

The American Legion



For God and Country

DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
21 SOUTH FRUIT ST STE 266
CONCORD NH 03301
603-856-8951 www.legionnh.org

August 2025



TO: High School Principals and Guidance Counselors

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

Enclosed please find: A poster to be placed on your school scholarship bulletin board

The American Legion Oratorical Contest is open to all New Hampshire 9-12 grade students in public, parochial, private, and approved home school programs. This competition is designed to create interest, foster appreciation of and gain a better understanding of the United States Constitution. Further, as an allowed component toward meeting civics requirements, participation in this annual competition is encouraged to be disseminated throughout civics, history, English, or social studies courses in schools.

Scholarships awarded range from \$100 beginning at the local American Legion Post level up to \$25,000 for National Competition winners. District contests will begin in January and conclude by March 1st, 2026. Winners of district competition then participate in the NH State competition on March 7th (March 28th snow date), 2026 and the winner of that competition will then compete in the National Competition to be held May (date TBD) in Hillsdale Michigan. Competition Rules and assigned topics for 2026 may be found at <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>

If you, or any students are interested in learning more about the program and would like further information and to register for the initial District competition, please email the district contact and copy State Chair, Liz Hennig LHennig878@gmail.com. See <https://www.legionnh.org/post-location> to identify your District.

District Points of Contact and District competition dates are below:

District 1 (Vacant) Email LHennig878@gmail.com Keene Post 4 Feb 21st 9AM

District 2 rlbalentine@comcast.net Milford Post 23 Feb 21st 10AM

District 3 tialantiegne@gmail.com & legionpost32exeter@gmail.com Hampton post 35 Feb 14th 11AM

District 4 astavictoria@gmail.com. Londonderry High on Saturday, February 7th, 2026, 0800-1200.

District 5 post59amlegioncommander@gmail.com American Legion Post 59 Hillsborough Feb 7th, 11AM
District 6 LHennig878@gmail.com 165 Main Street New London Saturday February 28th 9AM
District 7 jocain1967@gmail.com Feb 21st. Ashland Post 15. 11AM
District 8 gunnie1960@hotmail.com Feb 28th, 2026 White Mountain Regional HS 10AM

Please respond via email to the State Oratorical Chair Liz Hennig, acknowledging receipt of this scholarship announcement at Lhennig878@gmail.com and indicate if you, or if not, who will be the primary contact for the competition at your school.

Thank you
Liz Hennig
NH American Legion Oratorical Chair
603-454-8658





The American Legion HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

Based on the United States Constitution

Scholarships

Open to all

New Hampshire students grades 9 - 12

NATIONAL Awards

1ST PRIZE- \$25,000

2ND PRIZE \$22,500

3RD PRIZE \$20,000

State Champion receives \$2,000 upon competing in both the 1st and 2nd round of National contest plus expense paid trip for contestant and one chaperone to the National Finals.

STATE Awards

1ST PRIZE-\$1300

2ND PRIZE-\$1000

3RD PRIZE-\$750

4TH PRIZE-\$500

5-8TH PRIZE-\$300

Plus, local District prizes

Speak an oration which takes not less than eight nor more than ten minutes from memory of some phase of the U.S. Constitution. In addition, be prepared to speak on an assigned topic on a selected article or amendment of the U.S. Constitution for three to five minutes.

If interested, get details from your high school Guidance, English, or Social Studies Department to register for your District competition scheduled for January or February of 2026. More information may be obtained by contacting your local American Legion Post or The American Legion Oratorical Chair, Liz Hennig Lhennig878@gmail.com, (603) 454-8658



Competition Rules

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest/how-to-participate>

2026 Assigned Topics

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest/oratorical-contest-assigned-topics>

