

Annual American Legion Department of Iowa

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

2023 – 2024



Open to students in grades 9 – 12

Scholarships are awarded to 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 conform 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 the contestant's High School Official – If handwritten, print legibly

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

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.**

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

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 3, 2023

County Contests Must be completed by December 17, 2023

District Contests Must be completed by January 7, 2024

Area Contests Must be completed by January 21, 2024

*Host district indicated by underlining and bold

AREA I – Districts 1, **5** & 6

AREA II – Districts **2**, **3** & 4

AREA III – Districts **7**, 8 & 9

Department Finals: Sunday, February 4, 2024, Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines

The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest will be held Sunday, February 4, 2024, 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.

2024 National Contest

The 2024 National Finals will be May 17 – 19 in Hillsdale, Mich., at Hillsdale College (317) 630-1203. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, May 18 with the finals scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

Awards/Finances

The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest is financed by the 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

In the event COVID-19 protocols are put in place by the Governor of the State of Iowa, the American Legion of Iowa will abide accordingly. Mitigation strategies will be posted on the Department of Iowa's website (www.ialegion.org/oratorical) should this be the case.

The American Legion Department of Iowa Oratorical Committee 2023 - 2024

Frank Andrew
Department Vice Chairman
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Bob Waugh
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First District Chairman

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Fifth District Chairman

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Joseph Jardon
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Eighth District Chairman

Gary Schmitz
(712) 830-3072 or schmitzga@gmail.com

Ninth District Chairman

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

Assigned Topics for 2023-2024 Oratorical Contest

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

Amendment II – A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment XXIII – The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the State, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Amendment XXV, Section 3 – Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Amendment V – No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, not be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

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STATE AND LOCAL CONTESTS
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NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
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