

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
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EDUCATIONAL GUIDE & SCHOLARSHIPS

This guide is one of the services offered to the young people of our state by The American Legion. While the focus of it is to help children of deceased and disabled veterans in their pursuit of higher education, **ALL** students can benefit from the information offered.

This guide is also filled with many links to American Legion scholarships and since there are literally thousands upon thousands of loan funds, scholarships, gratuities and other educational aids offered by universities, colleges, foundations, private organizations and by state and federal legislation, it is not possible to give complete information on all educational aids that exist.

The American Legion National website will provide scholarship formation which will lead to almost all existing sources of aid except those available at the local level.

PLANNING IS IMPORTANT

Before applying for a scholarship, you should establish your eligibility to enter the school of your choice. You should begin your planning toward applying for scholarships early in your senior year. You and your parents should consider the combination of savings, scholarships, loans, and part-time employment to meet expenses.

The American Legion is here to assist in our youths educational needs!

The American Legion offers a number of scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including kin of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs. Call your local American Legion Post or American Legion Department Headquarters Office for additional information, brochures, applications and assistance with other scholarships available listed below.

- National High School Oratorical Contest
- The American Legion Baseball Scholarship
- The American Legion Legacy Scholarship
- Samsung American Legion Scholarship
- Eagle Scout of the Year
- The Eight and Forty Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship Fund

THE AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD or THE AMERICAN LEGION TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

INFORMATION & APPLICATION ENCLOSED

The Education and Scholarship Award program of The American Legion, Department of Illinois, awards 25 \$1,000 scholarships.

These scholarships are established to assist students of American Legion members and Dependents of Veterans, who have the ability and desire to receive an education beyond high school in an institution accredited by the proper state authorities and/or recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including universities, colleges, technical or trade schools.

Illinois website: www.illegion.org/scholarship

National website: www.legion.org/scholarships

Sources of Educational Assistance For Dependents of Veterans

AMERICAN LEGION EDUCATIONAL AIDS

The American Legion, the Federal Government, private trust funds, and many other organizations offer a wide variety of benefits. Some sources for dependents for veterans are as follows:

1. Under existing legislation supported by The American Legion and adopted by the Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides monthly payments to children of deceased veterans who had war time service during W.W. I, W.W. II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada/Lebanon, Panama, and Persian Gulf. Also authorized for monthly payments are the children of service-connected veterans with disabilities of 50% or more.

2. Junior GI Bill provides educational opportunities for children of veterans who died or were permanently and totally disabled in or as the result of service in the armed forces of the United States in W.W. I, W.W. II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada/Lebanon, Panama and Persian Gulf. A maximum of 36 months of education and training may be obtained. Applications must be filed by a parent or guardian with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3. Some other sources are:

- A. Knights of Columbus Trust Fund
- B. LaVerne Noyes Society Scholarships
- C. Army Relief Society Scholarships
- D. Fraternal Order of Eagles
- E. Disabled American Veterans
- F. Air Force Aid Society
- G. Amvets Scholarship Grants
- H. Submarine Veterans of W.W. II
- I. Appointments to the Service Academies of Sons of Deceased or Disabled Veterans
- J. Elks Educational Fund
- K. Marine Division Scholarships

AMERICAN LEGION POSTS AND AUXILIARY UNITS

Hundreds of individual Posts of The American Legion and Units of the Auxiliary offer educational aids for the benefit of their communities. Additional, and more complete information, can be secured by contacting the Education Chairmen of both Posts and Units as well as District, Division, and State Chairmen and Commission members.

The American Legion “NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST”

www.legion.org/scholarships/oratorical

Scholarships are awarded to the three finalists. First place receives \$18,000, second gets \$16,000 and third takes \$14,000. Scholarships may be used to attend any college or university in the United States. Funding comes from The American Legion Life Insurance Fund.

Supplementing this, there are several hundred scholarships for oratorical participants awarded at the Post, District and State levels. Rules for these contests can be obtained from your local high school counselor, or from your local Legion Post, or from The American Legion Department Headquarters Office.

SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. In 2013, nine \$20,000 scholarships and 89 \$1,100 scholarships were awarded. To date, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than \$4.9 million to nearly 1,700 applicants.

For eligibility and deadline information go to www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung.

The American Legion BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP

www.legion.org/scholarships/baseball

In 2008, The American Legion awarded \$22,000 in scholarships to deserving players. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund. For eligibility and deadline information go to www.legion.org/scholarships/baseball.

**Illinois American Legion
BOY SCOUT
SCOUTING SCHOLARSHIPS**
www.illegion.org/scholarship

★ **IL American Legion Scout Scholarship**

The American Legion Department of Illinois will award a \$700 Scholarship which is to be used for educational purposes to a qualified Boy Scout and Venturer.

Two runner-ups will get a \$200 award for being finalists. Appropriate plaques and trophies will be awarded to the winners. The program is open to male and female scouts.

★ **IL American Legion Eagle Scout Scholarship**

First place winner will receive a \$1,000 cash Scholarship which is to be used for educational purposes only.

★ **IL American Legion Venturing Silver Award Scholarship**

First place winner will receive a \$1,000 cash Scholarship which is to be used for educational purposes only.

For eligibility and deadline information go to www.illegion.org/scholarship. Click on Boy Scout Brochure and Scholarship Info.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Children of Warriors National Presidents'
SCHOLARSHIP**

<https://www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Children-of-Warriors-National-Presidents--Scholarship/>

Fifteen scholarships are awarded. Three scholarships will be awarded in each Division of the American Legion Auxiliary: one in the amount of \$3,500, one in the amount of \$3,000 and one in the amount of \$2,500. All are gift scholarships and not loans.

For eligibility, deadline information and application go to <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Children-of-Warriors-National-Presidents--Scholarship/>.

★ **ALA: Honorary National Junior President Scholarship**

Annually, the Honorary National Junior President receives a \$3,000 scholarship to assist with college education expenses.

★ **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 \$3,000
- ⇒ ALA Girls Nation Vice President \$2,000
- ⇒ ALA Girls Nation Outstanding Senator \$2,000

★ **ALA: 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.

For eligibility, deadline information and application on Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Juniors, Honorary National Junior President Scholarship and ALA Girls Nation Program Scholarship go to <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Spirit-of-Youth-Scholarship-Fund/>

**The American Legion
LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP**

www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

The American Legion wants to ensure higher education is a possibility for children whose parents have been killed while serving our country. It is a civic duty to provide them with equal opportunity. The Legion offers its support through the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

For eligibility and deadline information go to www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

**THE EIGHT and FORTY
LUNG and RESPIRATORY DISEASE
NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Eight and Forty Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship was established to assist registered nurses with advanced preparation for positions in supervision, administration or teaching. Students must have employment prospects in specific positions in hospitals, clinics or health departments upon completion of their education, and the position must have a full-time and direct relationship to pediatric lung and respiratory control.

Aid offered: Scholarship awards are \$5,000 each.

ARMY R.O.T.C. SCHOLARSHIP

The Army R.O.T.C. Scholarship Program is designed to offer financial assistance to outstanding young men and women.

Scholarships may be awarded for two, three, or four years. Four year scholarships are open on a competitive basis, to high school graduates who enter Army R.O.T.C.

The two and three year scholarships are available only to students who are enrolled in R.O.T.C.

Further information may be obtained on this excellent program by writing to the following: ARMY R.O.T.C., Fort Sam, Houston, Texas 78234.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
Administered by
The Education and Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2910

PURPOSE

The scholarship program of The American Legion, Department of Illinois, was established to assist students, who have the ability and desire to receive an education beyond high school in an institution accredited by the proper state authorities and/or recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including universities, colleges, technical or trade schools.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicant must be the son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a current paid up member of The American Legion, Department of Illinois, or the son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a deceased member of the Department of Illinois.
2. Applicant must be a senior in an accredited high school at the time of application who will graduate in the current school year.
3. Applicant must be a citizen of the United States.
4. Applicant must subscribe to oath "To Defend and Protect the Constitution of the United States" (Given in its entirety in application).
5. Applicant must complete application and forward it to The American Legion State Headquarters in Bloomington. All questions must be answered.
6. Applicant must meet the academic standards of the school he/she wishes to attend.
7. **Emailed or Faxed applications will be accepted.**

PERSONAL QUALIFICATION

1. Applicant must have a good record of school and community citizenship.
2. Applicant must show personal responsibility.
3. Applicant must have the desire to pursue an education beyond high school.

BASIS OF SELECTION

Awards will be made on the basis of personal financial need and academic qualifications as outlined above with consideration given to the desire to continue education, ability to succeed, career to be pursued, and purpose for which scholarship is to be used. The decisions of the committee, composed of the members of the Education and Scholarship Committee, will be final.

EXTENT OF AWARD

The maximum scholarship award is \$1,000.00. **The scholarship is not renewable.** A check for the amount of the award will be mailed, after a receipt of evidence of enrollment in an institution of learning beyond high school, to the Registrar or Bursar of that institution. The student may then withdraw, by voucher, any amount of his/her award as needed.

APPLICATION AND DEADLINE

Application forms for the scholarship awards may be obtained from the Education and Scholarship Committee, The American Legion, Department of Illinois, P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, IL 61702-2910. **Application deadline date on awards for school year is MARCH 15, and must be in Bloomington by that date.** Announcements of the awards will be made by May 1st of the current year.

Other awards have no bearing on this Scholarship Award.

NATIONAL LOAN PROGRAMS

Public Law 89-290 provides for grants to schools of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and podiatry.

Federal Government Cooperative Education Program provides primarily for science and engineering students. It is a work-study type program.

Neighborhood Youth Corps projects provide opportunities for unemployed low-income youths to gain work experience, receive training, and earn an income all at the same time.

Armed Services Subsidized Programs - such as NROTC, AFROTC, AROTC, the Merchant Marine and the Coast Guard.

STATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS

Most states, including the District of Columbia, have statutes which authorize educational assistance and loan funds for students, including those for sons and daughters of veterans, particularly the children of deceased or disabled veterans. Most states require that applicants have reasonably good grades in high school and that they meet the academic standards acceptable to the school in which enrolled. In many cases, but not all, one eligibility requirement is that the applicant be in need of financial help to obtain the desired education. Application for state education aid should normally be made well in advance of the anticipated date of enrollment.

SOME ADVICE

In almost every instance a scholarship does not provide for the entire expense of higher education. This should not discourage you because practically every college, university, or vocational school provides a service which would assist a student to obtain part-time employment or a loan to defray a portion of your expenses.

TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The Education and Scholarship Committee Scholarships normally are utilized by those graduates seeking a baccalaureate degree from a credited college or university even though the scholarship designates the inclusion of community college and/or vocational schools.

Good jobs require possessing a skill that is in demand by employers. The job market today emphasizes technical training, such as mechanics, laboratory technicians, electricians, truck drivers, cosmeticians, carpenters, computer operators, plumbers, masonry, which provides a marketable skill. Possessing a marketable skill may mean the difference between employment and unemployment.

This Trade School Scholarship is available to those graduating seniors seeking to acquire their skills through a private career school, apprenticeships, or cooperative training.

The scholarship award is \$1,000.00 and is not renewable. One scholarship will be available in each of the five divisions.

ATTENTION POST EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:

This brochure can only be helpful and successful if your local high school has received it or if they are aware of American Legion educational aids. CHECK TODAY to be sure.



The American Legion cares about the education of America's children

EDUCATION and SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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Illinois website: www.illegion.org/scholarship



National website: www.legion.org/scholarships



APPLICATION CHECK LIST:

- ✓ **School Transcripts**
- ✓ **ACT scores**
- ✓ **Signature of Post Commander or Post Adjutant ***

* The signature of the Post Commander or Adjutant is only required *if Parent, Grandparent or Guardian is deceased* to verify past membership.