

Annual American Legion Department of Iowa

## High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

2024 – 2025



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](http://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

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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

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Post Commander Signature

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Post Oratorical Chair Signature

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Phone & Email

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Phone & Email

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### 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

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County Commander Signature

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County Oratorical Chair Signature

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Phone & Email

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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](http://www.ialegion.org/calendar) or [www.ialegion.org/oratorical](http://www.ialegion.org/oratorical).

**Local Contests**      Must be completed by December 1, 2024

**County Contests**    Must be completed by December 16, 2024

**District Contests**   Must be completed by January 5, 2025

**Area Contests**      Must be completed by January 19, 2025

\*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 16, 2025, Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines**

The American Legion Department of Iowa High School Oratorical Contest will be held Sunday, February 16, 2025, 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 UNK.

### **2025 National Contest**

The 2025 National Finals will be TBD. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, TBD with the finals scheduled for TBD.

### **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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish) or \$100 (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> place finish), \$1,500 (2<sup>nd</sup> place finish), and \$1,000 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.ialegion.org/oratorical)) should this be the case.

**The American Legion Department of Iowa  
Oratorical Committee  
2023 - 2024**

**Frank Andrew**  
**Department Vice Chairman**  
(515) 240-5692 or fmandrew@midiowa.net

**Bob Waugh**  
**Chairman**  
(641) 919-0042 or bobwaugh89@gmail.com

**First District Chairman**

Richard Stoltenberg  
(563) 284-6075 or rstoltenberg47@gmail.com

**Second District Chairman**

Donald Thiltgen  
(563) 659-9582 or mrtillie@mchsi.com

**Third District Chairman**

Dixie Kapayou  
(641) 484-3084 or dixiekapayou@ymail.com

**Fourth District Chairman**

Dennis Soppe  
(563) 422-5092 or soppedj@hotmail.com

**Fifth District Chairman**

Darrin Alderson  
(641) 660-0527 or darrin.alderson@gmail.com

**Sixth District Chairman**

Frank Andrew  
(515) 240-5692 or fmandrew@midiowa.net

**Seventh District Chairman**

Joseph Jardon  
(712) 370-6071 or jmjardon2747@gmail.com

**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 2024-2025 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.

Oratorical Contest  
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ASSIGNED TOPICS  
STATE AND LOCAL CONTESTS  
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