



# **CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

**The American Legion  
Department of  
Pennsylvania**

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DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA



**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH  
IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD,  
INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND  
JUSTICE FOR ALL.**



## **Mission**

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veteran's service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Hundreds of local American Legion programs and activities strengthen the nation one community at a time. American Legion Baseball is one of the nation's most successful amateur athletic programs, educating young people about the importance of sportsmanship, citizenship and fitness. The Operation Comfort Warriors program supports recovering wounded warriors and their families, providing them with "comfort items" and the kind of support that makes a hospital feel a little bit more like home. The Legion also raises millions of dollars in donations at the local, state and national levels to help veterans and their families during times of need and to provide college scholarship opportunities.

The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to community, state and nation drives an honest advocacy for veterans in Washington. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veteran's community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

The American Legion's Commission on Children & Youth manages a pillar of service guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit, to support quality organizations that provide services for children and youth, and to provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of young people. The American Legion works to provide hope for children who face health, safety, discipline or home-life challenges and provides opportunities for young people to succeed. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation provides more than \$500,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations each year that works to improve the lives of young people. These grants have aided organ-donor campaigns, supported efforts to help military children cope with deployment or loss of a parent, and funded projects that increased public awareness of Huntington's Disease, autism, Reyes Syndrome, meningitis, spine bifida, diabetes, cancer and other conditions.

The Commission on Children & Youth has focused recent attention on several important national programs, including the Children's Miracle Network, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Special Olympics, youth suicide prevention, Halloween safety, Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance for families of the deployed, and Operation: Military Kids, among others. The American Legion has been a staunch supporter of the children and youth of our nation since its founding in 1919. The commitment continues today for the National Commission Children & Youth, as it seeks to improve the well-being of all children. Every generation of veterans knows that the key to the future strongly supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development. While there is no way of knowing what issues will face our youth tomorrow, our survival may well depend on the quality of care, education and training that we, as parents and citizens, provide for young people today.

## **The American Legion believes we need to care for and supply direction to the youth of this Nation.**

1. Strengthen the family unit against the forces of today's complex society.
2. Extend support to sound organizations and facilities that provide services for children and youth.
3. Maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of today's young people.

### **Family Emphasis**

A strong family whatever its makeup is a source of love, pride, security, support and fun. Every family develops its own "style", much of which is influenced by how the parents were raised, their economic status and their friendships. While all families are unique, a successful family will accept each other's strengths and weaknesses, maintain an open channel of communication, respect each other, provide guidance when appropriate, and set aside time to enjoy each other's company.

# **Juvenile Delinquency Prevention**

Successful delinquency prevention strategies must be positive in their orientation and comprehensive in their scope. Children must be provided with opportunities to contribute to their families, schools, peer groups, and communities; provided with the skills to take advantage of opportunities; and receive recognition for their efforts to contribute.

Our current Americanism programs promote the ideals of citizenship, teamwork, loyalty, fair play, courage, physical fitness, and mental toughness.

- American Legion Baseball
- Keystone Boys State
- School Awards Program
- Flag Education
- Service to God & Country
- Oratorical Contest
- Sons of The American Legion

## **Immunization**

The American Legion's immunization efforts began in 1944 recruiting the services of members in the early treatment of childhood diseases. Immunization prevents: Diphtheria, Polio, Pertussis, Measles, Tetanus, Mumps, Hepatitis b, Rubella, HaemophilusInfluenzae Type b.

## **Legislative Efforts**

There is a great need for informed public participation in local and state government matters. And when it comes to local matters affecting children and youth, the American Legion should make itself heard! We are challenged to support new or amended legislation and public appropriations at the local, state and federal levels of government.

## **Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)**

### **Who is eligible for a grant?**

The minor child must not be older than 17, or 20 if still enrolled in high school or is physically handicapped. The minor child must be the biological child, stepchild, or in the legal custody of, a qualifying veteran. A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, OR any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion. Active

duty applicants can be considered without being a member of The American Legion. A single onetime non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to \$1,500 will be permitted for the minor child(ren) of a qualifying veteran.

No child is considered eligible for Temporary Financial Assistance until a complete investigation is conducted at the post or department level, a legitimate family need is determined, and all other available assistance resources have been utilized or exhausted. Additionally, the TFA application must originate and be filled out by someone at the local level.

## **Child Safety**

Child Safety is defined as any external event which may present a significant danger to a child or young person.

1. Child Abuse and Neglect
2. Sexual Abuse
3. Indoor Safety
4. Outdoor Safety
5. School Safety
6. Playground Safety
7. Missing and Abducted Children
8. Accidents (drownings, firearms, etc.)
9. Fire Safety
10. Bicycle Safety
11. Substance Abuse
12. Teenage Suicide

If you are searching for information, please feel free to contact your National Staff. We maintain resource information on a wide variety of national safety programs.

## **April is Children & Youth Month**

Since 1926, the American Legion and its affiliated organizations have donated countless hours of volunteer effort and over one-half billion dollars in support of programs and activities for the benefit of children and youth. That is Dedication – Be A Part Of It!

Halloween

The American Legion is the only organization in this country which promotes, sponsors, and takes an active role in a Halloween Safety program for youngsters. Our brochure and Project Guide contains: Safety tips, News Releases, Public service announcements, ideas for program implementation.



# **Children & Youth Programs**

## **Children & Youth Awards and Citations**

To award the volunteers in service of our program. It can be a Certificate of Participation, Certificate of Excellence, a plaque or a lapel pin, all Posts and Units are Winners! Citations are very special recognitions. They are given at all levels within The American Legion, and are a very important way of saying, "Thank you for a job well done."

## **Child Welfare Foundation**

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has two primary purposes:

1. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs; and
2. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

**American Legion**  
*Child Welfare Foundation*





## KEYSTONE BOYS STATE Established 1937

Pennsylvania American Legion Keystone Boys State is a unique week long summertime educational program that does not emphasize classroom lectures and textbook learning. Instead, it focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective state government.

The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American Government. Boys State is designed to supplement the information taught in high school civics classes. It is an activity born out of a need for youth training in practical citizenship, leadership and to instill a working knowledge of the structure and operation of government.

### **Keystone Boys State has the following objectives:**

1. to develop leadership and pride in American citizenship
2. to arouse a keen interest in the detailed study of government
3. to develop in the young citizens of boys State a full understanding of our American traditions and belief in the United States of America
4. to arouse in the young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government, and from the Preamble to The American Legion's constitution
5. "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation, and to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy."

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining are to be considered.
- Any boy who has previously attended a boys State is not eligible to attend a second session.
- Only boys with outstanding qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty, and service to their schools are to be considered.

In the actual selection process, merit and ability are the two most important factors considered. No boys are permitted to attend because of either poverty or wealth. It is not a program for **underprivileged boys nor is it a summer camp for recreation. Fees, or "tuition," of \$200 are paid by Legion Posts, with little or no expense to a young man and his family.**

Those applying for the Samsung Scholarship will need a copy of the military discharge (DD-214). If one is not easily available you can request a copy.





## **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

Keystone Girls State is a non-partisan Government and Civics program designed to teach the importance of responsible citizenship and to empower young women to make a change in their community. Over the course of the week, KGS citizens will be asked to stray out of their comfort zone and truly challenge themselves to work as a team for the betterment of their city, county, and state.

KGS citizens who are rising seniors in high school will spend the week intensively working together to self-govern the state of "Keystone," meant to model current Pennsylvania's local, county, and state government. Citizens will have the opportunity to campaign and run for office, draft and present legislation in the KGS House of Representatives and Senate, and to be actively involved in the Judiciary System as modeled by the state of Pennsylvania.

At the end of the week, two KGS citizens will be nominated to attend Girls Nation. Girls Nation "senators" will convene in Washington D.C. to campaign and run for "national" offices, draft and pass legislation in "Congress," and could possibly meet their State Representatives, Senators, and the President of the United States.

In all, KGS is a challenging but rewarding experience. At the end of the week, we ask that all of our citizens return to their communities with what they learned and be a force of good in their hometown. Because of this, our motto is, "Using our Powers for Good." Each of our citizens has the power to make change in their community; we ask that you be that force for good.



Elmer C. Hafer - American Legion - State Police - National Guard Youth Camp is sponsored by The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania, The Pennsylvania State Police and The Pennsylvania National Guard.

### **Program overview:**

Cadets participate in a wide variety of instructional sessions with Local, State Police and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. You will learn how to work as a team and be taught self-esteem, as you will be the future Leaders of our state and nation. There will be classes in Pennsylvania Vehicle and Crime Codes, forensic sciences, radar, riot control, tactical drug operation through the use of specially trained dogs, weapon firing, and other police related skills. Recreational activities will be scheduled as time permits. This is a six-day camp used to introduce students in all procedures of law enforcement. Cadets march to their classes in platoon formation and have drill competition. You should be physically fit and have a good academic record to be able to participate. This is not a recreational camp.

### **Eligibility:**

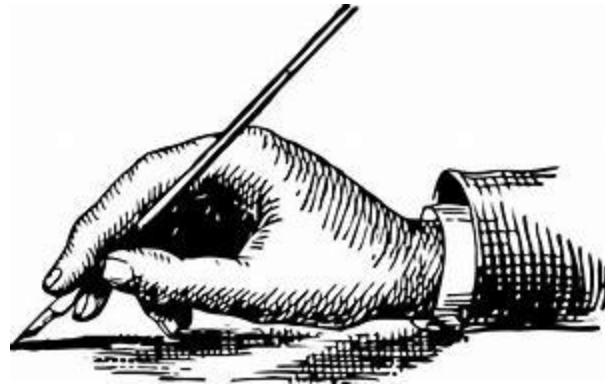
Female or male students who has turned 15 yrs old by the start of camp & has not turned 18 yrs old by the end of camp. The Post or District Commander, or his/her representative will interview each cadet nominated to select candidates, and their alternates. Cadets must be in good health, with no physical defects, and have an average or above standing in their class and of course express a personal interest in either law enforcement or military service.

### **Cost:**

**Fee of \$175 includes meals, water bottle, ball cap and (3) t-shirts. This is paid by the sponsoring American Legion Post/Unit or other civic group.**

This fee is non-refundable

**Transportation:** This is the responsibility of the sponsoring group or the parent(s) of the student.



## **ESSAY CONTEST**

Since the inception of the Department of Pennsylvania state Essay Contest in 1935, The American Legion has awarded well over \$500,000 in scholarships, while local American Legion Posts, counties, Districts and Sections have also offered suitable awards and prizes for their respective best essay winners.

Through the annual Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Essay scholarship contest, students are provided an opportunity to showcase their talents and abilities in English by using originality, accuracy and research as evidence, while learning that the responsibilities and duties of good citizenship can be both rewarding and fun.

As American Legionnaires, we fully believe that education is the cornerstone upon which the future of America is built. Education becomes the first requisite of good citizenship and the relationship of The American Legion to Pennsylvania citizens is of prime importance as a means of keeping us a free civilization.

Our approach to supporting solid educational principles is direct and positive. We agree with the current PA Department of Education initiative of “writing across the curriculum” and reward the efforts of involved students through our annual essay scholarship program.

Any student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in a public, private or parochial School or who is home schooled in Pennsylvania is eligible to participate.

### ***Prizes Awarded***

The Department of Pennsylvania State Essay First Place Winner will be awarded a \$3500 scholarship, a plaque and a trip to the PA American Legion Convention in July to read the winning essay to the assembled delegates.

The Second Place Winner will receive a \$3000 scholarship and a plaque.

The Third Place Winner will receive a \$2500 scholarship and a plaque.



The Oratorical contest was developed primarily to instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States in high school students. Other objectives include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Another purpose of the program is to assist students in paying the high cost of a college education. The Department of Pennsylvania American Legion awards the first place winner a \$7,500 scholarship, plaque and expense paid trip to the Pennsylvania American Legion State convention to present his/her winning oration, plus the opportunity to represent Pennsylvania in the National and Regional Contests and receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship from the National Organization. The second place winner receives a \$5,000 scholarship and plaque and the third place winner receives a \$4,000 scholarship and plaque.

The winner of the Pennsylvania Oratorical contest will move onto the National American Legion Oratorical program and will be eligible to win \$25,000 for first place, \$22,500 for second place and \$20,000 for third place. First round participants in the National contest receive a \$1500 scholarship. Second Round participants who do not advance to the final round will receive an additional \$2000 scholarship.

### ***The Contest***

The contest will consist of two parts (A) An 8 – 10 minute, memorized oration will be given on some phase of the United States Constitution. (B) A 3 – 5 minute oration on one of the four “assigned topics” assigned by National Headquarters.

The contestant may not use any notes or prompts when giving their oration. A minimum of five (5) judges will judge all contests, grading independently, at the District level and above. Local and county contest can be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges.

The tabulators will tabulate all scores of the judges and apply any penalties as directed by the Chairman of the contest. The Chairman will verify the result and announce the winners.



## **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Doctor Almo Sebastianelli Drum Corps Scholarship Fund** is available to any senior residing in Pennsylvania who meets the following criteria: A child or grandchild of a Pennsylvania legionnaire in good standing or a child or grandchild of a deceased Pennsylvania Legionnaire. To be eligible a

student must be a member of a high school band who is going on to higher education majoring in music. The Student needs to include his/her current high school transcript. The higher education school must be in Pennsylvania, letter of college acceptance must be included. Selection will be made by the members of the committee. One winner will be selected to receive a \$500.00 scholarship. Anyone wishing to apply is required to submit an application on or before May 1st in order to receive consideration for the following September to The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania, 800 N Front Street, Wormleysburg, PA 17043.

**The Robert J. Trace Scholarship Fund** was set up by Robert J. Trace and his family. Bob served as a Department Officer for an incredible fifty years, one as Judge Advocate and 49 as Finance Officer from the Central Judicial Section. Bob was also an Honorary Past Department Commander. Legionnaires of his caliber are hard to find, his dedication and contribution to the Pennsylvania American Legionnaire is legendary. Education was very important to Bob and his family.

The Robert J. Trace Scholarship Fund is available to every student 15 to 18 years of age residing within the state of Pennsylvania and meeting the following criteria:

- A child or grandchild of a Pennsylvania Legionnaire in good standing;
- A child or grandchild of a deceased Pennsylvania Legionnaire;
- A child of a Pennsylvania soldier that was killed as a result of the war on terrorism including the Pentagon, Iraq and Afghanistan.

To be eligible a student must compose a 300 to 500 word essay on the topic "Patriotism and Citizenship – What America Means to Me", and complete an application containing the information of the person through which the eligibility for this scholarship is made. Applications have been sent to each American Legion Post and you can also download the application on our website. The essays will be judged by the members of the Department Finance Committee.

Essays and application must be sent to the Pennsylvania American Legion. One winner will be selected and will receive a \$500 scholarship.

For Additional Information Please contact Department Headquarters at 717-730-9100

# Scholarship Endowment

## Joseph P. Gavenonis Plan #1

The Joseph P. Gavenonis is awarded twice a year of \$500 each semester after the student sends a copy of their grades to Department Headquarters and has a grade point average of 2.5 or better. A check will be mailed directly to the student for that semester. This scholarship is for seniors who wish to receive a degree in a four year college.

## Robert W. Valimont Plan #2

The Robert W. Valimont is awarded once a year of \$600 and is mailed directly to the student after a copy of their grades for that semester is sent in to department and has a grade point average of 2.5 or better. This is a two year community college scholarship.

Applications are requested through Department Headquarters 717-730-9100

## Who is Eligible?

Children and Grandchildren of PA Legion members who are deceased, KIA or MIA or has a parent who has been in the military or is in the military and is a member in good standing in the American Legion.

The Scholarship Endowment Committee will study the applications and pick the most eligible ones that our budget permits. An award letter will be sent to the student informing them they have been chosen for the scholarship.

## T\*A\*P\*S Scholarships

For additional scholarships or assistance <http://www.taps.org/edu/>

**Any questions please call T\*A\*P\*S @ 1-800-959-8277 or [education@taps.org](mailto:education@taps.org) –  
DO NOT CALL THE AMERICAN LEGION**

You may also want to check into scholarships available through The American Legion at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships>.



# Samsung American Legion Scholarship

To show its appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces during the Korean War, worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million in 1966.

The American Legion administers the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program, which is funded by the interest and other income from the endowment.

## Scholarships Awarded

Every year, \$300,000 in Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded to nearly 100 American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State participants. These scholarships are for undergraduate study only and may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board.

## Scholarship Deadline:

Typically, applications are submitted to the program staff upon the participants' arrival at American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State.

## 20 youth nationwide receive Samsung American Legion Scholarship

## Scholarship Criteria

- Applicants must be high school juniors who attend either American Legion Auxiliary Girls State or American Legion Boys State.
- Applicants must be direct descendants (i.e., child, grandchild, great-grandchild, or legally adopted child) of a U.S. wartime veteran who served on active duty during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion.
- Applicants who are direct descendants of Korean War veterans will receive special consideration.
- Scholarship winners are selected based on academic record, involvement in school and community activities, community service, and financial need.



It is important to acknowledge the sacrifices of our service members who preserve our freedom, but that is not enough. The sacrifices of the children of those who served should also be honored. Providing funds to assist these children so they can pursue higher education is a concrete way of showing how much we, as a nation, care.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship to support the children of our warriors. These scholarships are awarded to 15 students annually who excel in academics and volunteer in their communities.

## Scholarships Awarded

Three \$5,000 scholarships are awarded annually per geographic division, for a total of 15 scholarships. These scholarships are for undergraduate study only at a four-year accredited college or university, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board.

**Scholarship Deadline: March 1 of each calendar year**

***Note to military families: Students who are military dependents living overseas may submit their application to the American Legion Auxiliary department in their sponsor's home of record. Contact Department Auxiliary Headquarters for more information.***

## Scholarship Criteria

Candidates for this award shall be daughters, sons, grandsons, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, great-grandsons of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion, listed below.

- April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to the date of cessation of armed hostilities as determined by the U.S. government.



## Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

Getting a job or staying competitive in today's workplace involves showing employers you have the skills and experience to get the job done. In many cases, returning to college is a must. The American Legion Auxiliary's goal is to do all we can to make that happen, and that's what the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship is all about. This scholarship helps people who are part of The Legion Family pursue a college degree later in life or allow them to pick up where they left off when their studies were interrupted. If you're at this place in life, this may be the right scholarship for you.

### Scholarships Awarded

One \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually per Auxiliary geographic division. Applicant may be pursuing training in a certified, trade, professional, or technical program, or a two-year or four-year degree program.

**Scholarship Deadline: March 1 of each calendar year**

### Scholarship Criteria

- Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.
- Dues must have been paid for the two preceding years and for calendar year in which the application is made.
- Applicant may be pursuing training in a certified, trade, professional, or technical program, or a two-year or four-year degree program.

## PA Am. Legion Aux Scholarships

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Pennsylvania offers **two (2) scholarships** for college bound students. Both are for a descendant of a veteran. The applicants must be residents of Pennsylvania and attending a Pennsylvania college. Both scholarships are \$600 per year for a maximum of four (4) years.

The first scholarship is for an heir of a deceased or totally disabled veteran, who served during the American Legion eligibility dates. The second award is for a needy (living) veteran who has served during an American conflict or war.

Please contact Department Headquarters for an Application

Deadline for application is **March 1st** sent to Education Chairman



## **American Legion Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania Past Department Presidents' Memorial Scholarship**

1. Applicant must be the son/daughter or grandson/granddaughter of a deceased veteran, or veteran in need of financial assistance, PRIORITY is to be given to the son/daughter or grandson/granddaughter of a deceased or totally disabled veteran.
2. Applicant must be a Pennsylvania resident in senior year of High School, in Pennsylvania and must have met the requirement for entry in a Nurse's Training School in Pennsylvania
3. Award is for the CURRENT YEAR, and CANNOT be held over for the next year
4. Scholarship is for \$1,200.00, payable \$400.00 the first year and \$400 the next two years to the Director of Nursing (or authorized person at the hospital in Pennsylvania where the applicant has been accepted.)
5. Awards will be made based on the above requirements, the information furnished below, and the need for financial assistance.
6. Applications must be submitted by April 1st, the Chairman of Past Presidents' Parley, Department of Pennsylvania, who will then select three judges to consider the applications. The decision of the judges will be final.

**Please forward the application the following:**

- A. Certified financial statement of the income of family and applicant.
- B. Letter from Principal of High School from which the applicant is graduating.
- C. Letter from Clergyman of the Church, applicant is attending.
- D. Letters from two representative citizens. (Letters B, C, and D, must attest to character, Americanism, Leadership and Scholarship)
- E. An original article covering applicant's reason for selecting the Nursing profession.
- F. Report of extra-curricular activities and participation in civic activities.
- G. Photograph of the applicant.



## **DECA Applications for Scholarship for Military Children**

Scholarship applications for the Scholarships for Military Children Program are available in commissaries worldwide and online. There are several scholarships available, please visit the website for more information.

### **Who may apply:**

Only dependent, unmarried children, younger than age 21 (age 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military members, survivors of service members who died while on active duty, or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university full time in the fall, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every store location with qualified applicants.

Applications are available in commissaries worldwide. You may also fill out an application online at the Military Scholar Web site, <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. You may also fill the application out by hand. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

# Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund

The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund is an umbrella that supports three separate scholarship opportunities for participants in American Legion Auxiliary programs. One is for American Legion Auxiliary Junior members; another is for the Honorary National Junior President; and one is for participants in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program. We encourage all eligible young women to take advantage of these scholarship opportunities and apply.

**The “Spirit of Youth” is an opportunity for junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary. The National organization of the A.L.A awards five (5) four-year scholarships to junior members that meet the requirements.**

**A junior member must have held membership for the past immediate three (3) years and have their current up-to-date. Auxiliary membership must be maintained throughout the awarded scholarship period.**

## **ALA Girls Nation Program Scholarships**

Annually, ALA Girls Nation awards scholarships in the following amounts to assist with the recipients' college education expenses:

- ALA Girls Nation President \$5,000
- ALA Girls Nation Vice President \$2,500
- ALA Girls Nation Outstanding Senator \$3,000

**Criteria:** Recipients are attendees at the ALA Girls Nation Program in Washington, D.C., and the selection is made via vote by their peers. Scholarship monies are dispersed directly to the four-year accredited college or university, per the recipients' direction, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, and other appropriate expenses.

## **Honorary National Junior Division Vice President**

Annually, each of the Honorary National Junior Division Vice Presidents receive a \$2,000 scholarship to assist with college education expenses.

**Criteria:** The recipient is an attendee at one of the ALA National Junior Meetings held in conjunction with the American Legion Auxiliary Mission Training. The Honorary National Junior Division Vice Presidents are selected via vote by her peers, and scholarship monies are dispersed directly to the four-year accredited college or university, per the recipients' direction, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, and other appropriate expenses.

## **Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members**

The American Legion Auxiliary annually provides one Junior member in each of the five American Legion Auxiliary divisions with a \$5,000 scholarship.

**Criteria:** The applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years; must hold a membership card for the current year; and must continue to maintain her membership throughout the four-year scholarship period. Scholarship monies are dispersed directly to the four-year accredited college or university, per the recipients' direction, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, and other appropriate expenses.





## American Legion Baseball Started in 1925

Each year nearly 100,000 young men participate in American Legion Baseball, the nation's oldest, and most-respected nationwide baseball program. Through American Legion Post sponsorship in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, these young men learn practical lessons in sportsmanship and citizenship. The tremendous success and longevity of American Legion Baseball would not be possible without the support of hard working American Legion members in your local communities.

Many present and former Major League Baseball players were members of American Legion Baseball clubs as teenagers. Did you know Bob Gibson, Johnny Bench, Gaylord Perry and Mark McGwire all started their organized baseball careers as members of American Legion ball clubs? When Hall of Famer Stan "the Man" Musial was asked about his American Legion Baseball playing memories, he said, "I was proud to wear the American Legion uniform because it was the first uniform I had. American Legion has supported baseball many years and they have an outstanding program for our young players."



## What is The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program?

It's a three part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship course, Qualification Awards, and Air Rifle Competition. During the years of this program's continued fast growth, thousands of male and female junior shooters have participated. Members of The American Legion Junior Shooting sports Program can be of any gender, through the age of 18. Handicapped youth are encouraged to participate.

# **What is Shooting?**

## **Shooting is a skill sport**

Skills learned in shooting are valuable in other aspects of life. Learning to be a safe shooter teaches responsibility. Learning to hit a difficult target teaches self-discipline and self-control. Learning to hold a firearm steady and hit the target teaches concentration. Knowing that the shooter alone is ultimately responsible for his or her performance teaches self-reliance and enhances individual esteem.

## **Shooting is a participation sport**

No one has to sit on the sidelines and watch; everyone can take part. This active involvement is important because sports are fun when young people can participate personally instead of watching others. Persons with physical disabilities also can take part in shooting, often right alongside other shooters in matches.

## **Shooting is an Olympic sport**

The summer Olympics have rifle, pistol, running game target and shotgun shooting events. The winter Olympics have a biathlon event that combines cross-country skiing and shooting. Shooting is the third most popular Olympic sport. Only two sports – track and boxing – regularly have more participating nations.

## **Shooting is a safe sport**

Injuries are so rare in target shooting. Shooting is safe because it has a strict code of safety that all shooters follow. Like water safety training, the firearm safety training associated with a shooting activity is of lasting value, even if the young people don't develop an ongoing interest in the shooting sports.

## **Shooting is a lifetime sport**

Persons of all ages participate successfully in shooting. Children as young as eight or nine can learn to shoot using BB guns and lightweight air rifles.

## **Shooting is an exciting sport**

There's a special thrill in being able to hit a target the shooter isn't sure can be hit. It is fun to see shooters' abilities improve. The challenges of preparing shooters to compete against other shooters throughout the state and nation makes every practice session an exciting event.

## **Shooting is a sport for girls and boys**

Boys and girls compete equally in shooting. Recent national junior championships and The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championships have been won both by girls and boys.



## **Scouting Builds Character**

Based on the principle of duty to God and country, the Scouting program is for all youth, ages 6 through 21, regardless of ethnic background, creed, or physical or mental ability. In cooperation with organizations like the Pennsylvania American Legion, Scouting offers a way for you and other dedicated volunteers of your Post and community to bring fun, adventure, and leadership skills to young people. Scouting provides effective character building, citizenship training, and personal fitness opportunities for youth.

At the first National Convention of the American Legion, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919, the Legion voted approval and support to the Scouting movement. Posts began to sponsor Scout units immediately following that convention. Scouting was included in the activities of the Americanism Commission in 1922. Approximately 2,500 American Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, and SAL Squadrons charter Scout units that serve more than 77,000 young men and women.

Boy Scouting encourages boys to develop physical, mental and emotional fitness and to adopt the live by meaningful personal standards as a cornerstone for success in life. The values include the basic principles in the Scout Oath and Law.

## **AWARDS OFFERED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Cub Scout of the Year  
Legionnaire Scouter of the Year  
Scouter of the Year  
Eagle Scout of the Year  
Outstanding Boy Scout Troop of the Year  
Outstanding Cub Scout Pack of the Year  
Outstanding Varsity or Explorer Unit of the Year  
Wood-Badge-Scholarship  
Square Knot Award



## **ABOUT THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**"In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad."**

Founded in 1919, The American Legion Auxiliary is currently the largest women's patriotic organization. Our units support the American Legion and serve their communities in a variety of ways. Chapters of the Auxiliary, or ALA, can be found in nearly 9,000 communities nationwide!

As a member, you will assist the ALA in:

- Supporting & advocating for veterans, active military, and their families
- Supporting the initiatives and programs of the American Legion
- Fostering both patriotism and responsible citizenship
- Awarding scholarships & promoting quality education and literacy
- Providing educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideas of freedom and democracy & encouraging good citizenship and patriotism in government
- Increasing our capacity to uphold our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities in our communities
- Empowering our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service, not Self

## **Eligibility Requirements for ALA Membership**

Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

(1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and

(2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

(3) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.\*

\* A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary regardless of whether or not she is a member of The American Legion. However, eligibility of her female relatives (sister, mother, direct descendants) and/or spouse depends upon her membership in The American Legion.



## **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million.

Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in S.A.L.

The Sons organization is divided into detachments at the state level and squadrons at the local level. A squadron pairs with a local American Legion post; a squadron's charter is contingent upon its parent post's charter. However, squadrons can determine the extent of their services to the community, state and nation. They are permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet their needs, but must remember S.A.L.'s mission: to strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Therefore, squadrons' campaigns place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Since 1988, S.A.L. has raised more than \$6 million for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. S.A.L. members have volunteered over 500,000 hours at veterans' hospitals and raised over \$1,000,000 for VA hospitals and VA homes. The Sons also support the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition dedicated to protecting the U.S. flag from desecration through a constitutional amendment.

### **Sons Membership Eligibility Requirements**

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.





## **About the Riders**

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans' homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

Currently, over 110,000 American Legion Riders meet in over 2,000 chapters in every domestic department and in at least three foreign countries. Riders in Iowa have formed an honor guard called The Five Star Freedom Riders, and Riders in Mulvane, Kan., founded the Patriot Guard to protect the sanctity of military funerals from protesters. Riders in all states have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas, conducted massive cross-country fundraising events for wounded warriors from all services, and have raised millions of dollars for countless local, state and national charities. Many Riders, supported by their departments, conduct annual statewide Legacy Runs in direct support of American Legion scholarship programs of Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), supporting our wounded servicemembers across the nation.

True to the Legion's grassroots tradition, each chapter manages its programs at the post level, where the best ideas are born. The Riders are part of many projects and events, including:

- Rolling Thunder, the annual POW/MIA rally in Washington on Memorial Day weekend.
- Annual regional rides such as Operation Wounded Warrior, sponsored by Riders in Nevada, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, California and other Western states.
- Local charity events in support of The American Legion and local communities.
- Raising money for VA hospitals, women and children centers, children and youth centers, schools and other facilities.
- Sponsoring or participating in motorcycle runs to benefit numerous charities.
- Local memorial ceremonies and community parades.
- The American Legion Legacy Run, an annual cross-country fundraising ride from National Headquarters in Indianapolis to the national convention city.
- Riding to honor fallen military men and women, and to protect the sanctity of their funerals from those who would dishonor their memory.
- Escorting military units to departure airfields and airports for combat tours overseas, and welcoming them home upon their return.

***\*NOT ALL AMERICAN LEGION POSTS HAVE A AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER***



## **The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania**



**We are dedicated to our fellow veterans, committed to our community to which we service and we believe in our future through our youth.**

**We would like to thank you for the time that you took to review some of the children and youth programs and scholarships that we offer. Hopefully it has presented an insight to the true mission of the American Legion and our posts.**

**If you or someone you may know is interested in learning more about our programs or joining our Legion Family please do not hesitate to contact us.**

**You can also request additional information by contacting the American Legion Department of Pennsylvania at 717-730-9100 or visit [pa-legion.com](http://pa-legion.com).**

**We look forward to meeting with you.**

**For God and Country**



## **Preamble to the Constitution**

### **FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the All Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



# VETERANS

# WE WANT YOU



*Join us in the*

# FIGHT

*for a*

# STRONGER AMERICA



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

CONTACT YOUR NEAREST  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST**

For a Membership Application  
Or visit [pa-legion.com](http://pa-legion.com) for more information

## JOIN TODAY!