

# 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](http://www.legionnh.org)

August 2025

TO: Middle School Principals and Guidance Counselors

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 American Legion Middle 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 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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** Scholarships are awarded for participation State events in addition to potential awards at the local and regional levels. See attached poster for more information. District contests will begin in January and conclude in March. Winners of district competition then participate in the NH State competition on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:LHennig878@gmail.com) Keene Post 4 Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 10AM

District 2 [rlbalentine@comcast.net](mailto:rlbalentine@comcast.net) Milford Post 23 Mar 14<sup>th</sup> 10AM

District 3 [tialantiegne@gmail.com](mailto:tialantiegne@gmail.com) & [legionpost32exeter@gmail.com](mailto:legionpost32exeter@gmail.com) Hampton post 35 Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 10AM

District 4 [astavictoria@gmail.com](mailto:astavictoria@gmail.com). Londonderry High on Saturday, Feb 7, 2026, 1PM- 3PM

District 5 [post59amlegioncommander@gmail.com](mailto:post59amlegioncommander@gmail.com) American Legion Post 59 Hillsborough Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 9AM

District 6 [LHennig878@gmail.com](mailto:LHennig878@gmail.com) 165 Main Street New London Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> 9AM

District 7 [jocain1967@gmail.com](mailto:jocain1967@gmail.com) Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Ashland Post 15. 11AM

District 8 [gunnie1960@hotmail.com](mailto:gunnie1960@hotmail.com) March 21, 2026 Woodsville, Post 20 10AM

**Please respond via email** to the State Oratorical Chair Liz Hennig, acknowledging receipt of this scholarship announcement at [Lhennig878@gmail.com](mailto: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



## **Competition Rules**

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest/how-to-participate> Note: This guidance is for the High School Competition. The middle school competition differs in the following ways:

- The middle school competition concludes at the State level.
- The middle school times are 3-5 minutes for the main speech and 2-3 minutes for the amendments.
- Note cards are allowed for the middle school competition.

## **2026 Assigned Topics**

### **Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### **Article III**

*Section 3.* Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

### **Article IV**

*Section 4.* The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.