

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**** THE 2012 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST ****

The 2011-2012 National and Department Rules contain all information student contestants need to prepare themselves for competition. For the benefit of the contestants, it is imperative that all rules and regulations be followed explicitly at every level of the contest. Post Oratorical Chairmen should be responsible for contacting their local high school to insure that the Oratorical Contest is part of their school's annual program.

Oratorical Chairmen at all levels (Post/County, District, Division and Department) are responsible for selecting a site, judges, and contest officials as well as publicizing their contests. Contestants must provide a copy of their prepared oration at the Department "State" Contest.

Contest deadline dates are listed below and will be followed.

December 17, 2011 **School Contest-** On or before this date, participating schools must have conducted eliminating contests to insure only a single contestant to represent a single school. School officials in charge of the contest (or Post Official) should call the Department Headquarters immediately following the conclusion of the contest to certify the winner and to be given information on the subsequent contest. The number is (919) 832-7506.

January 2-16, 2012 **Post or County Contest -** Where there is more than one contestant in a particular county. Must be conducted under the direction of the District Chairman or the County Chairman where one has been appointed. If there is any question, please contact local Legion Post to clarify District Chairman. (List attached)

January 16-30, 2012 **District Contest -** Is made up of all county winners and will be conducted under the direction of the District Chairman. District Chairmen are responsible for forwarding the completed winner certification form to Department Headquarters and to the Division Chairman immediately following the contest. The District Chairman is responsible for escorting the District winners to the Division Finals. **All District winners participating in the Division Contest will be presented with a \$100.00 scholarship check at the Division Contest only.**

February 11-20, 2012 **Division Contest -** Is made up of all District winners within the Division. The Division Chairman is responsible to see to proper execution of the contest and that winner certification form is filed with Department Headquarters immediately following the contest. He is also responsible for seeing that the Division winner is escorted to the Department Finals. **All judges scoring sheets shall be forwarded to Department Headquarters after the contest is completed.**

March 3, 2012 **Department (State) Finals -** TBA. (a \$60.00 travel allowance will be paid to the Division winner to defray cost of attending Department (State) Finals. This check will be presented at the Department (State) Contest. **All judges scoring sheets shall be forwarded to Department Headquarters after the contest is completed.**

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES NEEDED

1. National Rules Brochure (Gives complete details on contest)
2. Department Rules and Dates Brochure.
3. Adequate Judging Forms (Attached to Rules Brochure). Winner Certification Forms (District and Division Contest Only) provided by Department Headquarters.
4. Time Cards, with numbers 3,4,5 and 8,9 and 10. (To be held up by Time Keepers).
5. Stop Watches (2).
6. Some Type of Award for Contestants; (i.e., certificates, medals, cash award, etc.)

AWARDS AND MEDALS

It is suggested that suitable medals be given to those contestants who place first, second and third in the local Post, County, and District contests. **Medals are available through National Emblem Sales, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

Level of Competition	Gold (First Place)	Silver (Second Place)	Bronze (Third Place)
Post	#717.305 - \$ 7.95	#717.305 - \$ 6.95	#717.305 - \$ 5.95 (page 116 Emblem Sales)
District	#717.311 - \$17.95	#717.311 - \$15.95	#717.311 - \$12.95 (page 118 Emblem Sales)
*Division	#717.319 - \$23.95	#717.319 - \$21.95	#717.319 - \$18.95 (page 118 Emblem Sales)

***These medals are furnished by the Department at the Division Contest Level to those contestants placing 1,2 or 3. All other contest medals must be purchased by a local American Legion Post or by the District.**

All District Winners who participate in the Division Contest will receive a cash award of **\$100.00 Scholarship** from Department Headquarters presented at the Division Contest. Contestant **MUST** participate in the Division Contest to collect this award. Medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded to Division winners at the Division Contest.

All Division winners who participate in the Department (State) Contest will receive an appropriate plaque signifying their accomplishments. As contest rules state you must compete at the next level to receive the award, Division plaques will be given out at the Department (State) Contest.

All Division winners who participate in the Department (State) Contest will receive a travel allowance of \$60.00 to defray expenses incurred in attending the Department (State) Contest. The travel allowance will be presented at the Department (State) Contest.

Department (State) Contest awards are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Place - | *\$2,000.00 Scholarship | |
| 2nd Place - | 750.00 Scholarship | (*NOTE: Scholarships may be used to attend any college or university in the United States and will be paid directly to the institution of higher education.) |
| 3rd Place - | 500.00 Scholarship | |
| 4th Place - | 500.00 Scholarship | |
| 5th Place - | 500.00 Scholarship | |

*National Headquarters provides an additional \$1,500.00 scholarship to Department (State) winners who participate in the Quarter finals of the National Contest.



FORWARD

This Chairman's guide has been prepared to help the Oratorical Chairman organize and conduct a successful Oratorical Contest. This guide is also for use in conducting County, District, Division and State Contests.

The primary purpose of the Oratorical Contest is to involve high school students in America's great heritage; "The Constitution of The United States" and to promote interest in the democratic form of government.

The American Legion hopes that every high school will participate in this educational opportunity for their students to become better informed citizens and to allow them to compete for scholarship awards.

Each North Carolina American Legion Post must provide the initiative and leadership to make this fine program work. We are counting on you!

HARRY FLYNN

State Chairman

Oratorical Contest and Education Committee

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HOW TO START AN ORATORICAL CONTEST IN YOUR AREA

Obtain a copy of *The National High School Oratorical Contest Chairman's Guide* and read through it to familiarize yourself with the workings of a contest.

Work with your schools:

- Set up an appointment to speak with the school Principal, English teachers, Governmental History teachers, and ROTC instructors. Discuss what an oratorical contest is all about. Be sure to let them ask questions so they fully understand the program.
- As Post chairman, be sure to leave your name and phone number with them so they can reach you. Offer to help them conduct an in school contest for practice. This could be one of the most important steps as it helps everyone understand the rules and concept. Make sure all the proper judging, timekeeping, and tabulation sheets are used.
- Be available to address the students directly if allowed, and use school bulletin boards and school newspapers to get the word to the students.
- Be willing to return at a later date to address the students, if the schools desire.

Be organized.

- Study the rules and regulations covered in chapter 3 on page 8 of the *Chairman's Guide*. This will insure correct information being passed along through the various stages of the contest.
- Be sure to have extra copies of your judges scoring sheets along with timekeeping and tabulating sheets.
- A copy of the Video "How to Conduct The National High School Oratorical Contest" is available as outlined in Chapter Eleven of the *Chairman's Guide* by contacting the National Americanism and Children and Youth Division at (317) 630-1249.
- Chairman's Guide is available at www.legion.org. go to Programs and Events, National Oratorical Contest
- Copies of previous National Finalists Orations are available by calling the National Americanism and Children and Youth Division or Department Headquarters. They may be used as an informational tool, **BUT MAY NOT BE COPIED IN ANY WAY!**

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PLEASE NOTE: Any name not in bold, District Commander did not report a District Oratorical Chairman.

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2012

Article I

Section 9, Clause 2: “The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.”

Article IV

Section 2, Clause 1: “The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens of the several states.”

Amendment XIV

Section 2, Sentence 1: “Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed.”

Amendment XV

Section 1: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”