

American Legion-Post #104

ORATORICAL CONTEST

“A constitutional speech contest”

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. **Since 1938**, the program has presented 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. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former Presidents & National television commentators and talk show hosts.

2025—**large Scholarship awards & Prizes** . Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$203,500 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,00 on a National level. Each **department\ (state)** winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest’s **first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship**. Those who advance past the first round receive an **additional \$2,000 scholarship**. The American Legion’s National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

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. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

Speaking subjects must be on **some aspect of the U.S. Constitution**, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. **Speeches are 8 to 10 minutes long; plus a 3- to 5-minute speech on an assigned topic** also are part of the contest. **For local D#7 Mn Posts holding local contests exceptions to National rules may be allowed. ie: like not including the assigned topic feature—or allowing notes.**

However, the D#7 contest follows all National rules.

Contact your local Post #104 Litchfield, Mn to start your journey or contact the Department of Minnesota The American Legion at department@mnlegion.org .
