

# 2026

## AMERICANISM PROGRAMS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin  
2930 American Legion Drive  
Portage, WI 53901



The Department offers a number of scholarships to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including relatives of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs.

### Important Events, Dates and Deadlines

Jr. Shooting Sports Target Order Deadline	February 1, 2026
Jr. Shooting Sports Postal March Ends	March 1, 2026
Scouting Scholarship "Eagle Scout of the Year" Application Deadline	March 1, 2026
Schneider-Emanuel Scholarship Application Deadline	March 1, 2026
Americanism & Government Scholarship Test	March 2—March 13, 2026
Oratorical – Regional and State Finals - Ripon College	March 28, 2026
Oratorical—National Finals in Indianapolis, IN	May 15, 2026—May 17, 2026
Badger Boys State Session	June 14, 2026—June 20, 2026
Samsung Scholarship Deadline	June 14, 2026—11:59am
Baseball & Softball Scholarship Application Deadline	July 10, 2026
Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Academy	July 6, 2026—July 10, 2026
Baseball Jr State Tournaments	July 31—August 4, 2026
Softball State Tournaments	July 31-August 2, 2026
Baseball Sr State Tournaments	July 28-August 4, 2026

**American Legion Baseball:** American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues. The program registers more than 200 teams in Wisconsin with over 3,500 athletes participating. Wisconsin baseball is the only state that has 5 leagues, Class AAA, AA, A, 17 and under and 16 and under; and ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the Nation in the number of participating teams and ball players.

#### Scholarship Opportunities

- Department Baseball Scholarship **\$1,000**

The Department Winner is also considered for additional scholarship money at the National level.

- 8-American Legion All-Academic Team **\$2,500**
- 1-Captain All-Academic Team **\$5,000**

**Americanism & Government Scholarship Contest:** Students from Wisconsin in grades 10 through 12 take the on-line Americanism and Government Scholarship test during the month of March. This is a timed test and is available to all students that have access to the internet. Students are tested on their knowledge of U.S. Government, Wisconsin Government, County Government, the Constitution and flag etiquette. Students are also required to answer an essay question to qualify.

#### Scholarship Opportunities

- (11)-**\$250** scholarships to students in Grade 10
- (11)-**\$300** scholarships for students in Grade 11
- (11)-**\$750** scholarships for students in Grade 12

To access the test, students click on the link found on the [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org) website. NOTE: Test is only available during the time frame stated above.

**Badger Boys State:** This unique week long educational opportunity at University of Wisconsin Eau Claire teaches high school students the workings of the government structure and the principals of our great American heritage—justice, freedom and democracy.

Every year the Department selects two outstanding Boys State graduates to represent them at American Legion Boys Nation held in Washington, D.C. It is here that they are introduced to the structure and function of the federal government.

#### Scholarship Opportunities

- Keith Kreul Scholarship **\$500**
- Clyde Knox Scholarship **\$500**
- Badger Boys State Governor Scholarship **\$1,000**
- National Samsung Scholarship **up to \$10,000**

We rely heavily on the Post representatives to foster contact with schools and spread excitement for this tremendous program. Information about the program can be found at [www.badgerboysstate.org](http://www.badgerboysstate.org)

**County Youth Government Day:** The school, in cooperation with county and American Legion officials, arranges a date for the American Legion County Youth Government Day. A date in February, March, or early April is suggested, so as not to conflict with elections. The Legion Posts sponsor this event beginning with a general assembly, luncheon and recognition before returning to school.

The goal of this program is to increase student interest in government and citizenship. Students are paired up with County officials to get a behind-the-scenes look at County Government and learn about the various offices and their responsibilities.

Every participating school selects students to represent the different offices (sheriff, district attorney, register of deeds, county clerk, etc.). Students will have an informative day and will gain a deepened understanding of the government process because they have experienced it.

#### Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy:

The Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (WALLECA) is a program for high school students who are current juniors or seniors and are in good academic standing. The program provides a first-hand experience and insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies.

The program will offer physical fitness training coupled with classroom instruction and hands-on training. Topics of instruction include Training and Standards, Ethics, Crime Scene Investigation, Human Trafficking, Defensive and Arrest Tactics, Firearms, Emergency Operation, Probation and Parole, Team Confidence Building and Crash Investigation.

**American Legion Softball:** Wisconsin is the 10th state to form an American Legion Softball program. Regional and State Tournaments will be held with two divisions of play. Students enrolled in 8th grade-12th grade during the 2025-2026 school year are eligible to play in the 2026 season. Athletes are eligible for the \$1,000 Department Scholarship as well as the Schneider-Emanuel Scholarship if additional criteria are met.

#### Scholarship Opportunities

- Department Softball Scholarship **\$1,000**

**Jr. Shooting Sports:** Is a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards and Air Rifle Competition to athletes of any gender, through the age of 18 who have not yet graduated high school.

Annually, the Department conducts a 3-Position Air Rifle "Postal" tournament in the "sporter" category. A *Postal Match* is a match in which competitors fire on their home ranges using targets which have been ordered from Headquarters.

Entry in either the Individual or Team Postal match is limited to competitors who are active members of a Junior Shooting club (4-H, Scouts, etc.) affiliated with a Post; or members of a Jr. Shooting Sports program that is run by the Post.

#### Scholarship Opportunities

Postal Match-"Sporter" Senior category	1st Place	<b>\$1,000</b>
Postal Match-"Sporter" Senior category	2nd Place	<b>\$750</b>
Postal Match-"Sporter" Senior category	3rd Place	<b>\$250</b>

**Oratorical Scholarship Contest:** The Oratorical Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Students begin competition at the Post level and progress through County, District, Regional and State Finals.

#### Scholarship Opportunities

- Participants eliminated from competition at the Regional level receive **\$600**
- 3 Regional Winners receive **\$1,000** and compete for the State title
- State 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up receives an additional **\$1,000**
- State 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up receives an additional **\$1,500**
- Department winner receives an additional **\$2,000**

The Department Winner also competes for additional scholarship money at the National level in Hillsdale, MI.

- Every contestant that participates in the first round receives **\$2,000**
- Second round eliminations from competition receive an additional **\$2,000**
- National 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up receives **\$20,000**
- National 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up receives **\$22,500**
- National winner receives **\$25,000**

**Schneider-Emanuel Scholarship:** Three scholarships are awarded to students that best meet the criteria outlined in the application. They must have participated in at least one American Legion sponsored activity and have family ties to a living relative that is currently a member of The American Legion or Auxiliary. The applicant may also be a member of The American Legion, an SAL member or member of the Auxiliary.

#### Scholarship Opportunities

- 3 - Scholarships **\$1,000**

The application is available as a fillable form on-line. Eligibility requirements may be downloaded from [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org)

**Scouting:** The Scout who best meets the qualifications outlined in the Nomination application will be selected as The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year by the Department Scouting Committee.

#### Scholarship Opportunities

- Department Eagle Scout Scholarship **\$1,000**
- The Department Winner is also considered for additional scholarship money at the National level. **\$10,000**
- National Eagle Scout Scholarship **\$10,000**
- 3-Runner-up scholarship awards **\$2,500**

Eligibility requirements and application for Eagle Scout of the Year may be downloaded from [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

Looking for More Information on any of these Programs?

Please visit the Department website at [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org) or call the office: (608)745-1090.