

85th Annual
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH
DAKOTA 2022 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM “A Constitutional Speech Contest”
For All SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Pictured left to right above: Department Commander Fred Nelson, Emma Raisanen of Rapid City, Dorian Sikkink of Castlewood, Dakota Timanus of Gregory, 3rd place - Elias Grimsley of Spearfish, 2nd place - Emily Hofer of Hartford, 2021 Oratory Champion - Fiala Herceg of Aberdeen, and South Dakota Americanism Chairman, Doug Harris.

WHAT TO DO

Write an oration, which takes not less than EIGHT (8) minutes nor more than TEN (10) minutes to deliver, 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.

In addition to the above prepared oration, each contestant must be prepared to speak extemporaneously for THREE (3) to FIVE (5) minutes on any of the Articles or Amendments of the Constitution that have been chosen as Assigned Topics for the 2022 Contest, which can be found at: <https://www.sdlegion.org/oratorical-scholarship/>.

DATES FOR ENTERING AND COMPLETING CONTEST

High school students who wish to enter the contest should decide promptly and notify their high school principal, who should notify local Post American Legion officials. If there is more than one entrant from a high school, there must be a Post contest conducted under the joint auspices of the high school and the American Legion Post to decide the local representative. Every high school conducting a local contest under the joint auspices of the school and local American Legion Post is authorized to enter a contestant in the district contest.

LOCAL CONTESTS

Contestants are not required to commit oration to memory for local contests, and during the preparation period for the extemporaneous talk, may make notes to be used during delivery.

However, no notes or prompting will be allowed in contests above the Post level.

Chairpersons of local contests will secure no less than three nor more than five competent local citizens to judge the local contest.

All Post contests must be completed by January 9, 2022. Send the name of the Post first place winner to your District Americanism Chairperson.

DISTRICT CONTESTS

District American Legion Americanism Chairs, and the counties under the jurisdiction of each are as follows:

DIST. 1 – (Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach counties) Chair: Ken Sabers, (kcsabers@gmail.com), 1908 Butte View Dr. Sturgis, SD 57785. District Contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 9, 2022, 1:00pm. Storm date, January 16th, same time and place.

DIST. 2 – (Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Mellette, Pennington, Shannon, Todd counties) Chair: Doug Harris (doughnut@gmail.com), 4913 Charmwood Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at SDSM&T Classroom Bldg., 501 E. Saint Joseph St, January 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Storm date, January 16th, same time and place.

DIST. 3 - (Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp counties) Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry_madsen@hotmail.com) or 906 E Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest to be held at the Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N Grand Ave, Pierre, SD. January 23, 2022, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 30th, same time and place.

DIST. 4 – (Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Spink, Walworth counties) Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com) 115 N. Kline St, Aberdeen, SD 57401. District Contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 16, 2022, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 23rd, same time and place.

STATE CONTEST

DIST. 5 – (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts counties) Chair: Clayton Nei, (pandcnei@gmail.com)18257 465th Ave. Castlewood, SD 57223. District Contest will be held at Castlewood Lutheran Church, Jan. 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 23rd, same time and place.

DIST. 6 – (Aurora, Beadle, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Miner, Sanborn counties) Chair: Tim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net) 112 S Merrill St Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Ethan High School, 320 2nd St., Ethan, SD, 57334, January 16, 2022, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 23rd, same time and place.

DIST. 7 – (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Rod Smith, (rsb664071@gmail.com), PO Box 182, Chester, SD 57016. District Contest to be held at the Dell Rapids American Legion Post Home, January 16, 2022, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 23rd, same time and place.

DIST. 8 – (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton counties) Contact: Wayne Brandt (wayne.brandt@yahoo.com) 908 Bill Baggs Rd Lot 16, Yankton, SD. District Contest to be held at the NFAA HQ (Archery), 800 Archery Lane, Yankton SD 57078, January 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date January 22, 2022, same time and place.

District Chairpersons are in charge of District Contests. Chairpersons of District contests will secure three or five competent citizens to judge the district contest.

ALL District Contests must be completed on or before January 30, 2022.

EACH DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON MUST

Report the name of the District winner to State Americanism Commission Chair, Harry Boner, at SDLegionAmericanism@gmail.com or 605-691-4571, and to SD American Legion State Headquarters at: hq@sdlegion.org or 605-886-3604 upon the completion of their District Contest.

**“All the great speakers were bad speakers at first”
Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Teachers of Government, History, Civics, English and Speech can all be of great assistance to students in helping to prepare for the contests. School and public librarians can be of help as well.

The top contestant from each District will compete in the State Finals on Sunday, February 20, 2022. The contest will be held at the Cedar Shores Convention Center Oacoma, SD at 10:30 a.m. or at the conclusion of the non-denominational Sunday Church Service and the adjournment of the 2022 SD American Legion Mid-Winter Conference. Five judges of college status will evaluate the work of the contestants in the State Contest.

NATIONAL CONTEST SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Contest will be held in Indianapolis, IN, April 22-24th, 2022. Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the Final Round of the National Contest as follows: 1st place - \$25,000; 2nd place - \$22,500; 3rd place - \$20,000. Each Department (State) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the National Contest, will receive a \$2,000 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 \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

If there are local awards, they must be funded by the local American Legion Post.

The winner of each District contest will receive a medal and have the right to represent the district in the State contest. Any other prizes at the District level are the responsibility of the individual District.

The first-place winner of the State competition will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a trophy, plus a plaque for display in his/her high school trophy case. Second place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship and a trophy, and third place winner will receive a \$300 scholarship and a trophy. Remaining finalists will each receive a \$100 scholarship and a trophy. Award scholarships are redeemable in any school above high school level.

MATERIAL FOR STUDY

All contestants and coaches should be familiar with the rules for American Legion oratory as defined in the national brochure Annual High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, “A Constitutional Speech Contest” which are available on-line at: <http://www.legion.org/publication> or by writing State Headquarters, The American Legion, PO Box 67, Watertown, S.D. 57201