

THE 2021 AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM “A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST”

Contact your local American Legion Post through www.legion.org/posts

2021 ORATORICAL CONTEST:

The Oratorical Scholarship Program in Texas will begin in October 2020 when high school students will enter competition to qualify for the National Oratorical Program, with an ultimate award of \$203,500 in scholarships. Posts and schools may hold local contests during the fall of 2020 if they so desire. Whenever possible, it is recommended that the Oratorical Program be presented before the student body of a high school. It is strongly recommended that the National Rules be strictly followed in all contests.

SELECTION OF CONTESTANTS AND DATES:

1. Each public high school, private school, charter school, and home schooled, with grades 9 thru 12 that is sponsored by their local American Legion Post, can advance 1 contestant to the district level. Local contests must begin after October 24, 2020 and must be completed by December 11, 2020. Contests should be conducted using National rules. **Winners are to be certified by the local American Legion Oratorical Chair/Commander, who will then notify the District Oratorical Chair, and Department of the local winner.**
2. District Contests shall be held on or after December 12, 2020, but not later than January 15, 2021 at such place as may be directed by the District Chair **and the winner certified to the Division Oratorical Chair and department by the District Oratorical chair/Commander.** Contests should be conducted using National rules.
3. Division Contests shall be held on or after January 16, 2021, but not later than February 7, 2021, at such place as may be directed by the Division Chair, **and the winner certified by each Division Oratorical Chair/Commander to Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 140527, Austin TX 78714. michaels@txlegion.org.** Should the winner decline to participate in the Department Finals for any reason, the first runner-up should then be certified as the participant by the Division Chairman/commander. Contests should be conducted using National rules.
4. The American Legion, Department of Texas, Oratorical Program Finals, will be held Monday, February 15, 2021 (February 22 ALTERNATE) Contest **WILL** be conducted using National rules.

SUPERVISION OF CONTEST:

1. The Oratorical Chairman in charge of each Contest shall have full control and supervision of each Contest and his/her decisions shall be final. The Department Oratorical Chair will direct the Department Contest. Official judging cards, tabulation forms, and timekeeper forms can be found in the Post Oratorical Chairman's Guide. Extra forms can be furnished upon request.

AWARDS:

1. The American Legion Post may present a scholarship or such awards to the winner of the High School Contest as it chooses so long as such awards has **NO** cash value. The scholarship must be paid to the college or university of the student's choice in the student's name to be credited in the student's name once proof of enrollment has been received. A deadline for the payment should be established by the awarding organization.
2. The American Legion, Department of Texas, will award: Each Division winner will receive a certificate for participation in the Department Finals and a medal for their standing in the contest.
3. The Department will award a \$2,000 scholarship to the college of his/her choice; 2nd place - \$1,500 scholarship; 3rd place \$1,000 scholarship; and 4th place \$500 scholarship (provided the winner enters college within 1 year after graduation from high school).
4. The Department Champion will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship from National provided he/she participates in the Quarter Finals Contest and an additional \$2,000 scholarship from National if the participant advances to the Semi Finals Contest and does not advance to the National Finals. Competitors in the National Finals are awarded scholarships as follows; 1st - \$25,000; 2nd - \$22,500; 3rd - \$20,000.

FINANCES:

1. The Department assumes no liability for the expenses of any individual contestant in connection with any High School, District or Division Contest.
2. Expenses of .14¢ per mile round trip for contestant and one adult in car for Division winners will be paid by the Department traveling to the State Contest. **(No air travel is authorized.)** Such expenses will be paid to the adult chaperon or to the Post. No monies are to be paid directly to the contestant to protect his/her future eligibility to participate in the University Interscholastic League. Contestant's actual expenses will not be reimbursed.
3. The winner of the Department Contest will represent the State of Texas in the National Contests and expenses for such contestant will be provided in accordance with the National Rules.

COPIES OF MANUSCRIPT:

1. All Division Winners **MUST** submit one copy of their prepared oration to the Department Chair or their designated representative before competing in the State Final Contest. (This copy is to be forwarded by the Department Chairman to Department Headquarters for record purposes along with the Chairman's written report.)

See other side for assigned topics

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.