



American Legion 2025 High School Scholarship Oratorical Contest

Summary

WHAT: A contest for scholarships of up to \$25,000, depending on the award level. There are several awards at the Maine state level, and 3 at the national level.

WHO: Grades 9 to 12, enrolled in public, private, parochial, military, or home school. Must be under 20 years old when presenting at the national level, and be citizens or legal permanent residents.

WHEN: *Applications must be in to the local American Legion Post (Post 148 in Windham) by December 1, 2024.* Email the applications to: jafacella@yahoo.com the Post 148 Americanism officer, with the subject line: LEGION ORATORICAL APPLICATION..

WHERE: The initial contest is held at the local Post level and will be in December. After that, winners go up to various levels culminating in the finals at the national level. The American Legion will assist with non-local travel expenses.

HOW: Applicants prepare an 8-10 minute verbal presentation on the Constitution, with an emphasis on a citizen's duties. The presentation must be created by the student alone. This presentation is made in English without notes (although the notes may be carried in and studied prior to the presentation).

Then the student is asked about a specific topic from a series of 4 pre-assigned topics, which are generally picked from the various constitutional amendments. The student's verbal response must last 3-5 minutes.

WHY: The purpose is to assist students to develop an understanding of the U.S. Constitution, and the ability to think and speak on one's feet. This contest has been held annually since 1938 (86 years)

ADDITIONAL INFO: Applications, rules, and a promotional brochure can be found here: <https://mainelegion.org/pages/programs/oratorical.php>