

Annual American Legion Department of Iowa

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

2020 – 2021



Open to students in grades 9 – 12

Scholarships are awarded for winners at Department and National levels:

| Department Contest Prize* | Placement | National Contest Prize |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| \$2,000 | First | \$25,000 |
| \$1,500 | Second | \$22,500 |
| \$1,000 | Third | \$20,000 |

The Department of Iowa Champion will also receive an additional \$2,000 for participating in the first round of the national competition.

*Half of each Department of Iowa scholarship is awarded by
The American Legion of Iowa Foundation.

Rules and Regulations

**Please see COVID-19 Guidelines on page 6*

Eligibility

Rules of The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest conforms to the National American Legion Contest rules (www.ialegion.org/oratorical) unless exceptions for the contest are stated as outlined below.

All contestants in the Department of Iowa shall be citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States and oration must be in the English language.

The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Finals shall consist of one contestant from each of the three area contests (an area consists of three districts).

The area contest shall consist of two contestants from each district in the designated area.

The District Contest shall consist of no more than one contestant from each post/county in the district. If there is more than one contestant from each county, there shall be a county contest to determine the representative from the county who will advance to the District Contest.

Quotations

Quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author's name must be given orally and in the manuscript.

Withdrawals

If for any reason a contestant withdraws, voluntarily or by disqualification, from a contest after progressing through one or more stages, their place shall be taken by the next highest-ranking contestant of the previous contest. If this withdrawal is sudden and the next ranking contestant of the previous contest is available and can proceed without delaying the contest, the substitution should be made at once. If the substitution cannot be made without delay, then the contest shall proceed among the available contestants.

Judging

If a local contest is necessary to determine the representative of a local high school, these contestants shall be judged according to standards set up by the local American Legion Post. In all community contests between two or more high schools to determine contestants to represent local posts, county, district, area, and Department contests, the following rules shall prevail.

Notes and Platform

Post and county level contests: Notes on 3 x 5 cards are allowed; judges are not to downgrade contestants for the use of notes.

District level contest: No prompting, notes and/or lectern will be allowed.

Area and Department contests: The area and Department contest will be conducted in an auditorium having a platform from which contestants will speak. The use of notes, lectern or speaker's stand by contestants, or prompting in any manner, is prohibited. The normal speaking voice of the contestant is not to be interfered with or amplified within the auditorium.

The use of a raised platform at post, county or district is encouraged, if facilities are available.

No research material, just a pad and pencil will be allowed in preparing for the Assigned Topic discourse at the district, area, and Department levels.

A blind contestant may have a chaperone or escort remain in the room to read the Assigned Topic only.

The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest Certification Form – Section I

To be completed by contestant’s High School Official

This is to certify that Mr./Miss _____ is a student at _____ High School/Home School, located in _____ (city), and is not undergoing post-graduate work, is not deficient in any school work for the current year, and will be enrolled for the current school year.

The above participant is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

___ Yes ___ No

CURRENT GRADE: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

ANTICIPATED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION YEAR: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent(s) Phone: _____

Parent (s) Address: _____

Official’s Email Address (Required)

Number of Contestants

Principal’s Signature

Please Print Name

The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest Certification Form – Section II

To be completed by Legion Post Officer and mailed to County Oratorical Chair
Forward a copy to Department Headquarters

I, Commander of _____ American Legion Post # _____,
of The American Legion Department of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above named student is
the official contestant of this post in The American Legion Department of Iowa High School
Oratorical Contest.

_____ Number of Contestants Participated

Post Commander Signature

Post Oratorical Chair Signature

Phone & Email

Phone & Email

Section III – Complete this section ONLY if a County run-off is held!

Completed by County Legion Officer and mailed to District Oratorical Chair

**If there is more than one contestant from each County, there shall be a County Contest to
determine the representative from the County who will advance to the District Contest.**

Forward a copy to Department Headquarters

I, Commander of _____ County
of The American Legion Department of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above named contestant
was declared by the judges as the winner of this county contest, and is eligible to represent this
county in the _____ District Contest.

_____ Number of Contestants

County Commander Signature

County Oratorical Chair Signature

Phone & Email

Phone & Email

The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest Certification Form – Section IV

**To be completed by District Oratorical Chairman; mailed to Area Oratorical Chairman
Forward a copy to Department Headquarters**

I, Commander of the _____ District of The American Legion Department of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above named student is the official contestant of this district and is eligible to represent the Area ____ Contest of The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest.

_____ Number of Contestants Participated

District Commander Signature

District Oratorical Chair Signature

Phone & Email

Phone & Email

Section V - Completed by Area Oratorical Chairman and Forwarded to Department Headquarters

I, _____, Area # _____, of The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest, do hereby certify that the above named student is the official contestant and is eligible to represent this area in the Department Finals.

Area Oratorical Chairman Signature

Tabulator Chairman Signature

Phone & Email

Phone & Email

Section VI - Completed by Department Chairman

I, _____, Department Chairman of The Department of Iowa American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, do hereby certify that the above named contestant was declared by the judges as the winner of this Department Contest, and is eligible to represent this Department in the National Contest.

Department Chairman Signature

Tabulator Chairman Signature

Phone & Email

Phone & Email

DATES FOR THE CONTEST

Dates, times and locations for District and Area Contests can be found online at www.ialegion.org/calendar or www.ialegion.org/oratorical.

Local Contests Must be completed by December 6, 2020

County Contests Must be completed by December 20, 2021

District Contests Must be completed by January 10, 2021

Area Contests Must be completed by January 31, 2021

*Host district indicated by underline

AREA I – Districts 1, 5 & 6

AREA II – Districts 2, 3 & 4

AREA III – Districts 7, 8 & 9

Department Finals: Sunday, February 14, 2021, Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines

The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest, will be held Sunday, February 14, 2021, at the Airport Holiday Inn on Fleur Drive in Des Moines, at 8:00 a.m. The Department winner will advance to the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana.

2021 National Contest

The 2021 National Finals will be April 9 – 11 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46241, (317) 248-2481. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 10 with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 11.

Awards/Finances

The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest is financed by Department of Iowa American Legion, The American Legion of Iowa Foundation, and various American Legion Post, County, and District organizations. Post, county and district awards are the responsibility of the host for their level.

Each participant who appears in an area contest will receive \$50 from the Department of Iowa for expenses. Participants eliminated in the area contests will receive a cash prize of either \$200 (2nd and 3rd place finish) or \$100 (4th, 5th, and 6th place finish). Any restrictions placed on the awards in the Department finals are placed equally on these scholarships.

Each participant in the Department Oratorical Contest will receive \$100 from the Department of Iowa American Legion for expenses. The Department Oratorical Contest pays \$2,000 (1st place finish), \$1,500 (2nd place finish), and \$1,000 (3rd place finish) respectively.

COVID-19 Guidelines

For the safety of all involved with the Oratorical Contest, please download a copy of the COVID-19 Iowa Guidelines for the 2020-2021 contest (www.ialegion.org/oratorical). We understand these guidelines are not law and are subject to individual preference. However, those who do not adhere to them will not be able to participate in the contest.

**The American Legion Department of Iowa
Oratorical Committee
2020 - 2021**

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Department Vice Chairman
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First District Chairman

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Fourth District Chairman

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Fifth District Chairman

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Sixth District Chairman

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Seventh District Chairman

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Eighth District Chairman

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Ninth District Chairman

James Kessler
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(712) 832-3540 or jmkessler71@gmail.com

Assigned Topics for 2021 Oratorical Contest

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics>

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 Behaviour, 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.