

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

WHAT TO WEAR

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required by all contestants. Contestants are not permitted to wear awards or medals from a previous competition.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Department of Florida will pay the travel and lodging expenses of Area Winners and their chaperone to the State Contest. All contestants must be accompanied by a chaperone over 21 years of age.

SPEAKING ORDER

A Drawing will be held to determine the order in which the contestants will appear. Until the end of the contest, they will be introduced and known to the judges by number only.

NOTES OR PODIUM

The use of notes, amplification, lectern or prompting in any manner is not permitted. Props are not permitted.

JUDGES

The judges are an integral part of the contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully. The decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Six judges are used in the process, which ultimately results in the selection of a state champion each year.



2026 CONTEST DATES

Department of Florida

Contest must be completed by:

Post Contests	January 18, 2026
District Contests	February 08, 2026
Area Contests	February 22, 2026
State Contest (Orlando, Dept. HQ)	March 14, 2026

National Contest

Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI

National Contest	May 15-17, 2026
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To participate in this program contact:

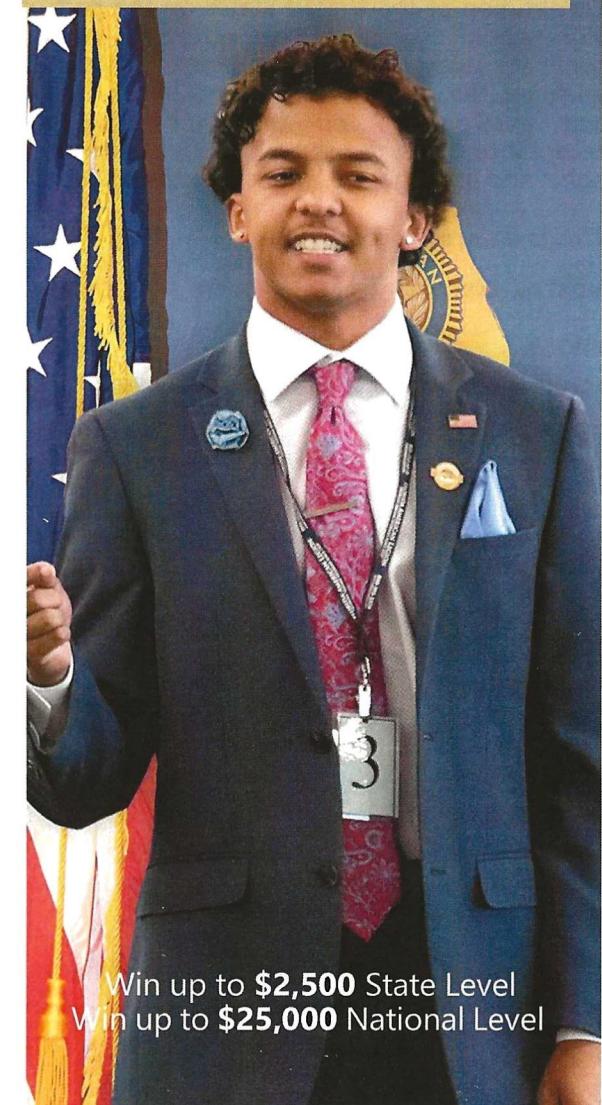


The logo for the American Legion Department of Florida. It features a yellow outline of the state of Florida with the words "AMERICAN LEGION" and "DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA" inside. To the right is a dark blue box containing contact information for Eric Nestler.

Eric Nestler
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16th District Commander (2022-2024)
16th District Vice Commander (2019-2022, 2024-2025)
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HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL

A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST



Win up to \$2,500 State Level
Win up to \$25,000 National Level

 **AMERICAN LEGION**

Department of Florida

A CONTEST FOR STUDENTS WHO WELCOME LEARNING

The purpose of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest is to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include: the development of leadership qualities; the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently; and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities; the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

This is a tiered competition:

POST ➔ DISTRICT ➔ AREA ➔ STATE ➔ NATIONAL

1 POST

Contestants compete at Local American Legion Posts.

2 DISTRICT

The winners of Post Level contests advance to District Level.

3 AREA

The winners of District Level contests advance to Area Level.

4 STATE

The six winners of Area Level contests advance to State Level for a chance to win a \$2,500 scholarship.

5 NATIONAL

The State Contest winner advances to National Level for a chance to win an \$25,000 scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY

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

1. Citizen or lawful, permanent resident of the United States of America.
2. Under the age of 20, on the date of the National Contest.
3. Must be enrolled in a Florida high school (public, private, boarding, or homeschool), 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: 1st \$2,500 | 2nd \$1,500 | 3rd \$1,000 | 4th-6th \$500

NATIONAL: 1st \$25,000 | 2nd \$22,500 | 3rd \$20,000

Area contestants that do not advance to the State finals will receive a \$100 scholarship from the Department.

Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$1,500 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 \$1,500 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.



PREPARATION

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

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

2026 ASSIGNED TOPICS

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.

Article 3, 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.

Article 4, 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 legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

Article 6, 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.

