

The American Legion

DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI, Inc.

Eighty-fourth Annual High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST

2017-2018



Judge Duane Benton, Chair
Oratorical Commission, P.O. Box 179
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www.missourilegion.org/oratorical.htm

ORGANIZATION

The contest is supervised by the Oratorical Commission of nine members appointed by the Department Commander. The Commission is the final authority on all aspects of the contest.

The state is divided into four zones:

- Zone 1 - Legion Districts 1, 2, 8 and 9
- Zone 2 - Legion Districts 3, 4, 5 and 7
- Zone 3 - Legion Districts 6, 15, 16 and 17
- Zone 4 - Legion Districts 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

Each District Commander appoints County Chairs and a District Chair. The Commission appoints the four Zone Chairs. Each Chair cooperates with the local schools and Legion Posts to promote the program; to supervise generally the contests in the area; and, in addition, to preside at the particular contest he or she chairs.

ELIGIBILITY

All contestants shall be citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States, bona fide students under age 20, and presently enrolled in grades 9 through 12, in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, home or private). Contestants must either be legally domiciled in, or attend school within Missouri. Contestants may enter the contest in only one state. Students who graduate early may compete if not enrolled in a college, university, trade school, or other institution of higher learning on February 17, 2018. The three finalists in the National Finals cannot compete again at any level.

CRITERIA FOR SPEECHES

Before the contest, each judge should study the scoring of the Prepared Oration and Assigned Topic, as indicated by this scorecard:

Name of judge _____ Date _____

Number of Contestant	1	2	3	4	5	6
A. Content						
1. Was the speech original, fresh, and direct, applying the student's knowledge?	Prepared Oration	Assigned Topic	12 pts.	4 pts.		
2. Did the student skillfully select examples, descriptions, analogies, and specific data?	Prepared Oration	Assigned Topic	12 pts.	4 pts.		
3. Was the speech logical, well organized, and developed?	Prepared Oration	Assigned Topic	12 pts.	4 pts.		
4. Did the student show a comprehensiveness of knowledge of the subject matter?	Prepared Oration	Assigned Topic	16 pts.	6 pts.		

SPONSORSHIP

Contests are sponsored and financed by The American Legion Department of Missouri, Inc., and the Legion Posts throughout the State.

Posts sponsor and assist the contestants from their local

B. Speaking Skills

1. Did the student use volume, rate, pitch, and diction effectively?	Prepared Oration	Assigned Topic	6 pts.	4 pts.
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THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Missouri, each school year, sponsors an Oratorical Contest for high school students in Missouri.

The purpose of the contest is to develop knowledge and appreciation of the United States Constitution, the ability to think and speak clearly and critically, and the acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The contest meets guidelines of the Missouri State High School Activities Association, and appears in the Advisory List of Contests and Activities, of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The Legion contest is a partner with the National Speech & Debate Association, the honor society for high school students (formerly the National Forensic League).

AWARDS

The Department of Missouri awards the following medals and scholarships at State Finals:

1st place.....	Gold Medal.....	\$2,000.00
2nd place.....	Silver Medal.....	\$1,800.00
3rd place.....	Silver Medal.....	\$1,600.00
4th place.....	Silver Medal.....	\$1,400.00
Zone		
1st place.....	Gold Medal	
2nd place.....	Silver Medal	
Others.....	Bronze Medal	
District		
1st place.....	Silver Medal	
2nd place.....	Bronze Medal	
County award.....	Brooch	

If a high school contest is held, the sponsoring Post should award the winner a bronze medal, available from Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 179, Jefferson City 65102 at \$12.50 each.

Contestants in the National Finals receive scholarships of \$18,000, \$16,000, and \$14,000 for the top three places. State winners who participate in first-round National contests receive \$1,500 scholarships. Second-round National

PREPARED ORATION

Each contestant delivers a prepared oration, which must be an original effort. Plagiarism may cause disqualification.

The oration must address some aspect of the Constitution of the United States, which emphasizes the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. A student shall use the same subject for the oration throughout all contests. Possible subjects include:

An American Citizen's Rights and Responsibilities Under

The Constitution

Our Constitution - Worth Having, Worth Defending

The Constitution in a Changing World

The Constitution in Our Everyday Life

The Bill of Rights - Reciprocal Rights and Duties

The Constitution - Guardian of the People's Rights

The oration in all contests, except the State Finals, must last between five and six minutes. The oration in the State Finals must last between eight and ten minutes. The same oration must be used by the state winner in the national contest. The title of the oration is announced by the contest Chair before each oration.

Quotations must be clearly indicated. If they exceed ten words, the author's name shall be given both orally and in the manuscript. All speeches are delivered in English (except for short phrases from other languages). Singing is not permitted (although songs may be quoted).

ASSIGNED TOPIC DISCOURSE

Contestants in the district, zone, and state contests give an Assigned Topic Discourse, in addition to a Prepared Oration. The discourse lasts between three and five minutes. The oration quotation rule must be observed.

The discourse tests the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of research, and the ability to relate the topic to the basic principles of the Constitution. All contestants must