

American Legion invites high school students to compete in speech contest

Winners will earn scholarship money, chance to compete in national finals.

High school students of Rusk, Alto, and Wells, including private and homeschooled, have been invited by Coleman-Isgate Post 293 of The American Legion to compete in the 2026 annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. The invitation to enter the competition was extended today by Post Commander Terry McPherson.

The contest for Southern Cherokee County students will be coordinated with local school officials and faculty who will assist with the contest arrangements.

The subject in the prepared oration portion of the contest must be about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the U. S. government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must be 8-10 minutes in length.

Post 293 will award a \$100 scholarship to be paid to the Post winner's enrolled college.

In addition to the awards by winners of the various elimination rounds of competition, college scholarships of \$25,000, \$22,500, and \$20,000 will be awarded to the first through third places in the national finals. Each state winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The top three youth orators who have won all previous elimination rounds of the contest will vie for top honors in the national contest in April in Indianapolis.

The American Legion will pay the expenses of state winners at the national contest.

High school students in Southern Cherokee County who are interested in entering the competition will find complete rules and contest information at:

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest/oratorical-contest-resources>

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>

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