



# THE AMERICAN LEGION High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

# 2020 Contest Information

(for Washington State students)

For additional information please visit:

<http://www.WAConstitutionalSpeechContest.org>

<http://www.legion.org/oratorical>



# Contest Purpose

To instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States in high school students.

Development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly, and the preparation of acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

To assist students in paying the high cost of a college education.

# Eligibility

Contestants must either live within or attend an educational institution within the State of Washington

Contestants must be sponsored by an American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit, SAL Squadron, Riders Chapter or District in the State of Washington

Contestants must be bona fide students who are presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum of said school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve (12). Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

Contestants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

# So, what do I have to do during the contest?

- During the contest you will have to speak twice
  - The Prepared Oration
    - 8-10 minutes long
    - Cover some aspect of the Constitution of the United States
    - Emphasize the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government
    - Must be original work of the contestant
    - Must be memorized and delivered in English
  - The “Assigned Topic” Speech
    - 3-5 minutes long
    - One of four Assigned Topics will be drawn at random during the contest
    - Each contestant is given 5 minutes to prepare prior to delivery of speech
    - You should be prepared in advance to speak on all 4 topics!

# “Assigned Topics” for 2020

- **Amendment XII** – Electoral College
- **Amendment XXIV** – Citizens right to vote shall not be denied by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.
- **Amendment XXVII** – No law, varying the compensation for the services of Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.
- **Amendment XX** – terms of President and Vice President. When Congress shall assemble. Articles of Presidential succession.

See the national website for the complete text of these amendments at:

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

# The Contest

- A drawing is held to determine speaking order of the contestants immediately before the contest
- Your presentations will be done before an audience
  - No podium or lectern
  - No microphone
  - No notes
  - No props
  - No help or prompting from the audience
- Your presentations will be timed
- Your presentations will be judged

# How is the contest judged?

<b>A. CONTENT</b>			
1. Originality, freshness, directness, application of knowledge on topic. <b>16 points</b>	Prepared Oration	<b>12 points</b>	
	Assigned Topic	<b>4 points</b>	
2. Skill in selecting examples, description, analogies, specific data. <b>16 points</b>	Prepared Oration	<b>12 points</b>	
	Assigned Topic	<b>4 points</b>	
3. Logic (correctness of inference). <b>16 points</b>	Prepared Oration	<b>12 points</b>	
	Assigned Topic	<b>4 points</b>	
4. Comprehensiveness of knowledge, knows the subject matter. <b>22 points</b>	Prepared Oration	<b>16 points</b>	
	Assigned Topic	<b>6 points</b>	
<b>B. SPEAKING SKILLS</b>			
1. Voice and diction. <b>10 points</b>	Prepared Oration	<b>6 points</b>	
	Assigned Topic	<b>4 points</b>	
2. Style: language, use, word arrangement transition, word selection. <b>10 points</b>	Prepared Oration	<b>6 points</b>	
	Assigned Topic	<b>4 points</b>	
3. Body actions: poise, eye contact, posture, gestures. <b>10 points</b>	Prepared Oration	<b>6 points</b>	
	Assigned Topic	<b>4 points</b>	
		<b>First Totals</b>	
PENALTIES: 1 point for each minute or fraction thereof over or under allotted time.	<b>Prepared Oration</b>		
	<b>Assigned Topic</b>		
1-10 points for failure to speak on the Constitution			
		<b>Final Total Points</b>	



# Where and When is the Contest?

All contests will be held at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake The weekend of March 20-21, 2020. A mandatory pre-contest orientation for all contestants is held on Friday evening, March 20<sup>th</sup>. (lodging arrangements & mileage allowance provided to contestants)

Scholarships totaling \$5,000 will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> place students taking part in the State Finals contest. The State winner will receive a \$2,000 scholarship, plus an expenses paid trip to Indianapolis, Indiana, to compete in the National Finals Contest for a part of the \$138,000 national scholarship pool.

The National Finals Contest will be held the weekend of April 17-19, 2020. You are expected to be there all 3 days.

# How do I sign up?

Complete the application – at the end of this presentation.

Locate an American Legion Post to sponsor you. Visit the website link below and scroll over the county where you reside to determine and email the District chairman who will help you find a local sponsor.

<https://walegion.org/find-local-post/>

# Contact Information:

Department Chairman:  
Carol Reed

Email: [cmreed98058@hotmail.com](mailto:cmreed98058@hotmail.com)

Phone: (206) 683-5950





**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Department of Washington**



**The American Legion High School Oratorical Program  
“A Constitutional Speech Contest”  
2020 APPLICATION**

(To be completed by student with sponsorship of an American Legion Post/Unit/Squadron/District)

Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a United States Citizen?    Yes    No    If no, are you a resident alien?    Yes    No

Parent’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL INFORMATION:**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I first became interested in the oratorical contest when:

\_\_\_\_\_

I will abide by all the rules of the Department of Washington and The National High School Oratorical Contest Committee and follow the instructions of contest sponsors and chairman. I hereby attest that my Prepared Oration and Assigned Topic presentations are my original work.

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

Sponsored by American Legion <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Unit <input type="checkbox"/> Squadron <input type="checkbox"/> District # _____	
Chairman/Officer Name: _____	Date: _____
Phone: _____	E-Mail: _____

Sponsor must submit this application with **\$150.00 fee** by January 31, 2020  
Please make checks payable to **The American Legion, Department of Washington.**

Mail Application to:    **THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
Department Oratorical Contest  
13017 SE 171<sup>st</sup> PL  
Renton, WA 98058