



American Legion Department of Idaho
901 W. Warren Street, Boise, ID 83706-3825
(208) 342-7061 <https://www.legion.org/idaho>

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Department Adjutant
Department Oratorical Chairman Ken Andersen

SUBJECT: District and Area Oratorical Contest for 2027

TO: Post, District and Area Oratorical Chairmen

The following is the information needed to conduct your Oratorical contest. The information is for the Post, District, and Area Oratorical Chairmen. Please note that a packet of forms is attached to this memo.

GENERAL ORATORICAL INFORMATION

The Idaho Oratorical Contest is grouped into four basic GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS in Idaho.

They are divided as follows:

- Area One: Districts One and Two
- Area Two: Districts Three and Nine
- Area Three: Districts Four and Five
- Area Four: Districts Six, Seven and Eight

The winners from the above Areas will compete in the Department Contest. The Oratorical Areas have no correlation with Membership Areas A, B, and C. The District Chairman from the host District shall serve as the Area Contest Chairman.

TRAVEL EXPENSE FOR AREA AND STATE CONTESTS

State and Area Contest Travel and Lodging

1. Mileage will be paid for the Area winners to the State Contest.
2. Participants will be given \$0.20 per mile round trip from the contestant's home via the shortest route to the contest site.
3. One night's hotel/motel accommodations will be arranged for the contestant on the night PRIOR to the state or Area contest (on approval by the Department Adjutant).
4. Minor contestants MUST be accompanied by an ADULT chaperone to the contests.

Costs of Post contests are to be borne by the Post. Costs of the District Contests are to be borne by the District.

CONTEST DEADLINE DATES

Post Contest (local)	Any time prior to the District Contest
District Contest.....	Any time prior to January 31, 2027
Area Contest.....	Any time prior to February 13, 2027
Department Contest.....	February 20, 2027, at Meridian City Hall, Meridian, ID
National Contest.....	May 14-16, 2027, at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI

INTRA-SCHOOL CONTESTS

Whereas, there are many High Schools not represented by Legion Posts or have inactive Posts locally; now therefore, be it RESOLVED, by the Idaho Department of The American Legion in convention assembled at Burley, Idaho, July 12-14, 1974, that these schools be allowed to conduct their own Oratorical Contest to the prescribed regulations, as set by The American Legion, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that each High School is allowed to send a contestant to their District Oratorical Contest.

Contestants will be selected by procedures established by each high school in any manner determined suitable by the school. Report the names of the local contestants to the respective District Oratorical Chairman the day following the Local Contest. The local contestant's name must also be certified by a school official to the Adjutant, American Legion, Department of Idaho, 901 W. Warren St., Boise, Idaho 83706. Certification to be delivered to the Department of Idaho no later than February 12, 2027.

An American Legion Post May Not sponsor more than one contestant from the same school.

DISTRICT AND AREA CONTESTS

The District Contest shall consist of one contestant from each local contest. The Area Contest shall consist of one contestant from each District Contest. District and/or Area Chairmen are responsible for reporting the names of District and/or Area Contest winners to Department Headquarters, 901 W. Warren St., Boise, Idaho 83706, on the day after the District and/or Area Contest. Please use the enclosed form to report the winners' names.

When reporting the winners' names, it is crucial to include their full names, local addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and the school they represent. Please ensure that this information is complete and accurate. Thank you!

Contest chairmen must also confirm that contestants are eligible to compete. Typically, a high school counselor, principal, or, for a homeschool contestant, a parent can verify eligibility. Eligibility details can be found at <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest/how-to-participate>.

Area winners must complete the Waiver of Claim Form and bring it with them to the Department contest. Additionally, District and Area contest chairmen must complete the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest Winner Certification form and forward it to the Department as soon as possible.

The success of the Department contest depends upon the post and District oratorical chairmen. District chairmen are urged to keep in constant touch with post chairmen. District chairmen are responsible for organizing and seeing that District and Area contests are carried to a successful completion.

The American Legion post in each community in which Oratorical Contests are held should act as host. The post should provide competent judges and a suitable venue for the contest.

AREA WINNERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BRING A WRITTEN MANUSCRIPT OF THEIR PREPARED ORATION TO THE STATE CONTEST.

CONDUCT OF CONTESTS

Please ensure that Post, District, and Area contests are conducted in accordance with the National rules, available at www.legion.org/oratorical. The Department contest will follow National procedures. Contestants unfamiliar with contests conducted under the National rules may be at a disadvantage. Post, District, and Area contest moderators shall familiarize themselves with the National rules. A "Chairman's

Guide" is available online. Speech times have not changed from years past. The prepared oration is eight to ten minutes long, and the assigned topic is three to five minutes long.

ORATORICAL AWARDS AND MEDALS

Local Posts, District, and Area contest organizers should boost interest in the Oratorical Contest by arranging suitable awards and medals for the young people who place first, second, and third. Post and District awards are the responsibility of local units. First- and second-place Area winners will receive a cash award plus a Certificate of Distinction.

SUGGESTED IDAHO CASH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

AREA CONTEST

First Place-----	\$100.00
Second Place-----	\$75.00

DEPARTMENT CONTEST

First Place-----	\$1000.00
Second Place-----	\$750.00
Third Place-----	\$500.00
Fourth Place-----	\$500.00

NATIONAL CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

First Place-----	\$25,000.00
Second Place-----	\$22,500.00
Third Place-----	\$20,000.00

Oratorical information may be obtained at this URL: <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>

If you have any questions, I can be reached by email at kpandersen@msn.com.

FORMS

The Department Oratorical Contest is on February 20, 2027. All Post, District, and Area contests must be completed by then, and results must be transmitted to the Department Adjutant no later than February 13, 2027.