

## LINCOLN ORATION CONTEST

The Commanders Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship awarded annually to the citizen who prepared the best original four to six minute oration on a selected topic about Abraham Lincoln. The Commander's Scholarship has been established in honor of the current Commander of the American Legion of Illinois.

After a preliminary round of individual presentations, a maximum of ten finalists will be selected to deliver their orations before qualified judges. The final decision will be based on the customary oratorical contest points of content, organization, and delivery.

Contestants must understand that the contest is for original orations only, and that the customary rules of such contests which limit direct quotations to fifty words at one time will be enforced. Contestants are free to use notes during their presentation; however, electronic devices may not be used during your presentation.

2017 Topic: "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." - Abraham Lincoln

Your oration should cover how Abraham Lincoln handled responsibility throughout his life....from adolescence to adulthood to his Presidency.

## HAYES KENNEDY ESSAY CONTEST

The Hayes Kennedy Scholarship is a scholarship awarded annually to the citizen who presents the best original essay on a selected topic related to the Constitution of the United States or the Illinois Constitution. The winner of the Hayes Kennedy Essay Contest will receive the Hayes Kennedy Scholarship named in honor of Hayes Kennedy, an attorney, and one of the co-founders of Illinois Boys State.

The essay must be over 500 words, but should not exceed 1000 words, in length. It is important that essays are written in good literary style, properly paragraphed, punctuated, etc. All contestants are required to submit their essay electronically. Procedures for this will be provided during the session.

2017 Topic: "Electoral College vs. Popular Vote"

We are less than 20% into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and our country has already seen two presidential elections where the results of the popular vote differ from those of the Electoral College.

Your essay should address the question: Should the Electoral College continue, or should the United States change and use the popular vote to determine the President and Vice President?

In your discussion, address the history and original purpose of the Electoral College, the pros and cons of continuing its use, and your conclusion as to whether the United States should continue using the Electoral College.