

Dear [Principal/Teacher/Counselor/Parent],

The **Marshall Scott Jamar Post 61 of the American Legion, Abilene, Texas**, invites high school students grades 9th – 12th from Abilene and surrounding communities to participate in the **2025–2026 American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program**.

This annual competition encourages students to develop a deeper understanding of the **U.S. Constitution** while strengthening their public speaking and leadership skills.

About the Contest:

- The **Prepared Oration** must focus on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of American citizens.
- Each student's oration must be original and **8–10 minutes** in length.
- Contestants will also deliver an **Assigned Topic** oration, chosen at random from one of four amendments provided by the National Organization. Students will have **5 minutes to prepare** and must speak for **3–5 minutes** on that topic.

Scholarship Opportunities:

- National Finals scholarships: **\$25,000 (1st), \$22,500 (2nd), and \$20,000 (3rd)**.
- All state winners who advance to the national level receive a **\$2,000 scholarship** and paid travel expenses to the National Contest.
- Additional scholarships ranging from **\$300 to \$500** will be awarded to Post, District, and Division winners.

Full contest details and official rules can be found at legion.org/oratorical.

To Participate:

Students wishing to enter must contact one of the following **Post 61 representatives no later than November 15, 2025**:

- **Commander Richard Lewis** – Email: biglew1069@yahoo.com Cell: (706) 618-0050
- **Adjutant Kenneth M. Simonton** – Email: kenmsimonton@gmail.com Cell: (325) 428-9972

If your school will not be participating, a reply would be appreciated by **November 15, 2025**.

Thank you for supporting this opportunity for our youth to engage with the foundations of American citizenship.

Sincerely,


Kenneth M. Simonton

Adjutant, Post 61

The American Legion, Department of Texas