

1. Any student entering the competition must be under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Contest.

2. The student must be presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school), commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade twelve, during the time of participation at any level of the Contest.

3. The student must either live in or attend school in Pennsylvania and can only compete in Pennsylvania.

4. **The student must submit an application to any Pennsylvania Post for sponsorship by December 1, 2024.** A local Post can be found at <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Find-a-Post>.

5. The contest will consist of two parts; an 8 to 10-minute memorized oration on some phase of the United States Constitution and a 3 to 5-minute oration on one of four "assigned topics" selected by the National Organization. These four topics can be found at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics>

6. The contestant may not use any notes, props, amplification or prompts during the oration.

7. A minimum of five judges will judge all contests at the District level and above. Local and County contests may use a minimum of three judges.

8. All contests at the District level and above shall conform with National Contest procedures, rules and regulations. The "assigned topics" shall be used at all levels of competition. National Contest rules can be found at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>

9. Assigned Tabulators will review and tabulate the judges' score sheets. The Contest Chair will verify the results and announce the contest winners.

10. The judges' score sheets, the tabulation forms and the timekeepers' cards all become the property of the Department of Pennsylvania Oratorical Committee.

11. Barring unforeseen circumstances, any student that enters the Oratorical program **must** be available to compete on the date of the Department Contest and **must** be available to compete at the National Contest from May 16-18 in Hillsdale, Michigan.

12. The Oratorical Committee has established the following dates **BY WHICH the various contests must be held, if required, and the winner's name and contact information sent to the next level of competition:** (Dates subject to change. Check with the appropriate competition level to confirm.)

Application to any Pennsylvania Post no later than (NLT) December 1, 2024

School or Post Contest NLT December 29, 2024

County Contest NLT January 12, 2025

District Contest NLT January 26, 2025

Inter-District Contest NLT February 9, 2025

Sectional Contest NLT February 23, 2025

Department Contest ON March 8, 2025

National Contest from May 16-18, 2025

13. The Department Contest will be held in Harrisburg at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 8, 2025. A banquet to honor the Department Contest competitors will be held on Friday evening, March 7, 2025.

14. The Department Contest in March will be under the direct supervision of the Oratorical Committee; final authority on all issues raised will remain with the Oratorical Committee.

15. The Department winner must be certified with National Headquarters. If for any reason the Department winner is unable to compete at the National Contest, the Department First Runner-up will be substituted, following approval by National.

16. Additional contest resources can be found at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>

