

## **American Legion Oratorical Contest**

**Starting January 2021**

With this season on Covid and our schools doing virtual training, we need your help recruiting.

Do you have a high school student in your home, interested in debate, history, the constitution, or pre-law? If so this is a great program to earn money for college. You may also know high schoolers in your neighborhood. If so, pass on this information.

High school students of the Frederick County area are invited by the Frederick County American Legion to compete in the annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program.

Eligible participants 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 20 years on the date of the national contest that is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school), commencing with grade 9 and ending with grade 12. High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

The contest for Frederick area students, arranged with the full cooperation of local school officials, is scheduled for late January 2021.

The subject in the prepared oration portion of the contest must be about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the United States government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must be 8-10 minutes in length. The competition awards scholarships given the night of the competition to the first, second and third place winners. There are also awards given at the County, District and State levels. The winner of each competition moves also moves up to the next level.

In addition to the awards by winners of the various elimination rounds of competition, college scholarships of \$25,000, \$22,500, and \$20,000 will be awarded to the first through third places in the national finals. Each state winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The top three youth orators who have won all previous elimination rounds of the contest will vie for top honors in the national contest in April in Indianapolis.

High school students in the Frederick County area who are interested in entering the competition will find complete rules and contest information at local high school guidance offices, by visiting <http://www.legion.org/oratorical> or by contacting [tonyd8341@gmail.com](mailto:tonyd8341@gmail.com). Those interesting in participating must contact Tony Driebelbies by Jan. 5, 2021 or FSK Post 11 at 301-662-9345.