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Paris Post 1 NEWS & EVENTS

**PARIS POST 1
WISHES YOU A BONNE ANNÉE!!**

Paris Post 1 Auxiliary, Sons and Legion are starting 2024 off strong with

contests and opportunities for our youth in France!

YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST (JANUARY 20th!)

Paris Post 1's Annual Oratorical Contest this month
SIGN UP TODAY!

Deadline to submit entry form is January 14th

Youth are welcome to join Paris Post 1 for our annual Oratorical Contest on January 20, 2024 (afternoon contest ~ start time and location TBD).

Winners receive a trip to our regional contest located in Europe, and the winner of the regional contest is eligible to travel to the USA for the American Legion's National Oratorical Contest.

The American Legion's National Oratorical Contest is in the USA, and the winner will have a chance to earn a \$25,000 scholarship to any school of their choice!

Assigned topics and all rules can be found here:

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics>

Would you like to participate in Paris Post 1's Oratorical Contest?

Youth can sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/6feCwEHaYNt8kCk8>

DEPT. OF FRANCE NEWS

The American Legion [Department of France](#) was chartered in February 1920, and except for six years during World War II, has been in continuous operation.

The Department of France is composed of 33 posts of The American Legion

located outside of the USA in countries to include Belgium, Denmark, England, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Thailand and France.

INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY NEWS UPDATES

Please visit the Department of France's website each month to view additional news and updates including [Veteran's Benefits Newsletters](#) and [Department of France Newsletters](#).

Would you like to support American veterans who live overseas?

Please visit the Department of France's website to view the websites and contact information for our network of foreign posts of The American Legion.

www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org

IMPORTANT DATES

1. **January 4th:** Harvard Glee Club concert at the American Cathedral (starts at 19h00)
2. **January 20th:** Youth Oratorical Contest and PP1 Annual Meeting (time/location TBD)
3. **March 16th:** American Legion born in Paris (1919)

The annual meeting for Paris Post 1 will be held on January 20, 2024 in person in Paris.

Please find more details and RSVP form here:

<https://forms.gle/Vi1uB7acLSA3uHr59>

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Be the next American Legion National Oratorical Contest winner!

Special announcement for youth: Three contest opportunities for youth in France with the ultimate prize at the National Contest >> a scholarship for \$25,000

Please send in your enrollment form for our upcoming Oratorical contest by January 14th.

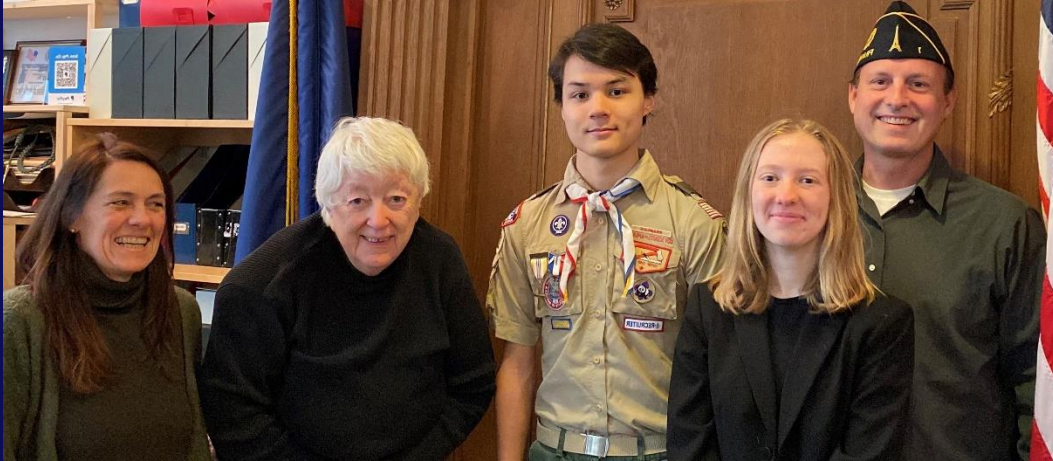
The Indiana Legion Oratorical Competition hosted by The Indiana American Legion Legacy Foundation had four strong competitors last year when the Oratorical Competition was held at American Legion National headquarters in Downtown Indianapolis.

Congratulations to last years winner, Haley Bock, who you can see in a video below after she won the contest.

Paris Post 1 is excited for this years contest in Paris, please contact us if you have any questions.

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/about>

[VIDEO: Haley Bock interview 2023 National Oratorical Winner Interview](#)



Oratorical Contest at Paris Post 1 was a hit in 2023!

Special thanks to all of our students, volunteers and parents for their dedication to ensuring our Oratorical Contest was a success.

Last year, Paris Post 1 was proud of all of our participants in their efforts and work towards their local Oratorical Contest especially our 2023 winner Thomas Ravel and runner up Violet Palaia.

Paris Post 1 thanks these two extraordinary students for the hard work and dedication to this past years contest, and we hope you encourage your classmates to attend this year!

Paris Post 1 is very grateful for the hard work and leadership of Madame Mariana Martini from the International School in Paris (photo from left), and Vice-President of Paris Post 1's Auxiliary Beth Herwood for their continued support for this years 2024 contest!



Scout Troops in Paris!

Paris Post 1 offers scouting programs to all youth from all scouting organizations in Paris.

Looking for an Eagle Scout or Gold Award project idea?

Many of our Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons at Paris Post 1 were Boy and Girl Scouts when we were youth.

Paris Post 1 and The American Legion has supported scouting programs since the Legion's first National Convention in 1919 (that's over 100 years)!

The American Legion has a proud tradition of [supporting our nation's youth](#). The organization was founded on the principle of supporting youth in 1919, when Children & Youth were declared one of the Legion's four pillars.

Since Paris Post 1's founding in 1919 in France, our post has been supportive of numerous Boy and Girl Scouts who are interested in earning their [Eagle Scout](#) and [Gold Awards](#) for youth in France.

Paris Post 1 is very grateful to have an amazing community of boy and girl scouts in France, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!



Special thanks to past post Commander Carl Hale who serves as Paris Post 1's Scouting Charter Organizational Representative!

During the past year or so, Carl has been able to help our youth in Paris by supporting the charter of several scouting troops and pack in France.

Paris Post 1 is honored to be the Charter Organizational

Representative for the BSA TAC Troops 112B and 112G plus Cub Scout Pack 112 of Paris, France.



Annual Ceremony Opportunities!

2024 will be a big year for youth (and parents) who are involved in our American commemorative ceremonies in France

Our annual ceremonies continue to grow every year! 2024 will be a big year for many ceremonies, and Paris Post 1 is always open to our community joining us.

An introduction to ceremonies and how to be a flag bearer will be held this spring with Paris Post 1 veterans. We encourage all who are interested to please get in touch with us so we can ensure you receive additional information or wait for more information in our future newsletters.

Youth (and parents) volunteer training: Interested in commemorative ceremonies, and learning how to be a *porte drapeau* (flag bearer)?



American Battle Monuments Foundation Youth Opportunities!

Paris Post 1 believes in supporting our community partners, and ensuring the legacy of our American veterans in France does not diminish.

The American Battle Monuments Foundation (ABMF) remembers and honors more than 233,000 American service members buried or memorialized at American military cemeteries and monuments overseas (many located in France).

Paris Post 1 thanks the ABMF and their team for the amazing youth, education and community outreach programs they are offering. The [ABMF's Past Is Prologue Essay Contest](#) for youth was a hit with over 10,000 teachers and adult mentors involved, and 191 students submitting essays from 30 states and nine countries.

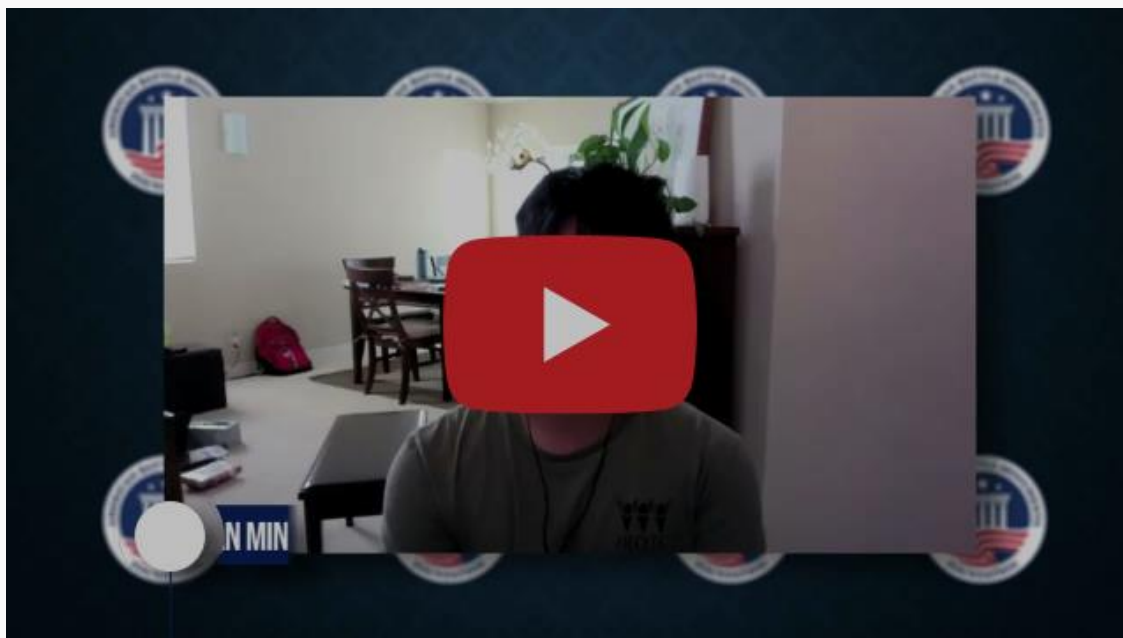
For 2023, youth wrote winning essays about one of two compelling topics from World War II and win a cash prize! The youth awards last year were up to \$10,000 for 1st Prize, \$5,000 for 2nd Prize and \$2,500 for 3rd Prize awarded for the best essays in each age group.

Students ages 11-12, 13-15, and 16-18 can compete within their age group to write an essay about an event associated with those who fought, died and are buried or memorialized at an American military cemetery overseas managed

by the American Battle Monuments Commission..

2024 Past is Prologue Essay Contest:
Save the ABMF's website for updated information for the 2024 contest,
and connect with them on social media for the latest news and
opportunities for youth (link below).

[Website for ABMF's 2024 Past is Prologue Essay Contest](#)



Check out the 2023 ABMF Past is Prologue Essay Contest
Winners, **Congratulations!**

Stay tuned for the 2024 ABMF Past is Prologue Essay
Contest: <https://www.abmf.org/past-is-prologue...>



Annual ceremonies at Paris Post 1

A great way to learn more about Paris Post 1 is to join us at our annual ceremonies.

Paris Post 1 is unique with three historic French non-profit associations under one post:

- American Legion
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Sons of The American Legion

Our annual ceremonies include many American and French national days of remembrance. There are new memorials and ceremonies each year, here are just a few of our annual ceremonies:

- ~ Birthday of The American Legion (March)
- ~ Memorial Day (May)
- ~ Victory in Europe (VE) Day (May)
- ~ 9/11 Remembrance Day (Sept)
- ~ Armistice Day (Nov 11th)
- ~ 4th of July
- ~ Bastille Day (July 14th)
- ~ and more..

All of our associations participate at our annual ceremonies which include all ages (youth and adults). We look forward to seeing you this year!



Supporting Our Wounded Soldiers @ Landstuhl Medical Center

Youth opportunity to share some love with our wounded soldiers.

Did you know that Landstuhl Medical Center is the largest American hospital outside of the USA?

Injured service members who serve outside the USA are often evacuated to the hospital come with very little, a small backpack at most, and of course their uniform and boots, so they rely on the Chaplain's Closet for civilian clothes and personal items since most cannot leave the hospital for their own supplies.

Paris Post 1 is always happy for our youth and community to be engaged on a local level to participate in sending letters and cards of love and encouragement plus financial support for supplies to be purchased near Landstuhl for distribution at the hospital.

Anytime during the year, you can contact Paris Post 1, and we would be happy to accept donations on your behalf in France for deliver to Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany.

Paris Post 1 supports our wounded soldiers and medical professionals at Landstuhl plus the Chaplain's Closet providing much needed supplies, support and encouragement

The Chaplain's Clothes Closet (CCC) at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) started in October 2001 at the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom. The CCC provides a variety of new essential clothing and comfort items for deployed U.S. Service Members, DOD employees, coalition partners, and U.S. contractors as they are evacuated to LRMC for treatment.

Since the Chaplain's Closet is a non-funded humanitarian entity within the Department of Defense, they rely on the generous donations of the

community.

We truly appreciate the efforts of each and every person willing to share “hugs from home” and words of encouragement with those who have given so much.



Paris Post 1 Legionnaires laying the Chateau Thierry bridge keystone into the foundation at Paris Post, the American Legion Memorial Building, in 1928 - Photo from Paris Post 1 Historic Archives

Student History and Research Papers

American history opportunities for youth in France

France is a huge country with a lot of history, and the United States of America shares a a lot of our history with France!

From America being recognized for the first time in France in 1778 to The American Legion having their first caucus meeting in Paris in 1919, Paris Post 1 has ideas for our youth if you are interested in doing a history project at your school.

The legacy of Paris Post 1 and Americans living in France over the past 100 years also provides a lot of opportunities for youth interested in history, and doing research on events and Americans who used to live in France.



Student Video and Documentary Opportunities

Are you a student videographer or producer?

Paris Post 1 is always looking for ways to engage our youth, and share more with our community who live outside of France through videos on [our YouTube channel](#) and social media.

If you are interested in videography and social media, please get in touch to help us cover our ceremonies this year.

Paris Post 1 is also open to short documentaries on American history in France, and also assistance with our current oral history projects for submission to the Library of Congress. Check out some of our videos on our YouTube channel.

For more details on the Library of Congress oral history program, please check out their website and contact us with your project idea:

<https://www.loc.gov/static/portals/families/documents/PreservingFamilyStories.pdf>

[PARIS POST 1 YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

[Paris Post 1 Website](#)



**PARIS POST 1
AMERICAN LEGION FRANCE**



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