Contest Dates and Locations

Each post, district and county sets their own competition dates. Most will be held sometime in November, December or January to accommodate the State and Regional Competition. District winners advance to the Regional and State Contest.

The 90th Annual High School Oratorical Regional and Final Contests are scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2027 at Ripon College.

RIPON COLLEGE



The Wisconsin Competition winner will then advance to The American Legion National level of competition at the Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, May 14 to May 16, 2027.

For more information, visit the Oratorical page on our website wilegion.org.

Or contact Department Headquarters:

The American Legion
Department of Wisconsin
2930 American LegionDrive
PO Box 388
Portage, WI 53901
608-745-1090

Oratorical Scholarship Program

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is "A Constitutional Speech Contest" which presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

The Oratorical Program is open to all area high school students. Each participant must be sponsored by a local Legion Post.

The contests begin at the local or post level, with the opportunity for participants to advance to the county, district, regional, state and, ultimately, the national level.

Each contestant delivers two orations, the first being a prepared eight to 10 minute oration about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.

The second oration consists of a three to five minute speech on a randomly assigned constitutional topic. There are four assigned topics and, because they are randomly selected by the Oratorical Chairman at each competition, students must be prepared to speak on all of them.

The use of notes, props, a lectern, prompting of any type, and amplification devices are not allowed during the actual oratorical presentations.

Participants are ranked by a panel of qualified judges whose decision is final. Specific rules for breaking possible ties are strictly adhered to.

Scholarship Opportunities:

* District winners qualify for Regional Competition

Participants eliminated at the Regional level receive$600

Three Regional Winners receive $1000 and competefor the State title

The State 2nd runner up receives an additional $1000

The State 1st runner up receives an additional $1500

The Department Winner receives an additional $2000

* Additional scholarship awards are presented to participants speaking at the National level

Assigned Topics 2026-2027

The Preamble

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect
Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.

Article VI Paragraph 2

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Amendment XIV Section 3

No person shall be a Senatoru or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any States, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Amendment XXII Section 1

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twiece, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.