

**2024 RULES
AND REGULATIONS
87th ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL
ORATORICALSCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM
www.azlegion.org/programs**



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
oratorical@azlegion.org**

Department of Arizona Commander
Steve Sperr

Steve Chavez, Chairman

Department Oratorical Committee

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

**THE DEPARTMENT of ARIZONA PRIZES ARE
AS FOLLOWS:**

**First Prize - \$1700.00 plus an additional \$2000.00
scholarship upon participation in the First
Round of the National Finals in Hillsdale,
Michigan.**

**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 May 17, 18, 2024, Hillsdale Michigan

The **NATIONAL FINALS** will be held on Sunday, May
19, 2024, followed by a banquet honoring all the
contestants. 1st Place \$25,000, 2nd Place \$22,500, 3rd
Place \$20,000

Inquiries may be directed to:

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**DEPARTMENT OF AZ PAST
CHAMPIONS**

2023 Kaleb Rasor, BASIS Oro Valley
2022 Kaleb Rasor, BASIS Oro Valley
2021 Hannah Shin, BASIS Oro Valley
2020 Caleb Doerksen, Verrado HS
2019 Cassandra Lawson, BASIS Oro
Valley
2018 Kylie Cochrane, Scottsdale
2017 Juliana Martinez, Pusch Ridge
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-
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. -
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 AZ
1938 John Jansen, Nogales AZ

ENTRY FORM

Students may submit the proper Entry Form to participate in
the Program between June 2023, and January 31, 2024. Apply
online at www.azlegion.org/programs/oratorical.

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 February and March, and completed on or before March 16, 2024. 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 23, 2024. A maximum of two contestants from each "Area" compete in the Finals. The winner of this Contest will compete in the National Finals in Hillsdale, Michigan, May 17-19, 2024.

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:

2024 ASSIGNED 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

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.