

April 2026

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 2025, Samsung Scholar ships have awarded more than \$7.6 million dollars to more than 2,618 individuals. These scholarships are derived from interest and other additions to the principal amount.

Only those individuals attending a American Legion Boy State or American Legion Auxiliary session are able to apply.

The 2026 Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program is ready for another great year. Proposed awards are:

- 10 \$10,000 National Scholarships (2 per region)
- 10 \$5,000 National Runner-ups (2 per region)
- Each Department winner will receive \$1,250

If you are a direct descendent (child, grandchild, great grandchild or legally adopted child of a US wartime veteran or person currently on active duty, you participate and complete the American Legion Auxiliary program, 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 pr active-duty person's service.

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

You must complete and submit the online application with all required uploads prior to the first day of Girls State May 31st midnight. When prompted to do so on the web site, print a hard copy of the application with the uploads that will be presented at registration ONLY. The Department winner will be announced on June 7th. National winners will be announced in late September or early October.

Other information will be found on the included pages or by emailing the American Legion. Good luck to each of you that apply

SAMSUNG



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

This document answers many of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship.

Q: Is there a hard copy of the application available?

A: No. The application is completely contained within the online application system. Not only is this more efficient and secure, but it is also more environmentally friendly.

Q: Does an application have to be completed in one sitting?

A: No. In keeping with many college and career web-based systems, an applicant will create a user account and password on legion.org, which will allow the applicant to return to the application at various times, as they collect information and write well-informed essays. After your application is submitted, there can be no edits or added information.

Q: When will an applicant find out the status of their application after submission?

A: The applicant's American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program will make the announcement of the department winner prior to the end of the program. This is not a requirement, and some programs may inform their department nominee later. However, all programs must submit their nominees to National Headquarters by August 1st. As such, you may contact your Boys State or Girls State program after that date with any questions as to a particular applicant's status. National Samsung American Legion Scholars will be announced during the month of **October**. If an applicant has heard nothing by this time, their application did not make it past the first round of judging at the program level.

Q: How are applications judged? What is the process?

A: Initially, all applications are screened by judges at the program level. One person from each Boys State program and one person from each Girls State program are chosen as department finalists. These comprise a pool of 100 finalists from across the nation. A national panel of judges on the Committee of Youth Education decides the final winners. Regardless of the level, each applicant is assigned points for every part of their application based on a common, national rubric.

Q: Are letters of recommendation required?

A: Recommendation letters are not permitted in this scholarship application.

Q: When are decisions made on who is selected?

A: Unlike other scholarship funds at The American Legion, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Endowment Fund is self-perpetuating. It is funded completely through interest earned from the principal. Due to market fluctuations and to be more precise yet expansive in scholarship distribution, the following award levels were adopted beginning with the 2017 award year:

- Ten national scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region)
- Ten national runners-up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region)
- Remaining department (state) finalists each receive \$1,250

Every applicant is encouraged to be very dedicated in time and effort while filling out the application, as ultimately, they are applying for a \$10,000 scholarship.

Q: What counts (and doesn't) as an "official record" of military service?

A:	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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)➤ ANY OTHER DOCUMENT LISTED ON THE "Military Service Verification Documents List" (Link on the Samsung American Legion Scholarship homepage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Any otherwise "acceptable" document that is illegible➤ Obituaries➤ Pictures of military headstones➤ Pictures of servicemembers in uniform➤ Entries in non-military and/or non-official records or books➤ Membership cards from veteran's organizations➤ VA Healthcare Cards

Q: Who is a "direct descendant"?

A direct descendant is the child, grandchild, great-grandchild, et cetera of a veteran. Stepchildren and adopted children ARE considered direct descendants. Any other relationship (e.g., siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles) does not count as direct descendency.

Q: Can I list more than one veteran on my application?

No. No credit is given for being the descendant of more than one veteran. However, if an applicant is the direct descendant of a Korean War veteran, it is advisable to use that person on your application. Whichever ancestor you choose, ensure you can provide acceptable documentation of their time in service.

Q: If I have a question about the acceptability of a document, who should I contact?

A: When an applicant questions the acceptability of any document, they should contact their Boys State or Girls State point of contact. The point of contact information is listed in the delegate packet or can be found at <https://www.legion.org/boysnation/websites>. If a program representative has questions about the acceptability of a document, they should contact ScholarshipFunds@legion.org.

Q: My school uses an embossed stamp; it does not seem to show up on a scan. What should I do?

A: You have a few options here. First, you may try to darken your scan by adjusting the scan density settings. Second, you may choose to shade over the embossed seal with a pencil (preferably) or a dark highlighter to bring out the indentation. If you are taking a picture of the document instead of scanning, you may try illuminating the picture from a particular direction to bring out the embossment. You could also shade the seal and take the picture after doing so.

Q: What happens to applications which were begun but not submitted at the start of a program?

A: Such applications are deleted from the system.

Q: For applications submitted but not chosen as department finalists, how are they dealt with?

A: Such applications will be available for viewing or downloading by the applicant or department until 1 November. On 1 November, the application system will be purged of all applications not selected as department/program finalists.

Q: Can I access my application after my Boys State or Girls State program starts?

A: You can only access your application until the start of your program. You will not be able to request a copy of your application after your program starts. Be sure to save your essays from your application on a storage device. Also, print out a copy of your complete application and all documents used.

Q: Can I bring documents to Boys State or Girls State to add to my application?

A: Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on the first day of your respective programs, on the online application. No other form of submission is acceptable.