

SD AMERICAN LEGION “BIG 3” AMERICANISM PROGRAMS

ORATORICAL CONTEST

What: “Constitutional Speech Contest”

When: December—May as participants advance

- Local Level — Competition in December
- District Level — Competition in January
- State Level — February 22, 2026
- National Level — May 56—17, 2026

Eligibility: High School students

When/Where: Contact your local American Legion Post for information.

AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS

State Level: 1st place: \$1,500; 2nd place: \$1,000; 3rd place: \$500

National Level: \$2,000 for 1st round, \$2,000 for 2nd round, and for final round:

1st place: \$25,000

2nd place: \$22,500

3rd place: \$20,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.sdlegion.org/oratorical-scholarship

www.legion.org/oratorical

BOYS STATE

What: “Premier program for teaching how government works while developing leadership skills and an appreciation for your rights as a citizen.”

When: May 25-29, 2026

Where: Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD.

Eligibility: Following Junior and Senior year of High School.

Application Deadline: See weblink below.

AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Samsung Scholarship:** Up to \$10,000.
- **Several \$1,000 scholarships** for various awards and positions based on various corresponding criteria.
- **SD Colleges and Universities** offer scholarships to Boys State attendees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.southdakotaboysstate.com
www.sdlegion.org/boys-state/



YOUTH TROOPER ACADEMY

What: Residential learning experience for young adults to increase their understanding of the job of a state trooper and to develop better relationships between the youth of our state and the Highway Patrol.

When: June 22—26, 2026

Where: Pierre, SD

Eligibility: Entering senior year of high school or have just graduated high school. **Only 24 chosen statewide each year.**

Application Deadline: Late March (see weblink below for exact dates).

PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE:

Invaluable training in:

- 1) Firearms safety,
- 2) Defensive driving,
- 3) Defensive tactics,
- 4) Crash investigation,
- 5) Criminal law,
- 6) Traffic stops,
- 7) **LEADERSHIP** and
- 8) **Compete for two \$750 Scholarships**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.sdlegion.org/sd-youth-trooper-academy/