

1. Any student entering the competition must be under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Contest.

2. The student must be presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, cyber, private or home school), commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade twelve, during the time of participation at any level of the Contest.

3. The student must either live in or attend school in Pennsylvania and can only compete in Pennsylvania.

4. The student must submit an application to a local Post for sponsorship by December 6, 2021. A local Post can be found at www.legion.org.

5. The contest will consist of two parts; an 8 to 10-minute memorized oration on some phase of the United States Constitution and a 3 to 5-minute oration on one of four “assigned topics” selected by the National Organization. These four topics can be found at www.legion.org/oratorical/topics.

6. The contestant may not use any notes, props, amplification or prompts during the oration.

7. A minimum of five judges will judge all contests at the District level and above. Local and County contests may use a minimum of three judges.

8. All contests at the District level and above shall conform with National Contest procedures, rules and regulations. The “assigned topics” shall be used at all levels of competition. National Contest rules can be found at www.legion.org.

9. Assigned Tabulators will review and tabulate the judges’ score sheets. The Contest Chairman will verify the results and announce the contest winners.

10. The judges’ score sheets, the tabulation forms and the timekeepers’ cards all become the property of the Department of Pennsylvania Oratorical Committee.

11. Barring unforeseen circumstances, any student that enters the Oratorical program **must** be available to compete on the date of the Department Contest and **must** be available to compete at the National Contest from April 9-11, 2021 in Indianapolis, IN.

12. The Oratorical Committee has established the following dates by which the various contests must be held, if required, and the winner’s name and contact information sent to the next level of competition:

School or Post Contest –January 3, 2021

County Contest – January 17, 2021

District Contest – January 31, 2021

Sectional Contest – February 28, 2021

Department Contest – March 14, 2021

National Contest – April 9 to 11, 2021

13. The Department Contest will be held in the Forum Auditorium in Harrisburg at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 14, 2021. A banquet to honor the Department Contest competitors will be held on Friday evening, March 13, 2021.

14. The Department Contest in March will be under the direct supervision of the Oratorical Committee; final authority on all issues raised will remain with the Oratorical Committee.

15. The Department winner must be certified with National Headquarters no later than March 15, 2021. If for any reason the Department winner is unable to compete at the National Contest, the Department First Runner-up will be substituted, following approval by National.

16. A book, “How To Prepare for The American Legion Oratorical Contest” is available for purchase at www.ConstitutionSpeechPrep.com. (The American Legion was not involved in the publication of, nor does it endorse, this product.)

AWARDS

Department Winner

\$7,500.00 scholarship, plaque and all-expense-paid trip to the Department of Pennsylvania State Convention to deliver his or her winning prepared oration, plus the opportunity to represent Pennsylvania at the National Contest and receive an additional \$2,000.00 scholarship from the National Organization.

Department First Runner-up

\$5,000.00 scholarship and plaque.

Second Runner-up

\$4,000.00 scholarship and plaque.



THIS CONTEST WILL TAKE PLACE EVEN IF IT MUST BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY ONLINE.

Application Form
2021 High School
Oratorical Program

Student First Name _____

Student Middle Name _____

Student Last Name _____

Student Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian First Name _____

Parent/Guardian Middle Name _____

Parent/Guardian Last Name _____

Parent/Guardian Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

High School _____

Grade _____

Sponsoring Post _____

I have read and understand the rules and regulations to participate in the Oratorical Program sponsored by The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania. I have also read and understand the brochure prepared by The National American Legion and agree to abide by all rules and regulations of both the Department and the National Organization.

Signed _____

Date _____

Oratorical Program Committee

Department Commander: Robert John

P O Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105

Department Adjutant: Kit Watson

P O Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105

Department Oratorical Chairman: Michael Cortes

1903 W 8th St, PMB284, Erie, PA 16505

(814) 954-0067 michael@michaelcortes.com

Sectional Oratorical Vice Chairmen

Eastern: Denise Harner, 120 Redwood Dr.

Douglassville, PA 19518 (610) 763-4413

deniseharner@yahoo.com

Central: William Yarnell, 6090 Peach Tree St.

Harrisburg, PA 17111 (717) 571-6788

yarnellbill@gmail.com

Western: Jeffrey Kaylor, 325 E Burrell St.

Blairsville, PA 15717 (724) 858-8289

michael@michaelcortes.com

Inter-District Coordinators

1-5: Aaron Campbell, Jr., (609) 871-5618

60 Hawthorne Ln, Willingboro, NJ 08046

8-9-10: Barry Amole, (610) 933-5152

305 Starr St, Phoenixville, PA 19460

11-12-15: Fred Baker, (570) 445-7790

841 Mitchell Rd, Meshoppen, PA 18630

13-14-30: Mike Bodner, (610) 745-1512

559 Catasauqua Ave, Whitehall, PA 18052

16-17-18: William Whitmoyer, (570) 394-3656

373 Wintersteen School Rd, Millville, PA 178446

19-22: John Fisher, (717) 269-6790

4235 Williamsburg Dr. Apt D, Harrisburg, PA 17109

20-21: Jeffrey Kaylor, (724) 858-8289

325 E. Burrell St, Blairsville, PA 15717

23-27-28: Charles Hartman, (724) 822-9995

P O Box 108, Eau Claire, PA 16030

25-31: Ryan Armstrong, (724) 984-3945

301 S. Pine St, Carmichaels, PA 15320

26-29: Michael Cortes, (814) 954-0067

1903 W 8th St PMB 284, Erie, PA 16505

32-33-36: Mike Murphy, (412) 781-5691

5421 McCandless Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

2021
HIGH SCHOOL
ORATORICAL
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM



“A Constitutional
Speech Contest”

Rules and Regulations



PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN LEGION

www.pa-legion.com

(717) 730-9100