

GOOD OF THE LEGION

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

New! Michigan American Legion Skilled Trades Scholarship

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

FEBRUARY 2024

Newsletter Highlights

**New! Skilled Trades
Scholarship**

**Law and Firefighter of
the Year Winners**

**Teacher of the Year
Nominations**

**Eagle Scout
Nominations**

**Student Trooper and
Boys/Girls State**

**Program Spotlight:
School Award Program**

2024 Program Dates

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

Department Firefighter of the Year Winner



Assistant Chief Michael Defina
of
Ahmeek Village Volunteer Rescue
and Fire Department
Ahmeek, MI

Nominated by
American Legion Post 61

Department Law Officer of the Year Winner



Sgt. Donovan Ennis
Of the
City of St. Clair Police Department
St. Clair, MI

Nominated by
American Legion Post 449

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, 2024

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.

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.

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

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 23-28, 2024

Application Deadline: May 10, 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



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 SCHOOL AWARD MEDAL PROGRAM



The medals were first awarded in 1922 for boys in Pennsylvania, and in 1925 for girls. The initial categories, or points, that boys were judged on were courage, scholarship, service, honor, and leadership; girls were judged on courage, scholarship, service, character, and companionship.

The School Award program became an official Legion youth activity in 1927. Today, the points boys and girls are judged on are the same: courage, scholarship, service, honor, leadership, and patriotism. The current medal design, introduced in 1973, can be seen above.

BASIC PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

- 1) A committee appointed by a post commander should establish contact and build rapport with local schools.
- 2) Establish a series of talks with students and faculty to highlight the six qualities. Legionnaires should deliver these talks at the student's level of understanding.
- 3) Selection criteria and methods should be decided well in advance of actual elections. Voting should be by secret ballot of the students and faculty with the post committee making the final selection.
- 4) The entire school community should be aware of and understand the program. Suitable, local publicity should be arranged to accommodate this. The sole purpose of the program is to promote wholesome ideas in active citizenship among youth. No trace of politics, sectarianism, or favoritism should be attached to the program.
- 5) The medal presentation ceremony should take place in conjunction with a school's award or commencement ceremonies. A school-approved speaker from within The American Legion should speak on behalf of the award and lead that portion of the ceremony. Local veterans involved with the program should be enlisted to present the award.

OBJECTIVES

- I. Emphasizes the development of the six core qualities of active citizenship.
- II. Encourages the development of those ideals in young Americans to promote engaged citizenship.
- III. Offers recognition for those youth deemed most dedicated to the high qualities of citizenship and true Americanism.

QUALITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

COURAGE: Bravery in the face of opposition and danger; determination and force to do right without public applause regardless of personal advantage. A quality of the intellect.

PATRIOTISM An ideal of loyal Americanism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, and the willingness to defend the U.S. Constitution against all enemies—foreign and domestic. Perhaps best defined in the American's Creed.

HONOR: Highly developed moral character; moral excellence; strength and stability of character; high standards of conduct; devotion to duty; adherence to truth; a keen sense of what is right; the practice of healthy speech and thoughts.

SCHOLARSHIP: Attainments in school studies, quality of school work reflecting the fine traits of industry, perseverance, efficiency, and intelligence.

LEADERSHIP: Ability to lead and to accomplish through group action; ability to work in harmony and in unison with other leaders in accomplishing group results; desire and ability to fill the voids in the lives of others caused by timidity, illness, or other handicaps.

SERVICE: Kindness; unselfishness; fellowship; protection of the weak; promotion of the interests and the welfare of associates; and constructive aid for the promotion of education and community

The American Legion National Headquarters offers extended guidance about forming and operating an American Legion School Award Medal program by contacting legioned@legion.org.

Tentative Program Dates for 2024:

February 2024

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

February 4th- Zone Oratorical Contests deadline.

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

March 2024

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

*March 2nd -*Oratorical State Contest at location the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing.

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 23rd – 28th- 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.

February –

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-

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.*