



**American Legion of Tennessee
District Five
Of Tennessee**

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

State of Tennessee and National Constitutional Speech Contest

Subject: 2021 Oratorical Contest Information Letter

Nov 06, 2020

Introduction

The purpose of the American Legion Oratorical Contest is to encourage a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students and to encourage their oral expression in a public manner among peers, educators and members of the American Legion. High school (9th-12th grade/ under the age of 20 years old) students are given the opportunity to present two speeches on the U.S. Constitution with an emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government. In this nation-wide competition, someone is going to win cash and scholarships worth up to \$25,000 from National and \$3,000 from the State.

Presentations

Participants are judged on two presentations. The first is a prepared speech that demonstrates their ability to speak clearly and intelligently, lasting between eight to ten minutes. The second is a three- to five-minute speech on one of four different topics about Amendments of the Constitution, as discussed within this letter.

Cash awards and Scholarships

There are three different competitions a student could advance through: Division, State, and National. There are cash awards and scholarships for each level. The National winner could receive up to \$28,000 in cash and scholarships to be used at any accredited college or university of their choice.

The contest begins at the local level, as sponsored by members of American Legion Post 281 of Mt. Juliet, or any respective American Legion Post in your town or community. It is offered to students of public, private or any licensed school program in their area. Students interested in competing must complete an application and meet with members of the Legion to discuss the competition and offer a practice presentation of their speech. This can be done at their school.

The District competition is to be held Saturday, **January 23rd, 2021** at American Legion Post 88, 2717 McCampbell Ave, Nashville, TN 37214 starting at 9:00 AM. The winner of the District advances to the Division competition held on **February 6th, 2021** at Parkway Baptist Church, 1715 Lee Victory Parkway, Smyrna, TN 37176 at 10:00 AM. All competing at the Division level will be awarded \$100 in cash. The three winners of the Division competition advance to the Department competition scheduled to be held on **March 6th, 2021** at Coffee County Middle School, 3063 Woodbury Highway, Manchester, TN, 37355, at 10:00 AM, with three scholarship awards will be given. The third-place winner earns a \$1000 scholarship, the second- place winner earns a \$2,000 scholarship, and the winner for the State wins a \$3000 scholarship.

The Tennessee Department first-place winner advances to the National Competition held in Indianapolis, Indiana **April 9-11, 2021** as a part of the \$145,000 National scholarship pool, competing against winners from all 50 states and four territories, as guests of the American Legion. This event is being held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. Participants at the National contest present up to three times, with all competitors earning a \$1500 scholarship for attending. The winner of the final competition wins an additional grand award of a \$25,000 scholarship.

Prepared Orientation

As previously mentioned, the prepared orientation offers the student's view on the U.S. Constitution with emphasis on the duties and obligations of being a citizen of our government in an eight-to-ten -minute presentation. Students are to use the same speech they used in the local competition and the four assigned topics will stay the same as well. Copies of the speech are to be presented to contest officials prior to the on-stage presentation. Student speakers are graded by a variety of professionals familiar with speaking engagements and with a solid background in the U.S. Constitution.

Assigned Topics for 2021

Additionally, students are to be prepared to offer a three-to five-minute presentation on one of the following four Amendments to the U.S. Constitution chosen randomly during each competition.

Assigned Topics for the 2021 ORATORICAL CONTEST:

Article I, Section 7, "Raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives...."

Article II, Section 3, "He shall from time to time give to Congress Information of the State of the Union..."

Article III, Section 1, "The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in the Supreme Court..."

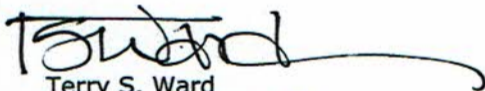
Amendment XXII, Section 1, "No person shall be elected more than twice...."

Application


To compete at the state level, applications must be completed and turned in through your local representative for your sponsoring post. The **deadline for the application is January 13, 2021**. A copy of the application is attached, but your local post representative will guide you and your students through submitting it. More detailed information about the competition is available by contacting your local or the district representative with Mt. Juliet Post 281, Terry Ward, at twardpost281am@gmail.com . The State website offers some additional information on <http://www.tennesseelegion.org/index.php?id=111> and then click the link for "American Legion Oratorical". For a full review of Oratorical Contest Rules and Regulations from the National office, go to: <http://ww.legion.org/oratorical/rules> .

It is our hope that you will offer this great opportunity to your students and they learn to appreciate the greatness of our Constitution and why it is so important to our country through this process. Equally, I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this competition with you in the future.

Best Regards,



Terry S. Ward
Adjutant, A.L.Post 281
Mt. Juliet, Tennessee
Oratorical Chairman for District 5 of Tennessee

THE AMERICAN LEGION 
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE

2021 ORATORICAL CONTEST APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION BY SCHOOL OFFICIAL

PLEASE SEND APPLICATION/CERTIFICATION TO
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE
ATTN: ORATORICAL PROGRAM
318 DONELSON PIKE BY JANUARY 13, 2021 (SORRY, WE CANNOT ACCEPT LATE SUBMISSIONS)
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214

High School Information

School's Name and Address	School's Phone #
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Student's Information

Student's Name:	
Current Grade:	<input type="checkbox"/> 9th <input type="checkbox"/> 10th <input type="checkbox"/> 11th <input type="checkbox"/> 12th
Student is a Citizen of the United States: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Home Address:	
City:	State: Zip Code:
Student's Phone #	
Student's Email	

Name of Parent or Parents

Father	Mother
Address	Address
Father's Phone #	Mother's Phone #
Father's Email	Mother's Email

Name of Teacher and/or Coach

Teacher or Coach
Address
Phone #

American Legion Post Information

American Legion Post #	Post Officer's Name:
Parent Signature(s)	
Parent's Printed Name	
School Official's Signature	
School Official's Printed Name & Title	