

GOOD OF THE LEGION

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



IMPORTANT! Student Trooper Program Dates Changed

The Department was notified by the Michigan State Police Trooper who helps coordinate our program that the dates for the 2024 Student Trooper Program had changed. **The new program dates are June 9-14, 2024.** Please disregard any printed materials that show the OLD dates of June 23-28, 2024. With the change in program dates, there is also a change in when the application is due to Department which is now May 1, 2024. Please ensure that your local high schools are aware of this change as well as any student who may contact your Post expressing interest in the program. Updated basic program information is listed below. If you have questions email legion@michiganlegion.org or call 517-220-2754.

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.

New! Program Dates: June 9-14, 2024

Application Deadline: May 1, 2024

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 2023, 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 information on Student Trooper can be found at www.michiganlegion.org/trooper

MARCH 2024

Newsletter Highlights

UPDATE! Student Trooper Program Date Change

Skilled Trades Scholarship

Teacher of the Year Nominations Due April 1st

2024 American Legion Baseball Information

Boys/Girls State

Program Spotlight: School Award Program

2024 Program Dates

Information brought to you by The American Legion Department of Michigan
Ashley Zimmer
Programs Coordinator
legion@michiganlegion.org

American Legion \$1,000 Skilled Trades Scholarship Deadline Approaching: Eligible Students Need to Apply Before April 5th!

The American Legion Skilled Trades Scholarship aims to provide annual scholarships to deserving individuals – aged 17-21 years old – who are pursuing a construction/building, automotive, advanced manufacturing, or energy career 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 would apply to the following costs:

- Money for tools, specialized clothing, gear, or safety equipment.
- Money for fees and expenses at a post-secondary skilled trades school training or apprenticeship.
- Money for fees and expenses at a 2-year college skilled trades program.
- Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships awarded at the discretion of the American Legion Department of Michigan's Education and Scholarship Committee in conjunction with scholarship donors.
- Scholarship checks will be issued to either the individual, school, training program, or business depending on if the funds will be applied to supplies or tuition. Proof of supply costs will be required for funds to be issued.
- The scholarship is valid for two years only, \$1,000 each year, with the disbursement of 2nd-year funds dependent on first-year transcripts and proof of enrollment in a 2nd-year trades program or college course or proof of continued employment.

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 be pursuing 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 application can be found at www.michiganlegion.org/trade-scholarship.

DEADLINE: April 5, 2024.

Please send the completed application and supporting documentation to:

American Legion Dept. of Michigan

Attn: Skilled Trades Scholarship

212 N. Verlinden Ave.

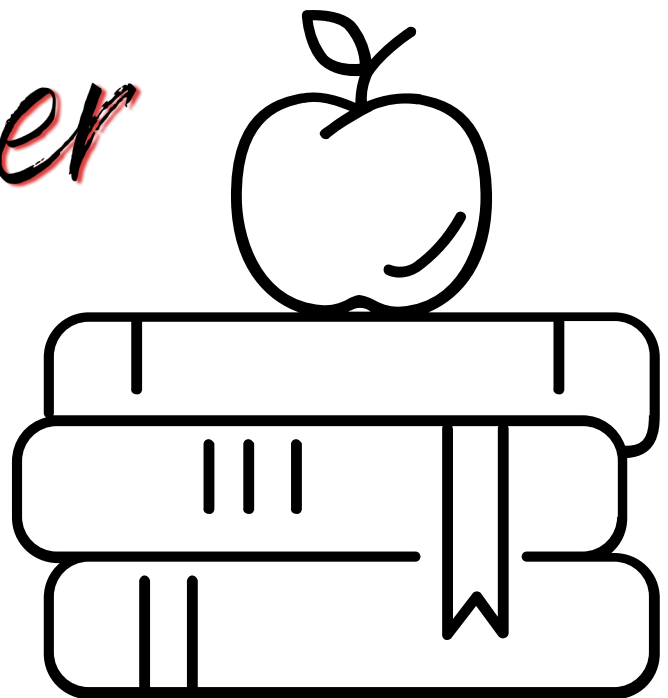
Lansing, MI 48915

Teacher of the Year Nominations Due April 1st

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 who fits the criteria to be nominated for this award.

Nomination forms are available on our website www.michiganlegion.org/teacher and are due by April 1, 2024. Contact the Programs Coordinator, legion@michiganlegion.org, if you have any questions or need a hard copy of the nomination form mailed to you.

*Nominate A
Local Teacher
today!*



American Legion Baseball: \$500 Scholarship and How to Start a Team

The American Legion Baseball Program is the largest, oldest, and most respected youth baseball program in the United States. Regularly scouted by colleges and professional teams, over half of today's Major League players are graduates of the Legion Baseball Program, with 82 being members of the MLB Hall of Fame. Legion Baseball is also well-grounded in essential values instead of athletic ability alone. The emphasis is on teamwork, loyalty, respect, personal growth/maturity, Americanism, and community strength through service/volunteerism. Although not all-inclusive, the following is a general guide for those wishing to form a new American Legion Baseball team within Michigan.

Tips For Starting a Team:

- All teams should have the objective of winning the World Series. The competition and teamwork to achieve this goal are what build character.
- Decide Upon a Team Name and a Division of Competition (Senior or Junior, Class A or Class AA)
- Recruit players committed to playing on your Legion team who share the objective of winning the World Series.
- Seven-inning games are played in the 8 team double elimination championship tournaments at the national level. Therefore, the team must have a deep pitching staff to win the Regional and World Series games.
- Make Arrangements for a Home Field; Plan Player Registration and tryouts; Schedule Games and enter Tournaments. Try to have a maximum of 18 players on your team to increase the number of youths we support through this great program. If a team has less than 12 players available to play during the playoffs, the team will be disqualified from further play.
- Try to maximize the number of games played by your team. There is no reason why a Legion baseball team can't play in another league; however, once the Legion playoffs begin, the Legion team must be committed to playing in the Legion playoffs.
- It doesn't have to cost the Post anything to sponsor a Legion baseball team. However, it is traditional that the sponsoring Post pays for the team registration fee and insurance.
- Line Up Your Coaching staff. Work with your coach to establish a budget and develop a plan to raise money to fund the team's expenses. It is permissible for the players to contribute financially to the program.
- Baseball has many rules. Integrity in the program is maintained by strictly and fairly enforcing the rules. Therefore, read and know the rules. The National Rule Book and Department (State) Rule Book will be available online after January
- Start early. Start now. Please pay attention to the timeline/deadline information outlined on our website in January. If you have any questions, ask your local Baseball Chairman.
- Register Your Team via the National Registration System at www.legion.baseball.org

Scholarships for Baseball:

\$500 Turner Scholarship (Due July 1, 2024): Application available on michiganlegion.org/baseball

The Turner scholarship is available only to Michigan residents who have graduated from high school, are on a 2024 American Legion Baseball Team roster filed with the National Headquarters, and are planning to attend any nationally accredited college or university. The scholarship award amount is \$500. The winner will be presented with a plaque from the Turner family at the State Baseball Tournament.

National's Diamond Baseball \$2,500 Scholarship (Due July 15, 2024): Application available at legion.org/scholarships/baseball.

Department Baseball Scholarship Winners receive \$500. Each certified Department Baseball scholarship winner shall be considered for The American Legion All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports annually. Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive an additional \$2,500. A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding member of the All-Academic Team, will be awarded an additional \$5,000 scholarship.

The Class AA State Tournament will be July 24-28th in Midland, MI.

The Class A State Tournament will be July 24-28th in Marquette, MI.

More information can be found at michiganlegion.org/baseball



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 23-29, 2024

Where: Grand Valley State University- Allendale, MI

Eligibility: Male high school juniors going into their senior year in the fall of 2024

Application Deadline: May 1, 2024

Cost: \$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.



The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, Girls State Committee, proudly announces their 83rd ALA Girls State program, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship and leadership, that will be held on the campus of Michigan State University June 23 to June 29, 2024.

Who can attend?

This weeklong event is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for female high school students who have completed their junior year in high school and have at least one more semester remaining before graduation.

What is it about?

Michigan ALA Girls State provides participants with a firsthand experience and insight into how their state government and judicial system works. The delegates are a diverse group with a shared desire to learn and lead. ALA MI Girls State “citizens” come together from small towns, big cities, and rural areas to learn how to run their own state...”ALA MI Girls State”! The citizen’s varied backgrounds set the stage for a week of spirited, experiential learning. The citizens connect with their peers from across the state, allowing a unique opportunity to spend time with others who share common interests and those who have different perspectives from their own experiences. They leave our program with a deeper understanding of government, a renewed sense of patriotism, and an appreciation for our veterans.

How can I apply?

You can visit our webpage at www.michalaux.org, click on [ALA Girls State](#) from the menu where you will find the links below. In addition to the links, you can watch a short video about ALA Girls State and TAL Boys State and look over other informative documents to learn more about our program.

Link to online delegate application: <https://alamigs.wufoo.com/forms/wug6j4m1cpnfv8/>

Link to download the Word version of the delegate application: [2024 Delegate Application](#)

Questions?



Contact one of our ALA MI Girls State Chairmen:

Beryl Robbins – berylrobbins1980@gmail.com – (313) 318-6845

Rysta Brown – rystab@hotmail.com – (989) 254-7252

AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FUND

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) was created in 1954 to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through the dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth.

CWF's primary source of revenue is members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Eight and Forty. It also receives support from all levels of the organization – local, state, and national. To provide an incentive for giving on an annual basis, CWF has the Cornerstone Gift Club, which offers awards to individuals for cumulative donations made during the current contribution year (June 1-May 31):

- Cumulative donations Award Century Club \$100 Gold pin with amethyst
- Foundation Partner \$250 Gold pin with blue sapphire
- President's Circle \$500 Gold pin with one diamond
- Foundation Ambassadors \$1,000 Gold pin with five diamonds

The "Children First" Gift Club recognizes posts for their cumulative donations:

- Caretaker \$500 Bronze plaque
- Advocate \$750 Silver plaque
- Guardian \$1,000 Gold plaque

Contributions:

- All contributions are tax-deductible.
- Every check or money order (\$5 or more) received is acknowledged by an official receipt, which should be held for tax purposes.
- All contributions go directly into CWF. All overhead expenses are covered by separate funding.
- All cash contributions are acknowledged regardless of the amount. Do not send cash by mail.
- Contributions can be made directly to CWF. They do not have to go through department headquarters.
- Accurate records are kept of states, organizations, and individuals sending in contributions. Correspondence is kept on file for one year, but computer records are maintained.
- The department gets credit for the post's support of CWF's national report to Congress.

Suggestions:

- When a post or unit member passes away, suggest contributions be sent to CWF in their memory.
- Make CWF a regular part of annual post activities by conducting a fundraiser.
- Mention CWF at post and unit meetings to make others aware of what it is and how it helps children. Start a collection of plaques to display in the post home.

More information can be found at www.cwf-inc.org

Program Dates for 2024:

April 2024

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 1st- Teacher of the Year submission deadline

May 2024

May 1st- Boys State Application submission deadline

May 10th- Student Trooper Application submission deadline

May 15th- Baseball insurance purchase deadline

May 17th-19th- National Oratorical Contest at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MI

June 2024

June 1st- Final day for Baseball teams to register

June 9th-14th- Student Trooper Program

June 23rd-29th - Boys State program at GVSU

July 2024

July 1st- Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship submission deadline

July 15th- Diamond Baseball Scholarship deadline

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

July 24-28 Class AA Baseball State Tournament in Midland, MI

July 24-28- Class A Baseball State Tournament in Marquette, MI

Department Program Mailings Via USPS and Email

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

March-

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

April-

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.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
2023-2024 PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS MATERIALS

BROCHURES/FLYERS: (200 Maximum each*)

- ☐ Boys State Brochure _____ Quantity
☐ Boys State Flyers (2 versions) _____ Quantity
☐ Student Trooper Flyer _____ Quantity
☐ Student Trooper Brochure _____ Quantity
☐ Baseball Booklet* _____ Quantity
☐ Oratorical Brochure _____ Quantity
☐ Jr. Shooting Sports _____ Quantity
☐ Scouting _____ Quantity
☐ Programs Brochure _____ Quantity

**Baseball booklet is limited to 1-10 copies, no exceptions*

APPLICATIONS: (No Limit-but be realistic)

- ☐ Boys State _____ Quantity
☐ Student Trooper _____ Quantity
☐ Brewer and Wilson Scholarship _____ Quantity
☐ Firefighter of the Year _____ Quantity
☐ Law Officer of the Year _____ Quantity
☐ Teacher of the Year _____ Quantity
☐ Eagle Scout of the Year _____ Quantity
☐ Turner Baseball Scholarship (Dept) _____ Quantity
☐ Diamond Baseball Scholarship (National) _____ Quantity

Please select one of the following options. (If you select the Email option you only need to fill out the name, Post/SAL #, and Email address section):

☐ Mail Supplies

☐ Email PDF Copies

Name (Required): _____ Post/SAL # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Email Address: _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Michigan American Legion
Attn: Programs Coordinator
212 N. Verlinden Ave. Ste. A
Lansing, MI 48915

*Please note that the Oratorical Applications are available to submit online at www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical.
Contact Ashley if you require assistance, 517-220-2754.*