

## **THE AMERICAN LEGION ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM “A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST”**

The American Legion’s National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is an activity designed to develop in high school students a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of the United States. Other objectives are those 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 American Legion citizenship.

The contest has two phases: prepared orations of eight to ten minutes in length and an assigned topic presentation of three to five minutes.

Participants shall be citizens of the United States or lawful permanent residents of the United States regularly enrolled in a high school located in South Carolina. All contestants must be bonafied students under the age of twenty years on the date of the National Finals who are enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum of said high school is considered to be of high school level commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade twelve.

### **Scholarships are awarded as follows:**

Zone Contest Winners - \$100  
State Finals – 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$3500; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$2000; Runners-up - \$1000.00  
National Competition First Round - \$1500 to each participating state winner  
National Competition Second Round - \$1500 to each participant not advancing to the National Finals.  
National Finals – 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$18,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$16,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$14,000

### **Materials will be mailed as follows:**

**September** - Post Commanders:  
Memorandum, Dept. of SC Rules and Regulations for 2008,  
Certification Form, Chairman’s Guide

**September** - Post Adjutants, District Commanders, Post Oratorical Contest Chairman:  
Memorandum, Dept. of SC Rules and Regulations for 2008,  
Certification Form

**September** - Zone Commanders:  
Memorandum, Dept of SC Rules and Regulations for 2008,  
Certification Form

**October** - Public & Private High School Guidance Office:  
Memorandum, Suggested News Release for School Newspaper, Poster

**October** - High School Principals:  
Memorandum

Additional materials are available from Department Headquarters. The rule book will be available on the Department website - [scarolinalegion.org](http://scarolinalegion.org).

**Deadline Dates:**

Post Contests – Must be completed by January 26, 2008

Zone Contest – All Zone Contest must be held February 9, 2008

State Finals – March 1, 2008

National Finals – April 4-6, 2008