

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE



National Scholarships Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary

The National American Legion Auxiliary awards multiple gift scholarships annually to students attending accredited institutions or trade schools. Help us award \$182,000 in scholarship funds to qualified individuals by sharing this information. Several scholarships require letters of recommendation or proof of military service, so encourage students to start **NOW** to collect the information needed for the application. Holiday breaks are a great time to start working on these. Please share with your students that they should not wait until the last minute.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship

Out of the 52 potential department scholarship recipients, one from each division will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. An additional \$1,000 scholarship is available to the remaining 47 departments. Candidates for this award shall be or shall have been Junior members, have held membership for the past three consecutive years (2023-2025), and be members of the current membership year (2026).

Essay Question for 2026 Application:

As our nation celebrates its 250th birthday, we are reminded of the generations of Americans who have selflessly served and sacrificed to protect our freedoms. Reflect on how the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary has influenced your understanding and appreciation of veterans, service members, and their families. In this historic milestone year, how has their legacy inspired you to carry forward a spirit of service and dedication to make a difference in your community, your country, and the world?

Member Loyalty Scholarship

Candidates for this award shall have been Junior members who are enrolled in an institution of higher learning or trade school, have held membership in the ALA for the past three consecutive years (2023-2025), and are members for the current membership year (2026). Two \$2,500 scholarships per division will be awarded.

Essay Question for 2026 Application:

As the United States celebrates its 250th birthday, we reflect on the generations who have served to build and protect our nation. How has the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary inspired you to remain active in the organization? How do you plan to carry on the legacy of sacrifice and dedication to make a meaningful difference in the world as we move beyond our nation's 250th birthday?

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

The Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship supports the children of our warriors pursuing higher education. Fifteen scholarships of \$5,000 each will be awarded to students who excel academically and volunteer in their communities.

Essay Question for 2026 Application:

As a descendant of a veteran, what lessons did you learn from your family's military service? How has that impacted your life, and how do you hope to honor that legacy as you make plans for your own future?

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

This scholarship helps members of the American Legion Family, veterans, and the spouses of active-duty service members or veterans pursue a college degree later in life or resume their studies after interruption. One \$2,000 scholarship per division will be awarded, for a total of 5 scholarships.

Essay Question for 2026 Application:

As our nation approaches its 250th birthday, how has your membership in the American Legion Family and your family's military history affected your worldview and personal values? How will you honor their sacrifice and commitment as you continue serving and sharing the mission of the American Legion Family?

**Article submitted by: Mary Kuperus,
Northwestern Division Education Chairman**

To learn more about the eligibility requirements and to start an application, visit the National website at
<https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships>

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Education Dates

Q2 Zoom - January 27, 2026, at 7:00 PM Eastern

https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/20252026education_q2meeting

Scholarship Application Deadline – March 1, 2026, 11:59 PM Eastern

Q3 Zoom - April 7, 2026 at 7:00 PM Eastern

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4-8, 2026

2025-2026 Mission Training

January 31, 2026 – Indianapolis, IN & Las Vegas, NV

February 7, 2026 – Atlanta, GA

[**Click here and select your city**](#)

Home School Outreach-Part 1

Our Q1 Zoom session raised questions about how to reach home-schooled students to inform them about ALA scholarships and other programs they could participate in. Chelse Callahan, Department Education Chair, Washington, provided some helpful strategies for connecting with local homeschool groups. This is especially important as we seek to engage more families in our Auxiliary programs and scholarship opportunities.

Online tools are a great place to start:

- Search engines: Try phrases like “homeschool co-op [your city]” or “homeschool support group near me.”
- Social media: Facebook and Instagram often host active local homeschool communities. You can search by region and even post in groups asking for contacts or recommendations.
- State and local associations: Many states have homeschool associations with directories of local groups.
- Dedicated websites: TheHomeSchoolMom.com and homeschool-life.com both offer searchable databases of homeschool groups and co-ops.
- HSLDA’s local group finder is another helpful resource. <https://my.hslda.org/groups/s/>

In-person networking is just as valuable:

- Ask around—many families know of local homeschoolers through church, 4-H, or youth sports.
- Visit community hubs like libraries, churches, and parks where homeschoolers often gather.
- Attend local homeschool events or curriculum fairs—these are great places to meet group leaders and share Auxiliary resources.

Please send additional home school outreach ideas to your division chairs for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

December 2025

Issue #4

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Laura's Corner

ALL American Legion Auxiliary National scholarship applications are online this year, with a deadline of **March 1, 2026**. ALA National Headquarters will distribute the National scholarship applications to the departments in the first week of March. Please supply **ONE** dedicated contact and email address to receive these applications. This designated person will be the coordinator from each department who will receive all applications for your department that need to be judged. They will be responsible for sending them to their scholarship judging committee. Each department should have a panel of judges to review scholarship applications. These judges do not need to be ALA members. It is advisable to seek out people with experience judging scholarship competitions, if possible. You will need at least three judges on your panel.

Please fill out the Formstack with your **ONE** dedicated contact by January 7, 2026. Division chairs will be contacting departments that have not completed this.

https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/department_scholarship_information_2026

!! NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY !!

We asked to hear about your departments' efforts to support education, and your response has been overwhelming!! **THANK YOU** to everyone who shared how they supported American Education Week as well as the other ways that you are supporting the Education program. We were limited on space, so please check out our Facebook page to read more stories from our hard-working units. We were truly amazed by the number of posts. Great work everyone!

If you would like to share your stories and pictures or see what others are doing to support the Education programs, join us on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALA_Education/



Cleburne, TX, Unit 50 recognized school Resource & Safety Officers this year in 3 area school districts. Each of the 11 years we have worked on this program, the unit selects a different group to honor. Cleburne ISD had 12 officers to honor (some stayed on campus for security). Rio Vista ISD has one officer for both campuses.

Submitted by Marty Hinson Peters



Freedom Unit 183 in Pemberville Ohio provided sugar cookies and snacks for teachers at Eastwood Elementary School for American Education Week. Pictured are President Anne Michel, daughter Leslie Myers, and granddaughter Melody.

Submitted by Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch