

Good of the Legion

Items to share with your post members at your next post meeting or to display on the bulletin board.

Reminder: Nominate An Outstanding Local Law Officer and Firefighter!

Each year The American Legion Department of Michigan awards a Department Firefighter and Law Officer of the Year award, and we are looking to you for help in identifying one of each. Nominations are due by January 3, 2023, and evaluated by our Law and Order Chairperson. The firefighter and law officer chosen by the chairperson will be invited to the 2023 Annual Department Convention in July to receive their awards.

The Department selections will then be sent to The American Legion National Headquarters for consideration to receive the National Firefighter of the Year Award and the National Law Officer of the Year Award.

The American Legion supports our first responders; the last year and a half has been challenging for everyone, especially our first responders. This is a small way to say thank you and recognize a well-rounded Michigan Firefighter and Law Officer, who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of their position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service, or heroism, coupled with professional achievement over the past year.

Nominations forms can be found online at www.michiganlegion.org/firefighter or www.michiganlegion.org/lawofficer. Questions regarding these awards can be send to legion@michiganlegion.org or call 517-220-2754.

Special Notice: Department Holiday Schedule

Department headquarters will be closed December 23rd, 2022 through January 2nd, 2023. Staff will return to regular business hours on January 3rd, 2023. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2022-2023 Children and Youth Pin Order Form

YES! I want to support the Children and Youth committee which is raises funds for Michigan youths to attend Boys State, Girls State, and Student Trooper.

Please send me _____ at \$5(each) donation to the following address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my check/money order for qty: _____ x \$5 donation Total: _____

Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery of pin (pictured above). Make check payable to Michigan American Legion Memo: Children and Youth Pin. Send to Michigan American Legion Attn: Children & Youth 212 N. Verlinden Ave. Lansing, MI 48915.



\$500 Department Scholarships: The Brewer and Wilson High School Scholarships

The American Legion, Department of Michigan is offering twenty (20) scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2023. There will be five (5) William D. and Jewell Brewer Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each and fifteen (15) Guy M. Wilson Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. Criteria for the two scholarships differ and will be available only to students who meet the eligibility requirements for that scholarship. Selections are based upon academic performance, leadership quality, and basis of need.

The William D. & Jewell Brewer \$500 Scholarship is available to high school seniors or college students (with no bachelor's degree) planning to or are attending any nationally accredited college, university, or trade school in the Fall of 2023.

The Guy M. Wilson \$500 Scholarship is available only to high school seniors who are plan to attend any Michigan accredited college, university, or trade school in the Fall of 2023.

The following qualifications apply to both scholarships:

- Applicant must be a Michigan resident.
- Must be a direct descendant (child, step-child, grandchild or great-grandchild) of an honorably discharged veteran or active duty service member. Applicant must provide a copy of parent's, grandparent's, or great grandparent's discharge papers (DD-214 or equivalent) showing entry and discharge dates from honorable active military service. Eligible service dates are December 7, 1941 to present date. Please black out any social security number on the discharge papers. For descendants of active duty military servicemembers, a copy of the servicemembers current military identification card is required.
- Applicant is required to have a G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher and must provide a copy of their most recent transcript of grades signed by a school official. (A school official can be a teacher, counselor, or principal).
- Applicant must have a financial need for the scholarship. Applicant is required to provide a copy of the parent's most recently filed Federal Tax Form 1040 (both sides of the form are needed showing adjusted gross income and signature). If the applicant filed a Federal Tax Form 1040 and is 100% independent from parent's income, the applicant needs to provide a copy of their own Federal Tax Form 1040. Please black out any social security number on required tax forms.

Both scholarships are a one-time award and are not renewable.

Students may apply for either one or both of the scholarships, however, only one scholarship will be awarded per applicant.

The completed application and accompanying documents must be received at Department Headquarters by 5:00 p.m. on January 3, 2023 (not post marked by).

Applications are available online at www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships

Reminder From Our Department Scouting Chairman:

Greetings!

It's that time of year that all our programs in the American Legion have started. Some of our programs have the registration forms on our Department web site. The one I'm concerned with is the Eagle Scout of the year. I have found out through the Michigan Crossroads Council that 45 Posts sponsor Scouting. The requirements are at the end of this article. I know of only 35 Posts.

What I would like to see is, if a Post sponsors Scouting, it would be great if the Post has an Eagle Scout that they would be send a picture to the Media-Web Site Communications person, at Department Headquarters to be put in our Legion paper with a blip about their Eagle Project. As we all know, not every Eagle Scout is eligible for the Eagle Scout of the Year. I believe that every Eagle Scout should be recognized for their accomplishment in Scouting.

With over 650 Scouts, we do hope that this year we have some Eagle Scouts who qualify for this award. I would suggest to the Post Leadership to make a copy of the form, just in case a signature is missing so we can send it back to the Scouts parents or the Post Leadership. The deadline is March 1, 2023 for this award.

Department Eagle Scout Award \$1,000**National Eagle Scout Award \$10,000****The requirements are as follows:****THE NOMINEE MUST:**

Be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion Squadron.

OR

Be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire, Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary member.

AND

Received the Eagle Scout Award.

Be an active member of his religious institution and must have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem.

Have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting, and community.

Have reached his 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Reside in the department (state) to which he applies

Note: Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

For God and Country, and yours in Scouting

Doug Carignan

586 – 484 – 4354

carignandoug@yahoo.com

Eagle Scout of the Year: Up to \$10,000 Scholarship!

American Legion, Department of Michigan Scouting program sponsors over 65 troops, packs, and crews in our American Legion posts. The Legion's support for Boy Scouts of America began at the Legion's first national convention in 1919. This is natural for Legionnaires, who bring their service-learned skills and experiences as veterans to help build character and positive traits in our country's youth. Few other post activities generate more goodwill from the community.

Eagle Scout of the Year: Applications Due March 1, 2023

The American Legion, Department of Michigan honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the department convention. The winner of the competition receives a \$1,000 scholarship and is advanced to the national competition.

The American Legion annually honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the national convention. The winner of the competition receives a \$10,000 scholarship, and the three runners-up are each awarded \$2,500 scholarships.

Eagle Scout of the Year application and eligibility requirements can be found at www.michiganlegion.org/scouting.

American Legion Square Knot Award: Award for Legion Family Members

The American Legion Square Knot award is given to American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion members who volunteer for their post-scouting program. More information and application can be found at www.legion.org/scouting/award

This award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. The award is meant to recognize dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion.

Requirements are as follows: You must submit appropriate documentation (membership card, photocopies of course completion certificates, a narrative of accomplishments, etc.) in order to fully document the attainment of the requirements as outlined in sections A, B, C, and D of the checklist found on our website. Any application that is missing a requirement will be returned to the sender for correction and re-submission.

Documentation may be sent at any time, awards are given upon approval of the documentation submitted.

To learn more about our scouting program, please email: legion@michiganlegion.org or visit www.michiganlegion.org/scouting

\$500 Teacher of the Year Award: Nominate A Local Teacher By April 3, 2023

K-12 Teachers are a national treasure; the job they have to educate our youth is at times challenging but very rewarding. Teachers help shape the future of our country by the lessons and principles they teach to the youth who sit day after day in their classroom. The American Legion knows some teachers teach about patriotism, Americanism, and the founding principles of the United States of America. We recognize that teachers spend their own money in the classroom and on their kids to make learning more enjoyable or easier to comprehend. Every year in The American Legion, the Department of Michigan recognizes five teachers working hard to impart those lessons to the children entrusted to them. We realize this is only a small gesture in the grand scheme of things, but we want to recognize them for their work.

Posts are asked to work with their local schools to help locate a teacher that fits the criteria to be nominated for this award. Nomination forms are available on our website and are due by April 3, 2023. Contact the Programs Coordinator, legion@michiganlegion.org, if you have any questions or need a hard copy of the nomination form mailed to you.

Student Trooper Program: \$500- \$1,000 Scholarships Available to Participants

Every year, high school students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades are selected to participate in the Youth Law Cadet Law Enforcement Program. The program's purpose is to allow male and female students to explore and experience the various aspects of law enforcement training. Students participate in daily calisthenics and receive training in firearms, self-defense, fingerprinting, K-9 handling, accident and criminal investigation, and state patrol car driving. Students stay at the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing.

Program Dates: June 11-16, 2023

Application Deadline: April 10, 2023

Cost: \$475 per student, usually sponsored by an American Legion Post/Squadron/Unit or other civic organization.

Eligibility: Any boy or girl meeting the following standards who is going into 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the Fall of 2022, and is a Michigan resident, is eligible to be considered for selection into the Student Trooper Program:

- (a) in good health and able to participate in physical activities;
- (b) possess a positive attitude and display respect for law enforcement;
- (c) average or above average academic record; 2.5 GPA and above; and
- (d) possess a level 2 drivers license (preferred, not required)

Scholarships: Four Scholarship Available

- \$500 Academic Scholarship
- \$500 Marksmanship Scholarship
- \$500 Orator Scholarship
- \$1,000 Student Trooper of the Year Scholarship

**Additional information on Student Trooper can be found at www.michiganlegion.org/trooper*

Boys State: A Civic Leadership Program

The American Legion Boys State program is a non-partisan, non-political mock government exercise. At Boys State, participants learn citizens' rights, privileges, and responsibilities. Its purpose is to awaken within the youth of our nation a sincere conviction that a well-informed, intelligent, and involved citizenry is vitally needed to protect and preserve our American traditions. The training is objective and modeled on the city, county, and state government structures. Boys State grows out of the American Legion's faith in our young people and its firm belief that the future leaders of our country should have the tools necessary to keep it: a deep appreciation of active citizenship, an understanding of democracy, familiarity with our American form of government, and the discernment to select – and to be – productive leaders.

When: June 18-24, 2023

Where: Grand Valley State University- Allendale, MI

Eligibility: Male high school juniors going into their senior year in the fall of 2023

Application Deadline: May 1, 2023

Cost (tentative): \$25 Delegate Application Fee plus \$400 Sponsor Fee ; total \$425.

Sponsor: A sponsor can be an American Legion Post, Son of the American Legion Squadron, an American Legion Auxiliary Unit, but it can also be the boy's parents, a business owner, a school, or other organization like the Elks, Knights of Columbus, or a Moose club.

Scholarships:

Samsung Scholarship: limited to students between their junior and senior years of high school who attend the current session of either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership. Up to \$10,000 scholarship awarded.

Additional Information:

Visit www.michiganboysstate.org for additional information on our Boys State Program or to download the application in early October. Questions can be directed to Ashley Zimmer, 517-220-2754 or legion@michiganlegion.org.

Tentative Program Dates for the 2022-2023 Program Year:

December 2022

December 14th - JSSP First round postal match competition target set sales and registration closes.

January 2023

January 1st - Baseball registration opens on baseball.legion.org

January 3rd - Brewer and Wilson Scholarship deadline.

January 3rd - Law Officer of the Year submission deadline

January 3rd - Firefighter of the Year submission deadline

January 22nd - District Oratorical Contests deadline

February 2023

February 1st - JSSP Targets due to the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) - must be postmarked on or before Feb. 1 to be eligible for scoring.

February 8th - Zone Oratorical Contests deadline.

February 15th - JSSP Second round postal match competition targets mailed out by CMP.

March 2023

March 1st - Eagle Scout of the Year Award submission deadline

March 4th - Oratorical State Contest at location TBD

April 2023

April 1st - End of 2nd round postal match competition. Targets due to CMP - must be postmarked on or before April 1st to be eligible for scoring.

April 3rd - Teacher of the Year submission deadline

April 10th - Student Trooper Application submission deadline

April 21st-23rd - National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis, IN

May 2023

May 1st - Boys State Application submission deadline

May 15th - Baseball insurance purchase deadline

June 2023

June 1st - Final day for Baseball teams to register

June 11th-16th - Student Trooper Program

June 18th-24th - Boys State Program at Grand Valley State University-Allendale Campus

July 2023

July 1st - Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship submission deadline

July TBD - JSSP American Legion National Championship (Individual Tournament)

*July TBD*** - Senior Baseball State Tournament

*July TBD*** - Junior Baseball State Tournament

(* Student Trooper dates are tentative and are subject to change)

(**baseball dates will be established in December 2022)

Department Program Mailings Via USPS and Email

All dates are approximate and may shift depending on my schedule of items that take priority.

November 21 - Email to Law and Fire agencies regarding Law and Firefighter of the Year nominations.

December 1st - Email to Michigan School Admins about scholarship deadline and Teacher of the Year Nominations.

January 3-6, 2023 - School and Post/SAL Mailing with information on Boys State, Student Trooper, Eagle Scout, and Teacher of the Year.

February 1 - Email to school administrators with Boys State and Student Trooper deadline reminder.

March - Email to school administrators with Boys State, Student Trooper, and Teacher of the Year deadline reminder.

April 3 - Final email reminder to School Admins, Post/SAL Commander and Adjutants regarding Boys State and Student Trooper deadline.

Each Good of the Legion will have Program information included in it, this is just a list of planned mailings/emails that will go out during the year.