

2015 ALABAMA AMERICAN LEGION



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CONTENTS

ELIGIBILITY/PREPARED ORATION.....	3
ASSIGNED TOPIC.....	4
CONTEST REGULATIONS.....	5-6
DEPARTMENT CONTEST DATES.....	7
DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL FINALS.....	8
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
WEBSITE.....	9
SCHOOL INFORMATION COUNTY MAP.....	10-12
SAMPLE LETTER TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS.....	13-14

2015 ALABAMA AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Telephone: 334-262-6638

Willie Rogers – Chairman – 334-467-5039

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible participants in The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any students under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home school) in which the curriculum of said 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 or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.

The three finalist of the National Contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.

In order to receive the first place award at any level within the Department of Alabama, the winner must represent the American Legion at the next level of the contest.

PREPARED ORATION: The subject to be used for the Prepared Oration must be on some phase 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 subject and oration used in the Department Contest must be used in the National Contest.

In the Prepared Oration, as well as in the Assigned Topic Discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

The Prepared Oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their Prepared Oration in the first Holding Room.

They may consult the copy of their Prepared Oration, until they exit the Holding Room in order to begin the contest, at which time the copy of the Prepared Oration will be given to the contest official that is monitoring the First Holding Room.

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2015 ORATORICAL CONTEST

ASSIGNED TOPIC: The Assigned Topic Discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The purpose of the Assigned Topic is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The Assigned Topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her Prepared Oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States, selected from the Articles and Sections as listed under Assigned Topics for the current year's contest in this brochure. All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same Assigned Topic.

Amendment 5

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 offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

Amendment 6

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment 19

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

CONTEST REGULATIONS

A drawing shall be held by the contest official to determine the order in which the contestants will appear. The Contest Chairman shall announce the title of the contestant's prepared oration immediately after introducing the student as Contestant Number 1, Contestant Number 2, etc. The Chairman will request the audience to refrain from applause until the Judges have made their decision.

A raised platform is not compulsory; however, it is strongly recommended. The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker's stand by contestants or prompting in any manner is not permitted. Props are not permitted.

The time allotted for each contestant to deliver their Prepared Oration shall not be less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes and for the Assigned Topic, not less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes.

An official shall be named by the Contest Chairman whose duty it shall be to keep an accurate time record of each contestant, and shall be located on the main floor in full view of the contestants.

The timekeeper shall begin timing each contestant at the start of the Prepared Oration. The timer should be equipped with a stopwatch and cards marked 8, 9, and 10 for the Prepared Oration and cards marked 3, 4 and 5 for the Assigned Topic Discourse. When eight minutes have been used during the Prepared Oration, the time warning card with the figure 8 thereon shall be placed in view of the speaker, following with 9 and 10 as the speaker progresses. The same procedure shall be used with cards bearing 3, 4, and 5 during the Assigned Topic Discourse. The Contest Chairman shall announce the time consumed by each Contestant for the Prepared Oration and the Assigned Topic immediately after each contestant speaks for the benefit of the Judges.

Contestants are required to remain in a private room where the discourse of the other speakers cannot be heard until it is their turn to speak (contestants will be under the supervision of an individual appointed by the Contest Chairman). As the contestants conclude their Prepared Oration, they must return to private waiting room. As each speaker concludes his/her Assigned Topic discourse, they shall not be allowed to associate with the contestants who have not fulfilled the Assigned Topic requirement.

Approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of the delivery of the Assigned Topic Discourse, Contestant Number 1 will be informed of the topic drawn for the Assigned Topic and shall be permitted to retire to privacy under the direction of an individual appointed by the Contest Chairman, whose duty it shall be to see that no contestant is permitted to consult any text matter or notes having any connection with the subject matter upon which he/she is to speak, other than the actual words of the topic provided on the card drawn.

Each succeeding contestant will be called upon in the order in which he/she previously appeared. He/she shall also, in turn, be informed of the topic of the Assigned Topic Discourse and shall then be escorted to privacy in the manner as provided for Contestant Number 1.

National Regulations and Rules apply in all contests. Judges' scorecards for Department and the National contest will not be divulged to anyone at the site of the contest. The Judges' scorecards become the property of The American Legion National Headquarters. The decision of the judges is final.

I have also included the website at National Headquarters that have step-by-step instructions on conducting the oratorical contest.

<http://www.legion.org/oratorical/how-to-videos>

DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA ORATORICAL CONTEST DATES

(May be held earlier but not later than)

- School Contests Not later than: 31 Jan, 2015
- County/Zone/Post Contests Not later than: 14 Feb, 2015
- District Contests Not later than: 28 Feb, 2015
- Division Contest Not later than: 14 Mar, 2015
- Department Contest: 28 Mar, 2015
- National Finals: 10-12 April, 2015 - Indianapolis, IN

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA AND NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS**

STATE FINALS / NATIONAL FINALS

First Place	\$3,000.00	\$18,000.00
Second Place	\$2,000.00	\$16,000.00
Third Place	\$1,000.00	\$14,000.00
State Winner (Certified)		\$1,500.00

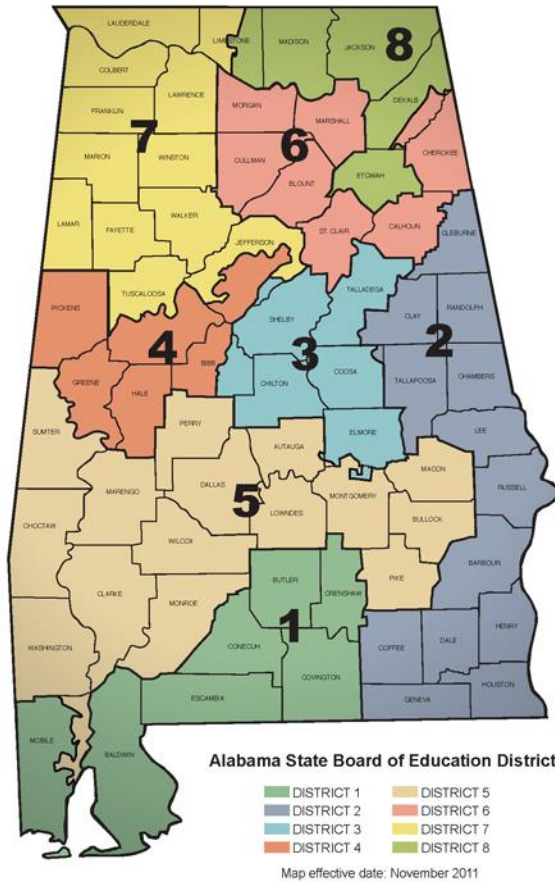
The American Legion will pay travel and lodging for Department winners and their chaperones to the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana, **10-12 April, 2015**. Each Department winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the National Contest will receive a \$ 1,500.00 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round will receive an additional \$ 1,500.00 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE

To find the names, locations, and contact information within your district and counties, first click on the website below.

<http://web.alsde.edu/home/SchoolInfo/CountyMap.aspx>

Results of that will lead you to this page. Once there click on your county:



Once you click on your county you will see a page with this information similar to this:

ALSDE: School Information: County Information

State Board of Education Member - Mrs. ELLA B BELL (District 05)

Autauga County System Information
Board of Education
Superintendent's Office
Program Key Contacts
Autauga County Schools

Click on your counties schools and a similar page will appear:

This page contains all of the information needed to contact all schools in your district

**School Information For
Prattville Intermediate School (0070)
in Autauga County (001)
in School Board District (05)**

Principal: Angela Ory Landry

Mailing Address:

1020 Honeysuckle Dr
Prattville, AL 36067 - 6299

Shipping Address:

1020 Honeysuckle Dr
Prattville, AL 36067

Physical Address:

1020 Honeysuckle Dr
Prattville, AL 36067

Phone: (334) 361-3880

Fax: (334) 361-3884

Email: Angela.Landry@acboe.net

Website: www.acboe.net

**School Information For
Prattville Junior High School (0080)
in Autauga County (001)
in School Board District (05)**

Principal: Janice Marie Stockman

Mailing Address:

1089 Martin Luther King Dr
Prattville, AL 36067 - 1829

Shipping Address:

1089 N Chestnut
Prattville, AL 36067

Physical Address:

1089 N Chestnut
Prattville, AL 36067

Phone: (334) 365-6697

Fax: (334) 361-3870

Email: kenneth.childree@acboe.net

Website: www.pjhscats.com

**School Information For
Autauga County Technology Center (6000)
in Autauga County (001)
in School Board District (05)**

No contact has be designated for this site.

Mailing Address:

1301 Upper Kingston Rd
Prattville, AL 36067 - 6850

Phone: (334) 361-0258

Fax: (334) 361-3839

Email: brock.dunn@acboe.net

Shipping Address:

1301 Upper Kingston Rd
Prattville, AL 36067

Physical Address:

1301 Upper Kingston Rd
Prattville, AL 36067

School Information For
Prattville High School (0086)
in Autauga County (001)
in School Board District (05)

Principal: Richard E Dennis**Mailing Address:**

1315 Upper Kingston Rd
Prattville, AL 36067 - 6835

Phone: (334) 365-8804

Fax: (334) 358-0011

Email: richard.dennis@acboe.net

Website: www.gophslions.com

Shipping Address:

1315 Upper Kingston Rd
Prattville, AL 36067

Physical Address:

1315 Upper Kingston Rd
Prattville, AL 36067

SAMPLE LETTER TO PRINCIPLE/COUNSELOR



Principle/Counselor Last name,

First I would like to introduce myself. I am xxxxxxers, Commander, American Legion Post #xxx. I am the focal point for the Department of Alabama's 2015 State High School Oratorical Contest in our county. We are pleased to announce the 2015 Alabama American Legion Oratorical Contest. The Oratorical Contest presents our nation's high school 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.

Not only do we provide them the academic challenge but young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships are awarded each year. High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds.

I have attached a booklet (**don't forget to attach the booklet! if you do not think it's needed just remove that sentence**) explaining the scholarship program and how your outstanding students can compete for local as well as national scholarships offered by the American Legion. I have also included the American Legion National website which will provide more details of the program:

<http://www.legion.org/oratorical/about>

I would very much like to meet or speak with you or a representative of your school concerning this outstanding program and the participation of any of your outstanding students.

I can be reached at XXX-XXX-XXX and if you cannot reach me please contact Mr. Willie Rogers, State Chairman for the Alabama Oratorical Program, at 334-467-5039.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Your name here

Commander

American Legion Post # XXXX