

GOOD OF THE LEGION

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



American Legion Baseball: Celebrating 100 Years!

American Legion Baseball is a national institution, having thrived through a world war, several national tragedies, and times of great prosperity and despair.

The program promotes equality, making teammates out of young athletes regardless of income level or social standing. American Legion Baseball has been, and continues to be, a stepping stone to manhood for millions of young men who have gone on to serve their country or community, raise families or play the sport at the highest level.

Today, the Legion registers 72,000 youths annually with over 4,000 teams in all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico. 65 Percent of Major League Baseball Players are Legion Baseball Graduates. Since its inception, the league has had 10 million players. The league annually awards a total of \$25,000 in scholarships to American Legion Baseball players; \$500 to players selected from each department based on leadership, character, scholarship and financial need; eight players receive a \$2,500 scholarship, and the "Captain" of the All Academic Team receives \$5,000.

We are going into this centennial year with a renewed commitment to the purpose of American Legion Baseball:

- To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote the principles of 100 percent Americanism.
- To instill in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty, and team spirit.
- To aid in the improvement and development of the physical fitness of our country's youth.
- To build for the nation's future through our youth.

Key Dates for 2025: *Includes Class A and Class AA Tournaments dates!*

- Jan 1-May 15, 2025: Team registration open
- May 15, 2025: Insurance purchase deadline
- June 1, 2025: deadline to register a Legion team, purchase insurance, and pay registration fees for the 2025 season.
- June 24, 2025- 10:00 am: Deadline for Zone Chairman to hand in team packets to the Department Baseball Chairman.
- July 15, 2025: Deadline for Baseball Scholarship application submission.
- **July 23-26/27, 2025: Department Class A Tournament in Stevensville.**
- **July 23-26-27, 2025: Department Class AA Tournament in Midland.**
- August 6-10, 2025: Great Lakes Regional Tournament in Illinois
- August 14-19, 2025: American Legion World Series in Shelby, NC

For further information on Legion Baseball, visit michiganlegion.org/baseball or contact Department Chairman Terry Myers at tmyersmi@gmail.com. If you are interested in starting a team, email the Department Programs Coordinator, Ashley Zimmer- legion@michiganlegion.org, for a new team packet.

MARCH 2025

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Program Dates

Information brought to you by The American Legion Department of Michigan
Ashley Zimmer
Programs Coordinator
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Skilled Trades Scholarship: Application deadline is April 4, 2025

The American Legion Skilled Trades Scholarship aims to provide annual scholarships to deserving individuals—aged 17–21—who are pursuing a career in construction/building, automotive, advanced manufacturing, or energy either in a post-high school trades training/apprenticeship or earning a 2-year college degree in any of the areas listed above where the student would be certified at the state or federal level. The scholarship award amount is a 2-year \$1,000 scholarship. \$1,000 will be awarded each year. The award can be used for tools, specialized clothing, gear, safety equipment, or college or program tuition/expenses.

Qualifications of the applicant:

- Must be a Michigan resident.
- Applicant should be between the ages of 17 and 21 at the time of application.
- Applicant must pursue a skilled trades career through post-high school trades training/apprenticeship OR a 2-year college degree in a skilled trade.
- It is preferred that the applicant be a descendant of a veteran, but it is not required.

Applying for the scholarship:

1. Complete the application in its entirety.
2. Include High School or most current transcripts.
3. Include written recommendations from two persons: A teacher within the last two years and an employer or adult (non-relative) who can offer references for you.
4. Include proof of acceptance into trades training/ apprenticeship or acceptance into a 2-year college.

The 2025 application is located at **www.michiganlegion.org/trade-scholarship**.

\$500 TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD: NOMINATE A LOCAL TEACHER

K–12 Teachers are a national treasure; their job to educate our youth is, at times, challenging but very rewarding. Teachers help shape the future of our country through 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 who fits the criteria to be nominated for this award. Nomination forms are available on our website, **michiganlegion.org/teacher**, and are **due by April 7, 2025**.

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

Every year, high school students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades are selected to participate in the Youth Law Cadet Law Enforcement Program(Student Trooper). The program provides first-hand experiences and insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies. The program also affords these highly motivated young people an opportunity to consider law enforcement as a potential career choice. Recruitment of high school students, both male and female, representing all communities and backgrounds in the state, is one goal of the program. Once these young people have been selected to attend the program, the law enforcement community is challenged to present a program that will instill an understanding and respect for law enforcement professionals and their techniques. 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: July 20-25, 2025 Application Deadline: May 1, 2025

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

Eligibility: Any male or female meeting the following standards who is going into 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the Fall of 2024 and is a Michigan resident is eligible to be considered for selection into the Student Trooper Program:

- in good health and able to participate in physical activities;
- possess a positive attitude and display respect for law enforcement;
- average or above average academic record; 2.5 GPA and above; and
- possess a level 2 driver's 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 Student Trooper information can be found at **www.michiganlegion.org/trooper*

Boys State: A National 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 22-28, 2025

Where: Grand Valley State University– Allendale, MI

Eligibility: Male high school juniors going into their senior year in the fall of 2025

Application Deadline: May 1, 2025

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 another 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. Questions can be directed to Ashley Zimmer, 517-220-2754 or legion@michiganlegion.org.

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 the 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**



Commander Cooper's Special Project

Supporting paralyzed Veterans in Michigan with spinal cord injuries and helping Veterans regain independent living.

Your support will:

- Ensure year-round specialized medical care.
- Support life-changing health and rehabilitation opportunities through sports and recreation.
- Fight for the benefits Veterans have earned.
- Fund breakthrough research in pursuit of a cure.
- Provide opportunities that lead to meaningful careers
- Break barriers and advocate for access that paralyzed Veterans need to live independent lives.

2025 Commanders Coin Order Form

YES! I want to Support Commander Cooper's project!

Please send me ____ at each \$10 donation to the following address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my check/money order for qty: ____ x \$10 donation Total: _____

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Make check payable to "Michigan American Legion"

Memo: Commanders Coin

Mail to:

Michigan American Legion

Attn: Commanders Coin

212 N. Verlinden Ave.

Lansing, MI 48915



Program Dates for the 2025 Year:

March 2025

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

March 5th -Oratorical State Contest at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing.

April 2025

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

April 4th- Skilled Trades Scholarship deadline

April 7th- Teacher of the Year submission deadline.

May 2025

May 1st-Boys State Application submission deadline

May 1st- Student Trooper Application submission deadline

May 15th- Baseball insurance purchase deadline

May 16th-18th- National Oratorical Contest at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MI

June 2025

June 1st- Final day for Baseball teams to register

June 22nd-28th -Boys State program at GVSU in Allendale, MI

July 2025

July 1st-Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship submission deadline

July 15th- Diamond Baseball Scholarship deadline

July 20th-25th- Student Trooper program

July 22nd-26th- JSSP American Legion National Championship (Individual Tournament)

July 23rd-27/28th- Class AA Baseball State Tournament; Midland, MI

July 23rd-27/28th- Class A Baseball Tournament; Stevensville, MI