



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Virginia Beach Post 110
P.O. Box 62384
Virginia Beach, VA 23466

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest” – is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, 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 citizenship.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants in the contest shall be **citizens of or lawful permanent residents** of the United States.

All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of twenty years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade twelve. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department.

The three finalists of the national contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.

THE PREPARED ORATION

The prepared oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same subject and oration used in the Post contest must be used in the District, Regional, Department, and National contests.

In the prepared oration, as well as in the assigned topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight minutes or more than ten minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language. The singing of a song(s) is not permitted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song provided proper attribution is made.

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room. They may consult the copy of their prepared oration, until they exit the holding room to begin the contest, at which time the copy of the prepared oration will be surrendered to the contest official monitoring the first holding room.

THE ASSIGNED TOPIC

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three minutes or more than five minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five minutes prior to the time of delivery. The 2011-2012 Assigned Topics are:

Article I, section 9, clause 2: "The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it."

Article IV, section 2, clause 1: "The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens of the several states."

Amendment 14, section 2, first sentence: "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed."

Amendment 15, section 1: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

ENTRY FORM

Applicants must complete the Virginia Beach Post 110 High School Oratorical Scholarship Program Entry Form. Entry forms will be provided to high school principals, school superintendents, social studies educators, debate, and forensics coaches in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Copies of the entry form may also be obtained from the Virginia Beach Post 110 website at [http:// vapost110.org](http://vapost110.org) or by contacting Post 110 Oratorical Chairman, Wes Latchford, at (757) 831-2438 or vapost110@gmail.com.

Completed entry forms ***must be postmarked by November 25, 2011*** and mailed to:

**VIRGINIA BEACH POST 110
ATTN: ORATORICAL CHAIRMAN
PO BOX 62384
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23466**

PROGRAM DATE AND TIME

Virginia Beach Post 110 will hold its contest from 9:00 am-12:00 pm on Saturday, December 3rd, at a location within the City of Virginia Beach to be determined by the Post Oratorical Chairman. All students submitting entry forms by the specified deadline will be notified via separate correspondence of the exact location for the local Post contest.