

2026 Austin Veterans Day Parade Scholarship Program

Application Rules

The Austin Veterans Day Parade Scholarship Program supports students, service members, and veterans throughout Central Texas while encouraging leadership, education, service, and continued support from the veteran community.

1. Scholarship Categories

Middle School Leadership Scholarship

Open to currently enrolled students in **Grades 6–8**.

Essay Length: 250–500 words

High School Leadership Scholarship

Open to currently enrolled students in **Grades 9–12**.

Essay Length: 500–750 words

Military & Veteran Education Scholarship

Open to eligible currently serving military members and veterans pursuing:

- College or university education
- Career or technical education
- Trade school
- Professional certification
- Other approved education or career-training programs

Essay Length: 500–750 words

Applicants should live, attend school, serve, work, or have a meaningful connection to the Central Texas community.

2. Student Essay Question

Middle School and High School applicants will answer:

“Veterans Helping Veterans and Their Families”

What does “Veterans Helping Veterans and Their Families” mean to you, and how can your generation help support veterans and military families in your community?

Students are encouraged to write about service, sacrifice, leadership, community, veterans, military families, and ways young people can make a difference.

3. Military & Veteran Essay Question

Military and Veteran applicants will answer:

“Veterans Helping Veterans and Their Families”

What does “Veterans Helping Veterans and Their Families” mean to you, and how will your education, training, or career goals help you strengthen your future, your family, or your community?

Applicants may discuss:

- Military service
- Transition from military to civilian life
- Education or career goals
- Leadership
- Community service
- Supporting other veterans
- Supporting military and veteran families

4. Original Work

All essays must be the applicant's own original work.

Applicants may use basic spelling and grammar tools for proofreading.

Applicants may not:

- Copy another person's work
- Submit plagiarized material
- Have another person write the essay
- Use artificial intelligence to generate or substantially write the essay

We want to hear the applicant's own ideas, experiences, and voice.

5. One Application Per Applicant

Each applicant may submit **one application** in the scholarship category for which they are eligible.

Duplicate applications may be removed from consideration.

6. Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted no later than:

October 15, 2026, at 10:00 PM Central Time

Late or incomplete applications may not be reviewed.

7. Parent or Guardian Permission

Middle School and High School applicants must provide parental or legal guardian information.

Parent or guardian permission will be required for student participation and may also be required before public recognition, publication of an essay, or presentation of an award.

8. Military/Veteran Verification

Military and Veteran Education Scholarship applicants may be asked to verify their military affiliation or veteran status before receiving an award.

Applicants should not submit Social Security numbers or unnecessary sensitive personal information through the scholarship application.

9. Judging

Applications and essays may be reviewed based on:

- Connection to the scholarship theme
- Originality
- Leadership and community impact
- Thoughtfulness and reflection
- Education or career goals, when applicable
- Organization and clarity
- Grammar and overall writing quality

Judges' decisions are final.

10. Scholarship Awards

Scholarships may be awarded in each of the three categories.

Final award amounts are subject to available sponsorship funding and approval by program organizers.

Additional scholarships or honorable mentions may be awarded if additional funding becomes available.

11. Recognition

Selected recipients may be recognized:

- During the Austin Veterans Day Parade
- At related Veterans Day events
- On Austin Veterans Day Parade communications
- Through Military Veterans Empowerment Network communications
- Through approved partner communications

For applicants who are minors, appropriate parent or guardian permission will be obtained before public recognition when required.

12. Disqualification

An application may be disqualified if:

- Eligibility requirements are not met
- The application is incomplete
- The application is submitted after the deadline
- More than one application is submitted
- The essay does not meet the required word count
- The essay does not answer the assigned question
- The essay contains plagiarism
- The essay was written substantially by another person or artificial intelligence
- False or misleading information is provided

13. Program Administration

The scholarship program is administered by:

BOLD MVEN, Inc.
dba Military Veterans Empowerment Network (MVEN)

in connection with the **Austin Veterans Day Parade**.

Submitting an application means the applicant understands and agrees to follow the scholarship program rules.

Questions

For questions about eligibility, applications, essays, or the scholarship program, contact:

info@mven.org