SGT ALFRED B. HILTON MEMORIAL POST 55

The American Legion • Department of Maryland

115 N Bond St, Bel Air, MD 21014 ▪ (443) 986-5447 ▪ sabhmpost55@gmail.com

FB: SGT Alfred B. Hilton Memorial American Legion Post 55 ▪ IG: @american_legion_55

2027 American Legion Oratorical Contest
Contestant Information Form

Please print clearly and return this form to your sponsoring American Legion Post by Dec 1, 2026.

Contestant Information

Field	Response
Full legal name	
Date of birth	
Age	
Street address	
City, State, ZIP	
Phone	
Email	
U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident?	☐ Citizen ☐ Lawful permanent resident

School Information

Field	Response
School name	
School address	
Current grade	☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
Expected graduation year	
Teacher or coach (if any)	
Teacher/coach phone or email	

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Parent / Guardian Information

Field	Response
Name	
Relationship to contestant	
Phone	
Email	
Address (if different from contestant)	

Contest Details

Field	Response
Sponsoring American Legion Post (name and number)	
Post contact person	
Title of prepared oration	
How did you hear about the contest?	

Eligibility and Signatures

The contestant confirms each statement by checking the box:

- ☐ I am under 20 years of age.
- ☐ I am enrolled in high school or junior high school (grades 9–12).
- ☐ My prepared oration is my own original work.
- ☐ I have read the official contest rules and agree to follow them.

Signature	Date
Contestant:	
Parent/Guardian (required if under 18):	

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For Post Use Only

Field	Entry
Date received	
Received by	
Eligibility verified (initials)	
Post contest date	
Result	

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Dear Students, Parents, and Educators,

High school students are invited to compete in the 2027 American Legion Oratorical Contest, which offers scholarships of up to $25,000. Contestants deliver speeches on the U.S. Constitution and the duties and obligations of citizens, building public speaking skills and civic knowledge along the way. **Sign up with your sponsoring American Legion Post 55 by Dec 1, 2026.**

Important Contest Dates

The contest runs in three steps, with State winners advancing to the National Finals in May 2027.

Stage	Date	Location / Notes
Sign-up deadline	Dec 1, 2026	Contact your sponsoring Post if this date has passed
Step 1: Post Contests (local)	February – early March 2027	SGT Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Post 55 115 N. Bond Street Bel Air, MD 21014
Step 2: District Contests	March 2027	Winners advance to State Finals
Step 3: Department (State) Finals	Sunday, Mar 21, 2027	Towson Post 22, Towson, MD; winner advances to Nationals
National Finals	May 14–16, 2027	Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI

Eligibility and Format

Who can enter: U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents under age 20 who are enrolled in high school or junior high school (grades 9–12).

Each contestant gives two speeches:

1. **Prepared Oration (8–10 minutes):** An original speech on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government.
2. **Assigned Topic (3–5 minutes):** An extemporaneous speech on one of the four topics below. The topic is drawn publicly five minutes before the final speaker begins.

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2027 Assigned Topics

Contestants should prepare for all four, since only one will be drawn on contest day.

1. **The Preamble:** "We the People of the United States..."
2. **Article VI, Paragraph 2:** "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States..."
3. **Amendment XIV, Section 3:** "No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress..."
4. **Amendment XXII, Section 1:** "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice..."

Scholarship Awards

Level	Scholarship
National 1st Place	$25,000
National 2nd Place	$22,500
National 3rd Place	$20,000
Department (State) Winner	$2,000
State Winner advancing past the first round of Nationals	Additional $2,000

Official Resources

- **2027 American Legion Oratorical Contest Official Rules (PDF)** — link to be added

Oratorical Contest Rules and Regulations — full details on eligibility, attire, judging criteria, and time penalties

High School Oratorical Chairman's Guide and Contest Resources — contest scripts, floor plans, and sample scorecards

We encourage every interested student to take part. Please reach out with any questions or to get started.

Sincerely,

Andrée M. Mountain
Commander
American Legion SAHBM Post 55