

SCHEDULE OF 2025-2026 DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTESTS NORTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION

Listed below is the schedule of the District Oratorical Contests for your information. Posts that will have a contestant to compete in the District Contest are urged to alert the student and the school of the scheduled contest in your District and to see to it that arrangements are made for any transportation that may be necessary for that student to appear at the contest.

<u>DISTRICT CONTESTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CITY</u>
1 st	Dec 12 (Fri)	5:00 pm	West Fargo VFW 444 Sheyenne St.	West Fargo
2 nd	Dec 10 (Wed)	1:00 pm	Legion Hall 102 5th St. E.	Park River
3 rd	Dec 6 (Sat)	9:00 am	Leeds School Library 530 1 st St. SE	Leeds
5 th	Dec 13 (Sat)	1:00 pm	AMVETS 2402 Railroad Ave.	Bismarck
6 th	Dec 13 (Sat)	1:00 pm	Vets Hall 104 N. Main	Bottineau
8 th	Nov 22 (Sat)	9:00 am MST	Dickinson State Univ Murphy Hall Stroup Aud 1003 5 th St. W.	Dickinson
9 th	Nov 15 (Sat)	12:00 pm	Ray Elementary School 215 West St.	Ray
10 th	Dec 20 (Sat)	10:00 am	Wyndmere Public School 101 Date Ave.	Wyndmere

<u>DIVISION CONTESTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CITY</u>
East	Jan 10 (Sat)	11:00 am	Legion Hall 102 5 th St. E.	Park River
(Winners of Districts 1-2-3-4-10 will compete in the East Division Contest)				
West	Jan 10 (Sat)	9:00 am MST	Dickinson State Univ Murphy Hall Stroup Aud 1003 5 th St. W.	Dickinson
(Winners of Districts 5-6-7-8-9 will compete in the West Division Contest)				

<u>STATE FINALS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CITY</u>
	Jan 24 (Sat)	1:00 pm	Baymont 2611 Old Red Trail	Mandan

Winners and Runners-up in East and West Division Contest appear at the Winter Conference for the 2026 State Championship.

A W A R D S

District Contest - All District Oratorical Contest Champions will receive a District Oratorical Contest Champion Medal. In addition, through the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund, the top three finishers of each District Contests will also receive cash awards as follows:

District Champion - \$300 Cash Award
2nd Place - \$200 Cash Award
3rd Place - \$100 Cash Award

Division Contest

West Division Champion - \$300 Cash Award and Desk Pen Set

West Division Runner-up - \$200 Cash Award and Desk Pen Set

East Division Champion - \$300 Cash Award and Desk Pen Set

East Division Runner-up - \$200 Cash Award and Desk Pen Set

State Finals Contest

State Champion - \$ 250 Cash Award from ND American Legion Foundation,
\$ 175 Cash Award from Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund

2nd Place -\$200 Cash Award from the North Dakota American Legion Foundation
\$125 Cash Award from the Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund

3rd Place -\$150 Cash Award from the North Dakota American Legion Foundation
\$ 50 Cash Award from the family of the late John K. Kennelly

4th Place -\$100 Cash Award from North Dakota American Legion Foundation

Plaque awards are also presented to the four finalists in the State Contest. In addition, our State Champion will receive the C. W. Leifur Traveling Trophy for display at the winner's school.

National All State Champions will compete at the National Oratorical Contest under a 3-round format. This year's National Contest will be held in Hillsdale, Michigan, at the Hillsdale College Campus on May 15-17, 2026. All contestants and chaperones will arrive on Friday, May 15, 2026. The first and second rounds of competition will be held on Saturday, May 16 beginning with 9 separate contests. The winners of these 9 first-round quarter-final contests, advance to three second-round semi-final contests followed by the national final involving three finalists. All contestants participating in the first round 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. Those contestants eliminated in the first and second rounds will remain and become members of the audience. The three (3) second round winners will participate in the Finals on Sunday, May 17 and have an opportunity to earn scholarships of: 1st Place - \$25,000; 2nd Place - \$22,500; 3rd Place - \$20,000. A banquet honoring all contestants will be held Sunday afternoon. All contestants and chaperones will then depart late Sunday afternoon May 17.

Jason Anderson, Chairman, Department Oratorical Contest Committee
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