

**2024**

FIRMLY COMMITTED TO GOD'S PROMISES FOR MY LIFE IN ALL THINGS

God's  
PR  MISES  
for my life

**2024  
Scriptures**

Jeremiah 29:11

1 Corinthians 15:58

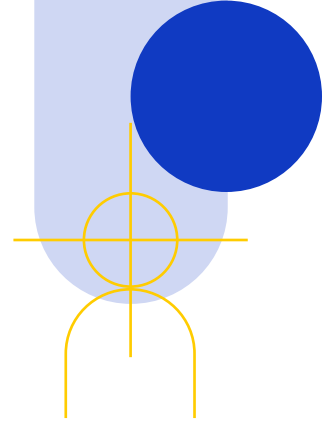
CONGRESS  
**ORATORICAL CONTEST**  
INFORMATION  
**2024**



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# 01 Purpose of Contest



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** **MAY 13, 2024**  
POSTMARK DATE

**SUBMIT TO:** **SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON**  
DR. ROBERT CHARLES SCOTT, CHAIR  
1401 ALLEN STREET, CHARLOTTE, NC 28205

- 1 To provide training on communication skills and public speaking experience. We further purpose to afford each contestant an opportunity to earn a college scholarship. This is accomplished through completion of all required phases of the contest, conveying intellectual thinking, and confident delivery of an original written and oral presentation on the selected theme. The goal of the scholarship award is for students to receive financial assistance with tuition, books, housing and other related costs of attending an institution for higher education.
- 2 The National Baptist Oratorical Contest will be held in person, during the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Annual Session on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, time to be determined. We have made several updates to this year's oratorical contest guidelines and rules. An overview of these updates are detailed in the following pages.

***Oratorical Contest Theme:***  
Firmly Committed To God's Promises  
For My Life in All Things

***Scriptures:***  
Jeremiah 29:11; I Corinthians 15:58

# 02 Qualifications



- / Be a member in good standing of a church that is currently registered Be a member in good standing of a church that is currently registered with the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated. and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.
- / Hold membership in a state convention that has contributed to the national scholarship fund.
- / Currently be enrolled in high school with satisfactory progression toward graduation in the year the application is awarded or already matriculating in college.
- / The contestants will participate in a multiple-step process, including, but not limited to:
  - **1** Competing in their church's Oratorical Contest;
  - **2** Competing in their local District Association Oratorical Contest;
  - **3** Competing in their State Convention's Congress of Christian Education Oratorical Contest (the National Commission does not require that the contest is held during the State Convention; that is the decision of the individual State);
  - **4** The contestant chosen at the State level to compete in the National Baptist Congress Oratorical Contest may be sponsored by either his or her local church, the District or the State Convention.

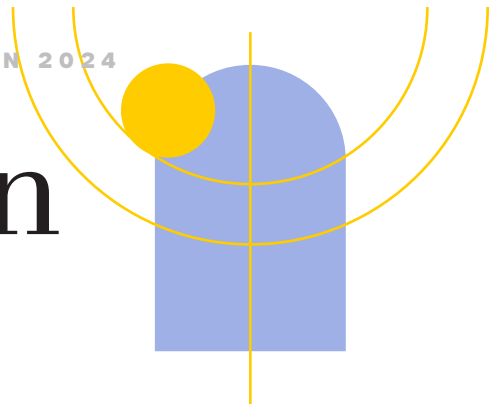
# 03 Organization of Written Speech (Oration)

- / The Speech must Using the scripture and theme below: ***Write an essay about being firmly committed to God's promises for my life in all things. Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11 and 1 Corinthians 15:58.***
- / The speech must be original, prepared, and written by the contestant. The use of quotes and wording not by the oratorical contestant must be properly cited using the citation format of the orator's choosing.
- / The speech must be typewritten, Organized, and submitted in a word document or .pdf format in Times New Roman, 12 point black font, double-spaced.
- / The speech must progress logically, be correct in form and content, relevant, and address the established theme and scripture.
- / There should be no typographical or grammatical errors in the final submitted copy.
- / The speech must clearly document all references or copyrighted material cited in the oration. All supporting documentation must be neatly printed, complete, and accurate.
- / The contestant's oration and supporting documentation, i.e., (contestant cover sheet, documentation submission form, electronic photo and the student's most recent report card) must be received from the State Congress President, the State Youth Director, or the State Director of the Oratorical Contest by May 13, 2024 at 11:59 PM via electronic version (email) and six paper copies of the Oration, the documentation submission form and the contestant cover sheet, are to be sent via postal submission to the Oratorical Coordinator.

**NOTE:**

**All due dates with  
the exception of the  
MAY 13, 2024  
deadline  
are flexible**

# 04 Submission Guidelines



## **The email submission should include the following:**

- / Contestants name in the subject line
- / Contestant Cover Sheet
- / Documentation Submission Form
- / Contestant's last report card
- / Contestants written Oration  
(no identifying information should be on this document and it must be sent in Word format)
- / Electronic photo of contestant  
(please no copies of ID cards-this photo will be submitted for the website posting)

## **The postal submission should include the following:**

- / 1 Contestant Cover Sheet
- / 1 Documentation Submission Form
- / 6 Type written copies of the Oration  
(no identifying information should be on this document)

*\*Both submissions are required (electronic and postal)*

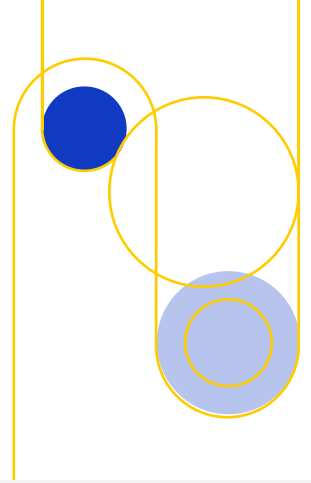
### ***Send to:***

#### ***National Baptist Congress Scholarship Chairperson***

Dr. Robert Charles Scott (NC), Chairperson  
1401 Allen Street, Charlotte, NC 28205  
(704) 334-5309  
E-Mail:congressscholarship@gmail.com



# 05 Presentation of Oration



- / The Contestant must arrive at one hour before contest starts and shall have a reference copy of their speech in the holding area prior to the start of the contest.
- / The Contestants that place in the top three must meet with the Oratorical Coordinator, immediately following the contest, to complete all required documentation. At this time they will need their social security number for competition of the W9 tax form. The winner will be given instructions regarding their attendance at the Children/Youth Rally where they will be introduced and will recite the winning oration.
- / The Contestant's presentation attire is Males: Slacks, Suit Coats and Shirts with Ties and Females: Business Dresses or Suits with Hosiery (please note the contestants may be on an elevated platform facing the audience).
- / The Contestants are to stand, approach the podium, state the theme, their contestant number, their first and last name and begin their memorized rendition of the written oration, within the frame of the podium (without moving across the stage).
- / The Contestant's oratorical presentation must avoid speaking in sermon tones, using testimonials, and excessive gesturing.
- / Contestants are not allowed to use special props, costumes, or clothing to complement their oration.

**NOTE:**

**All due dates with  
the exception of the  
MAY 13, 2024  
deadline  
are flexible**

# 06 Competition Checklist

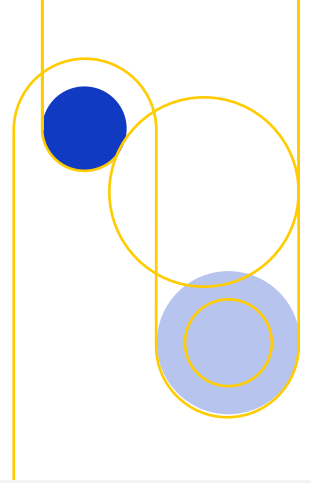


- **1** Successfully advance through church, local, and state contests.
- **2** Ensure your church is registered to attend the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated 2024 Annual Session.
- **3** Complete application through the link to the form and email all additionally required documents (i.e. written oration, most recent report card and headshot) by May 13, 2024 to compete at the national oratorical contest.
- **4** Have a state representative confirm your participation and placement in the state oratorical contest through email to congressscholarship@gmail.com May 13, 2024.
- **5** Receive confirmation of selection

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

- / **SERMONIC TONES** refers to “whooping” or “singing” at the conclusion or during any part of the oration.
- / **TESTIMONIALS** refers to framing the body or content of the speech around a personal testimony/story. This decision is made at the judges’ discretion.
- / **EXCESSIVE GESTURING** is determined at the judges’ discretion - contestant beware. Limit all movement, including your hands, as excessive gesturing or movement may result in disqualification.

# 07 Instructions to Contestants



- / The first place winner will receive \$3,000, the second place winner will receive \$2,000, and the third place winner will receive \$1,000. All participants will receive a \$100 gift card for their participation in the contest. The winners will be announced during Congress Session. All awards will be distributed through mail following the Congress.
- / The top three winning contestants will receive an email from the Oratorical Coordinator or designee immediately following the contest to complete all required documents to receive their award scholarship award (including mailing confirmation and W9 tax form). Be sure to respond in a timely manner.
- / Regardless of your opinion, the Judges' decision is final
- / The judges are selected prior to the NBC Oratorical Contest. Each judge receives the guidelines and judge's score sheet during the judge's training session(s). Each judge is scheduled to attend a training teleconference prior to the Congress Session and will virtually attend a final review before the live contest. Each judge has attested to providing a fair and impartial scoring of each contestant.
- / The judges will use the following criteria to rank each oration: composition, subject matter, content, originality, delivery, memorization, vocal control, enunciation, pronunciation, presentation, and mastery of material. The oration must be memorized.
- / The judges will also give each contestant an intangible score (most commonly used to describe things that are not recognized but not easily quantified) and in the "event of a tie", the contestant with the highest intangible score will be the winning contestant.

# National Baptist Congress of Christian Education

## Oratorical Contest 2024

### CONTESTANT COVER SHEET

*Information must be received by close of business day on Monday, May 13, 2024*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Church's 2024 NBC Congress of Christian Education receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

*If the church has not registered prior to submission of the paperwork, the contestant must present on the day of the Oratorical Contest with a copy of the registration receipt that has the contestants name on it.*

State Convention: \_\_\_\_\_

Convention President: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Congress President: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**State Youth Director:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State Oratorical Director:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location of Local Contest:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Contestant anticipates graduating from high school:** \_\_\_\_\_

**College or University Contestant plans to attend:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Website address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date classes start:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field of Study:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Has Contestant received official notice of acceptance:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**State Youth Directors, State Convention President or Congress Presidents are asked to verify the accuracy of all information by signing beneath their name. Please assure that all information is legible.**

***Name and Contact information of Person submitting the Contestant Information to the National Oratorical Coordinator, by the close of business day on Monday, May 13, 2024***

**Name of person submitting information** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (       )                      H (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ C

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Contestant You Represent:**

**Name of State Convention:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Has the Contestant's Church registered for Congress 2024*** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**Will you attend the 2024 National Baptist Congress:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ c

**Date scheduled to arrive at Congress:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Accommodations:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Departure date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***\*The winning contestant must be available to present their oration on Friday at the 2024 Children/Youth Rally.***

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
**JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET-2024**

Contestant # \_\_\_\_\_

Intangible Score \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EFFECTIVENESS</b>	Poor 1-2	Fair 3-4	Good 5-6	Excellent 7-8	Superior 9-10	Total
Content						
Composition						
Clear Purpose						
<b>SUBJECT MATTER</b>	Poor 1-2	Fair 3-4	Good 5-6	Excellent 7-8	Superior 9-10	Total
Introduction/Closing						
Originality						
<b>DELIVERY</b>	Poor 1-2	Fair 3-4	Good 5-6	Excellent 7-8	Superior 9-10	Total
Memorization						
Enunciation/ Pronunciation						
Vocal Control						
Eye Contact						
<b>DECORUM/ATTIRE</b>	Poor 1-2	Fair 3-4	Good 5-6	Excellent 7-8	Superior 9-10	Total
Poise/Limited Gestures/Attire						
<b>Grand Total</b>						

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (TYPE NAME) Judge's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge's Signature

# EXPLANATION OF JUDGE'S SCORING SHEET

## *Scoring Categories*

Contestant will be judged based on the subject matters listed below.

A brief description of each subject matter has been included. Please note that the information provided is only a guide and may not cover all areas under the judges' consideration.

### **Content:**

- Scriptural References
- Clarity of Purpose
- Ideas
- Logic
- Adherence to Baptist Doctrine Diction

### **Composition:**

- Structure
- Organization
- Support Material

### **Introduction/Closing:**

- Effective
- Memorable
- Summarization of Key Points
- Thought provoking
- Engaging & Relevant  
(Use of anecdote, poem, question, challenge, or charge, etc. that is relevant to topic.)

### **Originality:**

- Original Thought
- Informative & Thought Provoking

### **Delivery:**

- Memorization
- Enunciation/Pronunciation/Articulation
- Vocal Control
- Eye Contact

### **Decorum/Attire**

- Attire  
(Young Ladies-no pants; Young Men-suit and tie; adornment/accessories that do not distract delivery or reception of speech)
- Posture/Poise
- Limited Gestures
- Body Language

- *The information provided is only a guide and may be subject to change without notice. Also, the judges score sheets are only made available at the discretion of the Oratorical Coordinator.*

# NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS REGIONS

## **NORTHEAST REGION:**

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Rhode Island, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Vermont

## **SOUTHEAST REGION:**

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia

## **SOUTHWEST REGION:**

Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas

## **MID-WEST REGION:**

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Minnesota

## **WESTERN REGION :**

Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico and Oklahoma

## **FAR WEST REGION:**

Alaska, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah and Washington

## **THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INCORPORATED**

Dr. Jerry Young, President

## **CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Dr. Elliott Cuff, President

Dr. Carl Washington, Jr., Dean

## **NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON**

Dr. Robert Charles Scott (NC), Chairperson

1401 Allen Street, Charlotte, NC 28205

(704) 334-5309

E-Mail:congressscholarship@gmail.com

*Please contact:*

*Chairperson: Dr. Robert Charles Scott for clarification of any questions related to the completion of this application.*

## **CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INCORPORATED

1700 BAPTIST WORLD CENTER DRIVE

NASHVILLE, TN 37207

615.228.6297

WWW.NATIONALBAPTIST.COM

