

2021 RULES  
AND REGULATIONS  
84<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL  
ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
[www.azlegion.org/programs](http://www.azlegion.org/programs)



**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA**  
chavezjs@cox.net

**Ken Queen**  
Department Commander

**Steve Chavez**, Chairman  
Department Oratorical Committee

The National Contest Rules Govern Department Contests  
(See National Contest Brochure)  
<http://www.legion.org/oratorical>

**THE DEPARTMENT PRIZES ARE AS  
FOLLOWS:**

**First Prize ..... \$2,000.00**

**plus an additional**

**\$2,000.00 scholarship upon  
participation in the First Round of the  
National Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana.**

**All Contestants at the Department Finals  
receive Cash Scholarships.**

The Department (State) Oratorical champion will  
automatically advance into the National  
American Legion Oratorical Competition.  
The FIRST and SECOND ROUNDS of the  
National Contest  
will be held on April 9-11, 2021  
The NATIONAL FINALS will be held on  
Sunday, April 11, 2021  
Followed by a banquet honoring all the  
contestants.

Inquiries may be directed to:

**The American Legion**  
4701 N. 19th Avenue, Ste. 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85015-3799  
(602) 264-7706

**Steve Chavez**  
Benson, AZ  
928-386-0840  
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**Area "A" Chairman**  
Maggie Montijo  
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520-904-1814  
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**Area "B" Chairman**  
Ole Bjerk  
Mesa, AZ  
602-904-6090  
olebjerk@aol.com

**Area "C" Chairman**

**DEPARTMENT OF AZ  
PAST CHAMPIONS**

2020 Caleb Doerksen,  
Verrado H.S. Buckeye  
2019 Cassandra Lawson  
Basis Oro Valley  
2018 Kylie Cochrane, Scottsdale  
2017 Juliana Martinez, Pusch Ridge

**DEPARTMENT OF AZ PAST CHAMPIONS**

2016 Elizabeth Baxter, AZ Lutheran  
2015 Chetan Bafna, Kofa High School  
2014 Chetan Bafna, Kofa High School  
2013 Alex Kate Halvey, Pusch Ridge  
2012 Rachel Moses, Home Schooled  
2011 Rachel Moses, Home Schooled  
2010 Nicholas Everetts, Fountain Hills H.S.  
2009 Clayton Masterman, River Valley H.S.  
2008 Michael Fleming, Mesa H.S.  
2007 Ronni Stirling, Coronado H.S.  
2006 Michele O'Shea, Cactus H.S.  
2005 Michele O'Shea, Cactus H.S.  
2004 Michele O'Shea, Cactus H.S.  
**2003 Thomas Joraanstad, Brophy Preparatory-  
National Third Place Winner**  
2002 Thomas Joraanstad, Brophy Preparatory  
2001 Thomas Joraanstad, Brophy Preparatory  
2000 Sarah Joraanstad, Xavier Preparatory  
1999 Joshua Deahl, Mountain View H.S.  
1998 William Self, Mountain View H.S.  
1997 Katherine Forrest, Mountain View H.S.  
**1996 Kaleen Love, Mountain View H.S. –  
National First Place Winner**  
1995 Shira Shafir, Sunnyslope H.S.  
1994 Shira Shafir, Sunnyslope H.S.  
1993 Soraya Ali-Akbarian, Sunnyslope H.S.  
1992 Jimi Jo Story, Mingus H.S.  
1991 Michael Wawro, Sunnyslope H.S.  
1990 Jamie Lee Wagner, Chaparral H.S.  
1989 Mark Light-Orr, Deer Valley H.S.  
1988 William Gates, Deer Valley H.S.  
1987 William Gates, Deer Valley H.S.  
1986 Matthew Ortega  
1985 Steven R. Houbek  
1984 H. David Preston  
1983 James F. Ireland  
1982 Matthew Fitzgerald, Casa Grande H.S.  
1981 Matthew Fitzgerald, Casa Grande H.S.  
1980 Bartholmew Fitzgerald, Casa Grande H.S.  
1979 Victoria Fimea  
1978 Randi-Jean Hedin  
1977 Thomas R. Harrell  
1976 Arleen Armstrong  
1975 Sari Lisa Horwitz  
1974 Joyce Helen Weaver  
**1966 Ronald T. McCoy, Phoenix Union H.S.  
National First Place Winner**  
**1938 John Jansen, Nogales HS-First National  
First Place Winner**

### **ENTRY FORM**

Students may submit the proper Entry Form to participate in the Program. This form may be obtained from Department Headquarters, [www.azlegion.org/programs](http://www.azlegion.org/programs), your school, or any of the Chairmen listed on this form.

### **ORGANIZATION**

The contest will be under the direct supervision of The American Legion Oratorical Committee, appointed by the Department (State) Commander. Final authority on all issues raised shall remain with the Committee.

### **LOCAL, DISTRICT, AND AREA CONTESTS**

Students will compete multiple times. Contests are progressive, will be held during the months of January and February, and completed on or before **February 27, 2021**. The locations of each student's contests are based on where they attend school. The dates and locations vary throughout the state. **CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN FOR DATES AND LOCATIONS OF YOUR CONTESTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

The State is divided into American Legion "Districts and Areas" as follows:

Area A: (Southern AZ) Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5

Area B: (Phoenix Metro and Yuma) Districts 1,11,12

Area C: (Northern AZ) - Districts 6, 7, 8

**EACH AREA SENDS TWO CONTESTANTS TO THE ARIZONA FINALS.**

### **THE ARIZONA FINALS CONTEST**

Will be held on Saturday, **March 13, 2021**. A maximum of two contestants from each "Area" compete in the Finals. The winner of this Contest will compete in the National Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana, **April 9-11, 2021**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible participants in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Finals Contest, who is currently enrolled in high school (public, charter, parochial, military, private, or home-schooled) in which the curriculum of said high school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve

(12). Students must be enrolled in high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program.

### **PREPARED ORATION**

All contestants shall be required to deliver a PREPARED ORATION, which must be the original effort of each contestant, and must require not less than eight (8) nor more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language. Singing is NOT allowed. Before the contestant starts their oration, they will give the title of their Prepared Oration to the Chairman of the Contest.

Quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given both orally and in the manuscript. The penalty for plagiarism will be disqualification.

**The Prepared Oration must be based on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same Prepared Oration is to be used throughout all levels of the Contests.**

### **ASSIGNED TOPICS FEATURE**

All contestants must participate in both the Prepared Oration and the "ASSIGNED TOPIC" feature at all levels of the Contest. The Assigned Topic discourse must consume not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The Prepared Oration quotation rule must be observed.

The purpose of the Assigned Topic feature is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his/her research and the

ability to discuss with minimal preparation the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

Each contestant speaks on the same topic, which is drawn by the Contest Committee at the Contest. By action of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics to be used in this year's contest are the following:

### **2021 ASSIGNED TOPICS**

#### **Article I, Section 7**

All Bills for raising Revenue

#### **Article II, Section 3**

Congress information of the State of the Union

#### **Article III, Section 1**

The Judicial Power of the United States

#### **Amendment 22 Section 1**

Term of Office

### **CONTEST REGULATIONS**

**DRESS**-Business attire is required.

**ORDER OF APPEARANCE**-Contestants shall draw for the order in which they appear, the drawing to be conducted by the Chairman, who will introduce the speakers as Number 1, 2, etc.

**NOTES AND ROSTRUMS**-The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker's stand by contestants, or prompting in any manner, is not permitted. Props are not permitted. Singing is not permitted.

**THE PREPARED ORATION AND ASSIGNED TOPICS MUST BE COMMITTED TO MEMORY.**