of the oratorical contest will not be required at the District level of competition only.
3. The prepared oration must be an original work of the contestant's own efforts. Plagiarism will be grounds for disqualification by contest judges.
4. The subject of the assigned topic will be chosen from a field of topics of the United States Constitution, the areas of which are outlined in this packet. This group of assigned topics will be drawn from at those levels of competition where an assigned topic oration is required.
5. At any oratorical contest, only one assigned topic will be drawn from the field and each contestant will speak on the same chosen topic. Five (5) minutes will be allowed to each contestant for preparation.

6. A contestant will not be allowed the use of a podium, amplification equipment, props, prompting, or notes during his or her oration. This applies to both the prepared and assigned topic portions of the contest.
7. In the delivery of both a prepared and assigned topic oration, quotations must be indicated as such. For quotations which are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given.
8. Penalty points will be assessed for orations which finish over or under the time limit allowed, or for those orations judged as not relating to the United States Constitution.

JUDGING

The judging of a contestant in any level of oratorical competition will be done by a panel of selected judges, to be no less than three, who are selected from fields of public speaking, education, law, media, and other degreed professionals.

The contestants are judged in a number of areas related to an oration, such as logic, knowledge of the subject matter, voice, style, diction, etc.

CONDUCT OF CONTEST

At any level of oratorical competition within the state of Indiana, the contest is under the supervision of a contest chairman, who has the responsibility of seeing that the contest is held in accordance with The American Legion State and National oratorical rules.

At any level of oratorical competition in the interest of fairness, the contestants are never allowed to hear the other contestants' orations. The contestants deliver their oration one at a time while the other contestants are being held in a sound proof or isolated room away from the contest stage.

So that a speaker may know the length of the oration while it is being delivered, timekeepers will hold up cards during the prepared oration after 8, 9, and 10 minutes have elapsed. During the assigned topic portion, cards will be held up after 3, 4, and 5 minutes have elapsed.

COMPETITION LEVELS

The American Legion Oratorical Contest consists of a series of competitive levels. They are:

1. District Contest – will determine the representative to advance to the next level of competition;
2. Zone Contest – will determine the four State finalists; and
3. State Contest – will determine the State Oratorical Champion. This contestant will automatically advance into National American Legion competition, leading to The American Legion National Oratorical Championship and a chance to compete for more than \$48,000 in scholarships.

CONTEST AWARDS

Zone contestants receive a \$200 scholarship, with the exception of the winners of the four Zone contests, who will receive an \$800 scholarship. The three State finalists each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and plaque, in addition to his or her Zone scholarships. The State Champion receives a \$3,400 scholarship and plaque, in addition to his or her Zone scholarships. NOTE: In order to receive his or her scholarship money, the contestant must compete as far as he or she can through the State and National competition.

DATES

The dates for District and Zone contests vary, but are generally held in January and February, respectively. American Legion Posts will provide that information to the contestants they sponsor. The **State** finals will be held at 1 p.m. on **Sunday, March 3, 2019**, at the National Headquarters of The American Legion located at 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46206. The **National** finals will be held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel the weekend of **April 5-7, 2019**.

CERTIFICATION

If a school wishes to enter a contestant in The American Legion State Oratorical Contest, school officials must fill out and sign the “Certification of High School Representative” form included in this packet.

CONTEST DEADLINES

The contest entry certification form must be received at The American Legion State Headquarters no later than **December 21, 2018**. Any entries received after the deadline will not be allowed to compete in the contest, **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2019 ORATORICAL CONTEST

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment 4

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.

Amendment 13

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 21

1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.
2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.
3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA
ORATORICAL CONTEST ENTRY CERTIFICATION FORM**
(Certification form must be completed in English)

NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: (_____) _____
DATE OF BIRTH: _____ AGE: _____ GENDER: _____
POST SPONSOR: # _____ DISTRICT: # _____
SCHOOL GRADE (9, 10, 11 or 12): _____
NAME AND ADDRESS OF HIGH SCHOOL: _____

CERTIFICATION SIGNATURES

PRINCIPAL: _____
FACULTY SPONSOR: _____
POST SPONSOR: _____

(Post: Number of participants in school contest = _____)

**THIS APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED
AND THEN EITHER MAILED TO:**

The Department of Indiana
ATTN: Oratorical Contest
5440 Herbert Lord Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

OR

Emailed to bmiller@indianalegion.org

(NOTE: This application form may also be completed and printed online at www.indianalegion.org. Select the "PROGRAMS" tab, then "Oratorical".)

CERTIFICATION DEADLINE IS: DECEMBER 14, 2018