To: Post Oratorical Chair  
Subject: Post Oratorical Contest

To enhance participation in the Oratorical Scholarship Program, the following have been suggested. Remember this is a fantastic opportunity for a student to receive up to a Twenty-thousand-dollar scholarship at the National Contest. If you have suggestions or ideas that have worked for your Post, please let us know.

1. A Post representative needs to contact the High Schools in your area and encourage interested students to participate in The American Legion Oratorical Contest and to contact your Post.
2. Inform the students of what, where and when the contest will take place.
3. Advance only one student from each school to the District Contest with appropriate paperwork submitted in advance.
4. District Contests may only choose one student for the Contest.

Ensure that the appropriate paperwork is forwarded to the District Chair as quickly as possible. The paperwork must be received prior to the District Contest. This competition date will be set by the District Commander or District Oratorical Chair.

For Detailed information go to the Department of Oregon website:  
https://www.orlegion.org/oratorical-resources.html and the National website:  
https://www.legion.org/oratorical

Enclosed you will find the following documents: (This is changed 2019-20 to get forms online)

1. Cover page for Post Oratorial Chair
2. Explanation of the American Legion Oratorical Contest Scholarships
3. One copy of the Official Rules with assigned topics
4. Oratorical information
5. Information on the Prepared Oration
6. One copy of the Post Chair’s Contest survey sheet
7. One copy Oregon Oratorical Contest Acknowledgement Form
8. One (1) copy Certification Form

The Oregon Oratorical Contest Acknowledgement Form and Certification Form may be duplicated as needed. These two forms MUST be returned to the Oratorical Chair and the Department two weeks PRIOR to the Department contest which will be towards the end of February or the first part of March.

Dates for all contests will be forwarded as soon as established and will also be published in the Oregon Legionnaire.

This is a phenomenal opportunity for students to earn needed college funds for their college education and learn how our citizens are protected by our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

For more information contact:  For more information contact: 
Vandee Mauser, 541-993-4300  
vandeemauser@gmail.com
EXPLANATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST SCHOLARSHIPS

In the State of Oregon there are Three (3) contests:

(1) The American Legion Post level;
(2) The American Legion District level;
(3) The American Legion Department level (State of Oregon)

The winner of the State of Oregon American Legion Oratorical Contest will automatically advance to the National level. There are three championship contests held at the National level in Indianapolis; Indiana. The contestant and a chaperone (over 21 years old) will have their way paid to the National Contest. The method of travel is solely up to The American Legion National Department Oratorical Commission. Scholarships are awarded all the way from some Posts to Districts, Department Contests. Only the Department and National Contests are established scholarships.

In 2003, William Glaser, Home schooled High School Junior from Scio, OR won the Department Contest and placed second (2nd) in the National Finals and won $16,000.
In 1997 Kathy LaVeine, Tigard High School, Tigard, OR won the Department Contest and advanced to the first round of the National Contest, Kathy’s scholarship monies totaled more than $2,000.
In 1996 Heather Cloutier, Crescent Valley High School, Corvallis, OR won department and participated in the then Regional Contest. Heather’s scholarship monies totaled approximately $3,000.
In 1988 T. J. Chandler, Canby Union High School, Canby, OR placed third (3rd) in the National Finals and won a $10,000 scholarship.
In 1985 Anne Marie Dietering, Canby Union High School, Canby, OR placed second (2nd) in the National Finals and won a $12,000 scholarship.

Check for the times of the Post’s and District’s Contest in your local area.

Department Contest (District Winners) TBD
Place to be determined
Department Scholarships are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>$5000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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National Contest (Department Winners) April 17 – 19, 2020
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1st Level $2,000 for each Department Contestant that participates in Nationals
2nd Level. $2,000 for each Contestant eliminated – winners advance to Finals.

Effective in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finals:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
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Effective in 2021

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For more information contact your local American Legion Post or contact:
The American Legion Department of Oregon
PO Box 1730 Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730 PH: 503-685-5006
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PO Box 1730 Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730 PH: 503-685-5006
Rules and Regulations

Eligibility

Eligible participants must be citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest that is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school). The curriculum of the school must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the Department that they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition through only one Department.

High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the Department finals contest.

The three finalists of the National contest are ineligible for further participation at any level.

Regulations

The official in charge of the contest conducts a drawing to determine the order by which contestants will appear. The contest chair introduces each contestant, and then announces the title of the contestant’s prepared oration. The audience must refrain from applause until the judges makes a decision.

A raised platform is not mandatory; however, it is strongly recommended. The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker’s stand or any manner of prompting is not permitted. Props are not permitted.

Contestants and audience members may not use any form of electronic/digital data gathering, receiving and/or transmitting equipment.

Contestants must deliver their prepared oration in no fewer than eight (8) minutes and no more than 10 minutes. The assigned topic runs no fewer than three (3) minutes and no more than five (5) minutes.

The contest chair names an official timer who keeps an accurate time record of each contestant. The timer is located on the main floor in full view of the contestants and will begin timing each contestant at the start of the prepared oration. The timer should have a stopwatch and timecards displaying the numbers 8, 9 and 10 for the prepared oration. When eight (8) minutes have gone by, the time warning card with the number 8
is placed in full view of the speaker, followed by 9 and 10 accordingly. The same procedure is used during the assigned topic discourse with cards bearing 3, 4 and 5. The contest chair will announce the time each contestant uses for the prepared oration and the assigned topic immediately after each contestant speaks in front of the judges.

Until their turn to speak, contestants must remain in a private room where other speakers’ discourses cannot be heard. The contest chair will appoint an individual to supervise each contestant. As the contestants conclude their prepared orations, they must return to a soundproof waiting room. Speakers who conclude their assigned topic discourse may not associate with contestants who have not finished speaking.

Approximately five (5) minutes before the start of the assigned topic discourse, the first contestant will be informed of the assigned topic drawn. He or she retires to privacy under the direction of an individual appointed by the contest chair; it's this individual's duty to see that the contestant doesn't consult any text matter or notes with any connection to the subject. Contestants may only reference the actual words of the topic provided on the card drawn.

Each succeeding contestant will be called upon in the order that he or she previously appeared. He or she will also, in turn, be informed of the topic of the assigned topic discourse and shall then be escorted to the same privacy provided for the first contestant.

Contestants must give their prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse to receive the scholarship monies to which they are entitled.

What to wear

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required for all contestants. Contestants may not wear awards and medals from previous competitions.

Travel expenses

The American Legion pays travel and lodging expenses for Department winners and their chaperones. A chaperone over 21 years of age must accompany each contestant.

The American Legion does not assume liability for personal injury, property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or chaperone EnRoute to or from the contest; however, The American Legion does carry a nominal group accident insurance policy on contestants accepted into the National competition. The American Legion selects an air carrier for contestants' travel.
Tabulators

The contest chair will appoint no fewer than three tabulators for the Department finals contest. It's their responsibility to review the judges’ scorecards to be certain they are fully tabulated and signed before being submitted for final tabulation.

Judges' scorecards for Department finals and the National contest will not be divulged to anyone at the site of the contest. All National contest judges’ scorecards become property of The American Legion National Headquarters.

Judges

Judges are an important part of the Oratorical Contest. Their qualifications are carefully considered, as their decisions are final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging is the key to fairness and success of the program, which selects a National champion.

All Department finals and the National contest have five judges, who are not allowed to receive any publicity before the event. During the contest judges sit in different locations and each renders his or her final decision without any sort of consultation.

Judges are advised to downgrade contestants who fail to emphasize the prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse on a citizen’s duties and obligations to our government. Judges can downgrade a contestant up to 10 points for failure to speak about the Constitution. The contest chair will announce any time violations for contestants. A penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof, shall be assessed toward the contestant’s total score.

Following the last assigned topic discourse, the judges, timekeepers, tabulators and contest chair may proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation.

Television and radio

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests, as well as filming, taping or other types of media for later showing, provided:

1. Lighting and other site conditions are the same for all contestants.

2. Filming or broadcasts in no way distract the contestants or interfere with the pre-announced scheduled time of the contest.

3. The normal speaking voice of the contestant is not interfered with or amplified within the auditorium.

4. The American Legion is in no way financially obligated without prior approval.
Assigned Topics

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker’s knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his or her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the U.S. Constitution, selected from Articles and Sections as listed under assigned topics for the current year’s contest in this brochure.

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

Assigned Topics for 2020 Oratorical Contest

- 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.
ORATORICAL INFORMATION

The Oratorical Program is a part of the Americanism Commission and is known as The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. "A Constitutional Speech Contest."

The Main Purpose of this program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States of America on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Who is eligible to participate?

Students are eligible to participate if they are a citizen or lawful resident of the United States. Furthermore, all contestants must be bona fide students under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Contest and must be enrolled in high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home school) in which the curriculum of the high school is considered to be a 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.

What Topics Do Contestants Speak On?

The Prepared Oration. The subject to be used for the prepared oration of the contest must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligation of a citizen to our government. The same subject and oration used in the Department Contest must be used in the National Contest.

The Prepared Oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language. The purpose of the Assigned Topic is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The topic will be one out of four topics determined by National. The assigned topic must take no less than three (3) minutes and must not exceed five (5) minutes for time delivery.

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

In the Department of Oregon we have 3 contests: Post, District, and Department. Post contests are held in December, District in January, and Department in February/March. Our Department contests are made up as follows:

Every contestant must begin at the Post level; only Post level winners will advance to the District Contest. The District contest winner will advance to the Department contest. The winner of the Department contest will represent Oregon in the National contest in Indianapolis, Indiana; usually held in April. The money available for
scholarships at the Department level are: 1st place $5000, 2nd place $3500, 3rd place $2500 and 4th place $2000.

NATIONAL LEVEL

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the Final Round of the National Contest as follows:

1st place $20,000, 2nd place $17,000, and 3rd place $15,000. Each Department winner who is certified into and participates in the First Round of the National contest will receive a $2,000 scholarship. Each First-Round winner who advances to and participates in the Second Round, but does not advance to the Final Round, will receive an additional $2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

The scholarships awarded by the National Organization of the American Legion may be used to attend any college or university in the United States. Funds for the scholarships awarded by the National Organization are provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Fund.

Revised 2019

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The Prepared Oration

The oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution, with emphasis on a citizen’s duties and obligations to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department contest must be used in the national contest.

Contestants may have a copy of their prepared oration while waiting in the first holding room. They may consult the copy until they exit to begin the contest. The copy will then be surrendered to the contest official monitoring the first holding room.

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

It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases in a foreign language to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. It should be understood that the vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must still be delivered in English. Singing is not permitted and will result in immediate disqualification. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song(s) provided proper attribution is made.
POST CHAIRMAN'S CONTEST SURVEY SHEET
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

POST NO.________

1. Post Chairman's Name______________________________________________

2. Date________ Number of contestant's? ________________

3. Number of Legionnaire's and guests attending contest__________________

4. How many schools participated in the Oratorical Contest? ____________

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

5. Prizes or awards given to contestants? NO CASH OR CHECKS
   How Awarded?
   Certificates, plaques or bonds____________________________________

6. Do you think the chairman's papers, helped you conduct your local contest?
   __________________________

Immediately upon completion of your Post Contest, Post Chairman please fill out this form and forward with 1st and 2nd place certification forms, to the District Chairman. If for some reason the 1st place winner cannot compete in the District contest your 2nd place winner can compete.

This form must reach the District Chairman no later than 1 week before the District Contest. NO EXCEPTIONS!

District No_______ Chairman__________________________________________
Address_______________________________________________________
City_________________________ Zip_________________
OREGON ORATORICAL CONTEST
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I have read the Official Contest Rules and this form carefully and fully understand each one of the items listed. I acknowledge the following responsibilities:

- We understand that there will two (2) orations (speeches). One oration will be a prepared, 8 to 10 minutes in duration, on any topic from the constitution. The second oration, 3 to 5 minutes, will be an assigned oration coming from a selection of four topics, usually from the amendments to the constitution. Only one will be drawn the day of the competition.

- Penalty points are given if the speeches are too short or too long. A penalty of one (1) point per minute or a fraction thereof if the speech is too short or the same if it is too long. This will be clearly established in the instruction packet that MUST be given to contestants (students). The Post Chairman should double check to see that each contestant has a high school packet.

- It is understood that notes may be used only at the Post level of competition. There are to be NO NOTES of any kind beginning at the District level of competition.

- The Post should provide a time for the contestants (students) to present both orations (speeches), if at all possible, in front of a Post meeting or a group of people using the format of the Oratorical Contest set by National. Even with only one contestant this should be done to acquaint contestants with the procedures of the Oratorical Contest.

- The time (date and hour) should be clearly marked on this form for both the Post and District contests.

- This form must be signed by the high school student, a parent, and Post Chairman. A copy would be kept by the Chairman and attached to the certification form.

Postdate to give oration: __________ Place and address to be held: ________________

District Date to give oration: ______ Place and address to be held: ________________

Signed by:
Student________________________________ Date__________

Parent______________________________________ Date__________

Post Chairman______________________________ Date__________
CERTIFICATION FORM

CONTESTANTS: Must return this original form to The American Legion Post Chairman
By December 1, 2019

TO POST ORATORICAL CHAIRMAN
AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED AS NEEDED AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY ALSO BE
DUPLICATED FOR THE STUDENT

Print or type:
Contestant’s Name____________________________Signature__________________________

Address____________________________City________________________State______Zip Code______

Area and Phone Number____________________________Social Security No________________

Name of High School____________________________City________________________Phone No________________

Grade______Age______Are You A Citizen of The United States, Or a Lawful Permanent Resident?__________

Parents/Guardian’s Name (Print)________________________Signature__________________________

Title of Prepared Oration____________________________

Principal or Representative’s Name(print)________________________Signature________________________

POST CHAIRMAN FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING:

Print or Type:
Post Chairman Name____________________________Post Name and No________________

Address____________________________City________________________State______Zip Code______

Post/Chairman’s Area and Phone No.____________________________Sponsoring Post________________

CONTEST DATES:

(1)Post Contest__________________ (2) District Contest__________________
(3)Area Contest__________________ (4) Department Contest__________________

Post Chairman: The Certification form, Acknowledgment Form and Post Chairman’s Contest Survey Sheet is to
reach your District Chairman or District Commander immediately following you Post Contest.

District Chairman: The 1st and 2nd Place District winner’s certification forms, Acknowledgment Form and a rough
copy of the Winners Prepared Oration are to be mailed immediately to the Contest Chairperson of the Department
Oratorical Commission. Vande Mauser 2418 E. 16th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058 541-993-4300
vandeemauser@gmail.com.

Additional Copies may be requested from: The American Legion Department of Oregon
PO Box 1730, Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730 Phone (503-685-5006)