

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
2021 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**83rd H.W. DARE MANESS HIGH
SCHOOL ORATORICAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**"A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH
CONTEST"**



Walt Richardson, Department Commander
Nick I. Diener, Department Adjutant
Robin Rucker, Department
Americanism Commission Chairman
Debanjan Datta
Department Oratorical Contest Chairman

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights, and privileges of Americanism Citizenship.

Further information can be found at:

www.scarolinalegion.org under the "Programs" Link and then "H. W. Dare Maness High School Oratorical Program"

Inquiries may be directed to:

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or

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**ALL DEPARTMENT & QUADRANT
AWARDS MUST BE USED
WITHIN
FIVE YEARS OF
GRADUATING FROM
HIGH SCHOOL**

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

1st Place \$2,500.00
2nd Place \$1,500.00
3rd Place \$750.00
4th Place \$750.00

QUADRANT SCHOLARSHIPS

1ST PLACE 1,000.00
2ND PLACE 500.00

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The winner of the Department Finals Contest who is certified into and participates in the National Contest receives a National \$2,000.00 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000.00 National Scholarship.

NATIONAL 1ST PLACE \$25,000.00

NATIONAL 2ND PLACE \$22,500.00

NATIONAL 3RD PLACE \$20,000.00

ENTRY FORM

Students may submit the proper Entry to participate in the Program. This form may be obtained from The American Legion Department of SC website at www.searohalalegion.org under "Programs" and "H.W. Dare Manship High School Oratorical Program"

ORGANIZATION

The Contest will be under the direct supervision of The American Legion Department of South Carolina Oratorical Contest Chairman appointed by the Department Commander. Final authority on all issues remain with the Chairman.

LOCAL, DISTRICT AND QUADRANT CONTESTS

Students will participate multiple times. Contests are progressive. All Post contests must be completed on or before February 3, 2021. The Location of each student's contest is based on where they attend school. The dates and locations vary throughout the state. **CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE DATES AND LOCATIONS OF YOUR CONTESTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**
The state is divided into American Legion Districts and Quadrants as follows:
• Quadrant 1 - Districts, 3, 5, 9, 10 & 13
• Quadrant 2 Districts 1, 14, 15, 17 & 20
• Quadrant 3 Districts 4, 7, 11, 12, & 18
• Quadrant 4 Districts 2, 6, 8, 16 & 19
All Quadrant contests will be conducted on February 20, 2021.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA FINALS CONTEST

Each Quadrant sends one contestant to the Department Finals in Columbia on March 13, 2021. The winner of the Finals contest will compete in the National Finals in Indianapolis, IN 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 who is currently enrolled in high school, (public, charter, parochial, military, private, or homeschooled) 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 TOPIC 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 shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with the Amendments as other Bills.

Article II, Section 3

The State of the Union.

Article III, Section 1

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court.

Amendment XXII, Section 1

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice.

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 & 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 AND MUST BE COMMITTED TO MEMORY.