

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  
Upsilon Lambda Chapter**

MLK Oratorical Committee  
PO Box 40081  
Jacksonville, Florida 32203  
<https://jaxalphas.org/>



**November 15, 2022**

The Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s 15th Annual **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Competition will be held on February 4, 2023.**

The competition is open to male high school juniors and graduating seniors throughout the state of Florida. Each applicant must submit an essay (guidelines enclosed) as a part of his application. Based on the submitted essays, a select group of applicants will be invited to deliver their speeches to the members of the MLK Oratorical Committee in a preliminary competition held via zoom on *January 7 and 8, 2023*. The MLK Oratorical Committee will then determine which contestants will compete at the event on **February 4, 2023**. Please review the enclosed rules and guidelines which include a deadline for students to submit their applications and essays.

The following scholarships will be awarded to winning contestants:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place--\$4000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place--\$3000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place--\$2000
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place--\$1000

**PLEASE SHARE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH INTERESTED STUDENTS WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATION AS WELL AS OTHERS WHO WANT TO SUPPORT THIS ENDEAVOR.**

The Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 organization, which enables us to receive grants from local corporations, civic groups and faith-based institutions, as well as through individual sponsorship by fraternity brothers.

Thank you for your support. Persons seeking additional information regarding the Oratorical Contest should contact one of the following committee members:

- Austin Franklin- [info@goodnaturedlife.com](mailto:info@goodnaturedlife.com)
- James Kelly- [jakelly8@bellsouth.net](mailto:jakelly8@bellsouth.net)
- Mincy Pollock- [mincy@pollockgroup.solutions](mailto:mincy@pollockgroup.solutions)
- Trisston Brown- [timryanbrown@gmail.com](mailto:timryanbrown@gmail.com)
- Chris Sneed- [csneed@hopeforhousingfl.org](mailto:csneed@hopeforhousingfl.org)
- Curtis Lawrence- [kingtutss@gmail.com](mailto:kingtutss@gmail.com)
- Roderick Thornton- [roderick.thornton@me.com](mailto:roderick.thornton@me.com)

Enclosures: Contest Eligibility, Rules and Requirements, Registration Form, Judging Criteria and Topic.  
**Contest Eligibility, Rules and Requirements**

**Eligibility:**

1. Male students attending an accredited school within the state of Florida are eligible. The finalists will present their speeches on **Saturday, February 4, 2023** at the University of North Florida.
2. Prospective contestants must complete the registration form and mail to the P.O. Box address below no later than **Friday, December 30, 2022**. A parent or school sponsor (teacher or guidance counselor) must sign the registration form for all high school participants. Registrants must write an original essay or speech of **800 words maximum, typed and double-spaced**. Essays *must* be submitted with the registration form. Plagiarism will result in disqualification. There are no specifications for writing formality i.e. APA or MLA. However, quotations must be clearly indicated. If quotations exceed ten words, the author's name shall be given both orally and in the manuscript. All speeches are delivered in English (except for short phrases from other languages). Singing is not permitted (although songs may be quoted).
3. The work must be available and presented at the **January 7 and 8, 2023** MLK Oratorical Preliminaries via zoom. Selection for the finalists will be made after all speeches (**minimum of 4 minutes/maximum of 7 minutes**) are presented to the brothers of the MLK Oratorical Committee.
4. Participants selected for the MLK Oratorical Competition will be expected to arrive one hour before the designated start time. A copy of the essay or speech, typed and double-spaced must be presented to the Chief Judge prior to the start of the program. **A parent or guardian must accompany each high school contestant. Also, each participant must bring a mask.**
5. **There will be awards for the High School participants.**

**The following scholarship prize opportunities are available:**

1st Place - Recipient - \$4,000 Scholarship award

2nd Place - Recipient - \$3,000.00 Scholarship award

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Recipient - \$2,000.00 Scholarship award

4th Place - Recipient - \$1,000.00 Scholarship award

**All Scholarships will be made out to the college or university of the recipient's choice upon the receipt of the recipient's acceptance letter. No exceptions to this rule.**

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Upsilon Lambda Chapter**

**MLK Oratorical Competition  
Registration/Application Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ {Parent/Guardian (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

{Sponsor/Guidance Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Upsilon Lambda Chapter

P.O. Box 40081

Jacksonville, FL 32203

Attn: MLK Oratorical Committee

**\*Please include essays with completed registration form**

## Judging Criteria (Scoring Guide)

Originality of Content **30**- Written speech reflects original thought

Organization **20**- Speech consists of an opening, body and conclusion

Vocal Variety **15**- Speech volume varies with pitch, speaking rate and quality to deliver with impact

Body Language & Gestures **10**- Gestures and body language are aligned with speech Presentation and complement spoken words

Eye Contact **10**- Contestant uses eyes to connect with audience

Grammar **10**- Proper use of the English language that clearly and Precisely describes what you are talking about

Audience Response **5**- Audience reaction to speech

### **High School MLK Oratorical Topic:**

**“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

This was a timeless quote by Dr. King. In your opinion, what is one of the most pressing issues currently facing America and what solutions can you offer? Develop a persuasive argument.

Sincerely,

*Timothy Edwards*  
Timothy Edwards  
Upsilon Lambda, Chapter President

*Austin Franklin*  
Austin Franklin  
MLK Oratorical Committee, Chair