



Alabama NAACP

NAACP Alabama State Conference

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September 8, 2026

TO: Alabama NAACP Oratorical Participants

The Alabama State Conference of the NAACP will host its annual Della M. Bryant Oratorical Contest on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 9:45 a.m. at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center, 241 South College Street, Auburn, Alabama 36830.

Elementary and Middle School divisions will report for their orations at 9:30 a.m.

- All divisions will be announced prior to the end of the convention.

HOW TO ENTER:

1. Request an Oratorical packet from your local NAACP Branch.
2. Request an Oratorical Packet from the Alabama State Conference Office by sending an email to the Oratorical Contest Planning Committee: amiyah@alnaacp.org, AYCD_President@alnaacp.org, afelton@alnaacp.org.

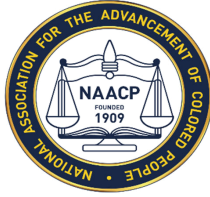
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ORATION FORM IS NO LATER THAN 11:59 P.M., Saturday, September 26, 2026.

Please contact planning committee members Eldric Coleman, Amiyah Slater, or Aleari Felton at the following email addresses: amiyah@alnaacp.org, AYCD_President@alnaacp.org, afelton@alnaacp.org for questions or additional information, or by phone at 256-444-1300.

Sincerely,

Ronald Ali, President

Enclosure: Oratorical Application Packet



2026 Mrs. Della M. Bryant Oratorical Contest

RULES

TIME LIMITATIONS

I. Elementary Division (Grades K-5)

The contestant must deliver their prepared oration in no fewer than two minutes.

II. Middle School (Grades 6-8)

The contestant must deliver their prepared oration in no fewer than two minutes and no more than five minutes.

III. High School (Grades 9-12)

The contestant must deliver their prepared oration in no fewer than two minutes and no more than five minutes.

IV. College

The contestant must deliver their prepared oration in no fewer than two minutes and no more than five minutes.

Note: Timekeeper will indicate wrap-up time one minute before time expires.

**2026 STATEWIDE ALABAMA CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP
DELLA M. BRYANT ORATORICAL CONTEST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
9:45 A.M.**

REGISTRATION FORM FOR CONTESTANTS

Contestant's Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____ Email _____

Telephone no. () _____ - _____ Alt. no. () _____ - _____

School _____

School System _____

County _____





2026 STATEWIDE ALABAMA CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP DELLA M. BRYANT ORATORICAL CONTEST

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Contestant Information Sheet

School Name _____

School System _____

Principal's Name _____

School Address _____

Zip Code _____ Email _____

Telephone no. () _____ - _____ Alt. no. () _____ - _____



Note: The student's oration piece does not need to be submitted with this form. Contestants have until the day of the contest to prepare their oration.

Category and name of student(s) who will be participating in the Oratorical Contest. The subject that High School and College divisions will be speaking on is:

“What are the warning signs that a democracy is becoming authoritarian, and what can ordinary citizens do to protect democratic freedoms?”

High School _____

College _____

The subject that Middle School divisions will be speaking on is:

“What does it mean to stand up for what is right when people in power are doing what is wrong, and how can young people use their voices to create change?”

Middle School _____

The subject that Elementary divisions will be speaking on is:

“What does it mean to treat others how you want to be treated? How could you encourage others to choose kindness?”

Elementary _____

Contestants must be present at the Oratory on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 9:45 a.m.

Rules
for the
2026 Statewide Alabama State Conference of the NAACP
Della M. Bryant Oratorical Contest

Eligibility

Participants must be a resident of Alabama, attend an Alabama School, and range in age from 5–18. Age categories are listed below.

Regulations

The official in charge of the contest will determine the order in which contestant will appear. The chairperson will introduce the contestant. Each contestant will prepare their oration based on their theme according to their age. The contestant must deliver their prepared oration in no fewer than two minutes and no more than five minutes.

Contestants are not required to have their oration fully memorized; however, they must be able to demonstrate significant proficiency and command of their material.

Divisions

Elementary Division (Grades K-5)	Middle School (Grades 6-8)
High School (Grades 9-12)	College

Attire

ATTIRE – All contestants must dress as follows:

Business Casual or Church Dress

Criteria

JUDGING CRITERIA – Middle School, High School & College

- Aplomb – poise, self-confidence, audience appeal
- Voice Quality – audibility, articulations, inflection of voice, moderation of pitch
- Creativity and Relevant Content – poetic and/or musical interpretation welcome
- Accuracy of Content
- Composition – punctuation, spelling, grammar

JUDGING CRITERIA – Elementary

- Aplomb – poise, self-confidence, audience appeal
- Voice Quality – audibility, articulations, inflection of voice, moderation of pitch
- Observance of Time Limit – contestants should not go over nor under time limit
- Relevant Content – poetic and/or musical interpretation welcome
- Composition – punctuation, spelling, grammar

Maximum awarded points in each area are 20 points for a maximum of 100 total points.

Prizes

Cash prizes will be presented to winners in each division.

Please submit this form by mailing a copy to the State Conference office or you can send an email to: amiyah@alnaacp.org, AYCD_President@alnaacp.org or afelton@alnaacp.org.

The deadline for submission is: Saturday, September 26, 2026.