



April 2025

Dear Girls State Delegates:

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by the American Legion in 1996. As of 2023, Samsung Scholarships have awarded more than \$7.2 million in college scholarships to 2,422 applicants. These scholarships are derived from interest and other income from the principal amount.

1. Go to www.legion.org
2. Drop down to Programs and pick up Scholarships
3. Click on Samsung Scholarship
4. This takes you to the online application and will walk you through the process
5. More information...scholarships@legion.org

The 2025 Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program is ready for another great year. The proposed awards for 2025 are:

- 10 - \$10,000 National scholarships (2 per region)
- 10 - \$5,000 National runners-up (2 per region)
- Each Department winner will receive \$1,250

If you are a **direct descendant** (child, grandchild, great grandchild or legally adopted child) of a U.S. wartime veteran or person currently on active duty and you participate in and **complete** the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, then you are eligible to apply for this scholarship. It is not mandatory to apply, nor will it affect your attendance by not applying. During the application process **you must upload verification of the veteran's or active-duty person's service.**

1. YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE ONLINE APPLICATION with all required uploads prior to the first day of Arizona Girls State (June 1, 2025).

2. When prompted to do so on the website, PRINT a hard copy of the application with all uploads and attachments as you will be required to give the hard copy **to the proper person during Girls State registration on Sunday, June 1, 2025.** This is the only time the hard copy of the application will be accepted by Arizona Girls State. Hard copies of the application or any part of an application will not be accepted before or after this date. The Arizona Girls State finalists will be announced on **Sunday, June 8, 2025,** at the awards assembly.

Scholarship Selection Criteria

Each Boys State and Girls State program makes its national finalist selection using the following criteria:

- ☐ Academic record
- ☐ Involvement in school activities
- ☐ Involvement in community activities
- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Financial need
- ☐ Essay content

- ❑ Additional bonus points will be awarded to descendants of U.S. veterans of the Korean Conflict.
- ❑ Questions regarding the Samsung Scholarship are to be directed to scholarships@legion.org

PROOF OF SERVICE DOCUMENTATION

ACCEPTABLE

- Form DD214 (Official discharge certificate)
- Official “Honorable Discharge” certificate
- Form DD1300 (Official military death certificate)
- Official record of burial in a military cemetery issued by the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Current or former military ID card
- Current or former LES (Leave and Earnings Statement)
- Official logbook entries from a military unit
- ANY OTHER DOCUMENT LISTED ON THE “Military Service Verification Documents List” linked on the application website

UNACCEPTABLE

- Any otherwise “acceptable” document that is illegible
- Obituaries
- Pictures of military headstones
- Pictures of service members in uniform
- Entries in non-military and/or non-official records or books
- Membership cards from veterans organizations
- VA Healthcare Cards

The following locations may be of assistance.

- Many certificates of discharge prior to 1979 do not appear to be "official" documents as many were typed onto a sheet of paper. If you are unsure if it is an official document, please ask your American Legion service officer. Department Service Officers are listed by state at <https://www.legion.org/serviceofficers>.
- The National Archives and Records Administration: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/index.html>
- The County Clerk and Records Office where the veteran resided.
- The funeral home may have kept a copy if military honors were provided.
- Monument company if VA headstone or marker was ordered.
- If the veteran had utilized a VA Home Loan there may be a copy of the DD214 with the title documentation.
- Veterans who have signed up for EBENEFITS through the Veterans Administration may be able to obtain a printable copy from <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>
- The State Director of Veterans Affairs may have received a copy of the veterans DD214 at the time of discharge from military service. This will be specific to the state in which the veterans home of record.

Penny Maklary

Penny Maklary, Director
American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State