

GOOD OF THE LEGION

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



The Michigan American Legion offers a number of scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including descendants of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs.

[American Legion High School Oratorical Contest: Scholarships up to \\$25,000](#)

The American Legion Oratorical Contest presents students with an academic speaking challenge that fosters essential leadership qualities, teaches the history of our nation's laws, and helps students develop the ability to think and speak clearly. It promotes an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American Citizenship. Winners at the zone and state levels receive scholarships. At the state level, the first-place winner receives a \$2,000 scholarship and advances to compete nationally for a chance to win a scholarship of up to \$25,000.

Zone contest prizes:

1st place winner receives \$500.00, plus they go on to the State Finals.

2nd place (runner-up) receives \$200.00 and may get a chance to go to State finals if the Zone winner can't attend State Finals.

Department Contest Prizes:

1st place winner receives \$2,000.00, plus they go on to the National Contest in Hillsdale, MI.

2nd place receives \$1,500.00 and a chance to attend the National finals if the state winner can't attend.

3rd, 4th, and 5th receive \$1,000.00 each.

National Contest Prizes:

1st place winner receives \$25,000.

2nd place winner receives \$22,500

3rd place winner receives \$20,000

First-round participants in the National Contest receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Second-round participants that do not advance to the final round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship.

Registration Deadline: December 9, 2024 (must be completed online at www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical)

District Contest Deadline: January 20, 2025

Zone Contest Deadline: February 10, 2025

(District and Zone contest dates will be listed on the oratorical website as they are submitted)

Department Contest: March 15, 2025, at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, MI.

National Contest Date: May 16-18, 2025 at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MI

Information on the 2024 - 2025 program was provided to all high schools and District Commanders in September. Posts are encouraged to visit schools to assist in obtaining contestants for the contest. All promotional materials can be located at www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical.

NOVEMBER 2024

Newsletter Highlights

Oratorical Contest and Scholarships

Winter Meeting Registration Form

National Commander Banquet Form

Project Spotlight:
Commander Cooper's Special Project Order Form

Program Dates

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

Brewer and Wilson Scholarships: Application deadline is January 6, 2025

The American Legion Department of Michigan offers two stand-alone scholarships for descendants of veterans. The William D. & Jewell Brewer \$500 scholarship is for high school seniors and college students (with no degree) who plan on attending any nationally accredited college/university/trade school. The Guy M. Wilson \$1,000 scholarship is for high school seniors only who plan on attending a Michigan-accredited college/university/trade school. Both require the applicant to be a Michigan resident, a descendant of a war-time-era veteran, and have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA. For a complete list of requirements or to download an application visit www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships.

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. The 2024-2025 application is located at www.michiganlegion.org/trade-scholarship.

Junior Shooting Sports Program: Registration Closes December 14, 2024

This is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that provides the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, and competition. Participants may be of either gender, ages 14 through 20. Handicapped youth are encouraged to participate. To register for the 2024-25 American Legion 3-Position Junior Air Rifle Championship, visit <https://register.legion.org/jssp-club-registration> before December 14. Contact our Department JSSP Chairman, Fred Youngs (sarge2630@yahoo.com), if your post is interested in pursuing this program.

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.

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the department convention. The competition winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship and advances to the national competition. The National American Legion annually honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the national convention. The competition winner receives a \$10,000 scholarship, and the three runners-up are each awarded \$2,500 scholarships.

The Eagle Scout of the Year application and eligibility requirements are at www.michiganlegion.org/scouting.

Applications are due March 1, 2025

Law and Firefighter Of The Year Awards: Nomination Deadline is January 10, 2025

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 10, 2025, and evaluated by our Law and Order Chairperson. The firefighter and law officer chosen by the chairperson will be invited to the 2025 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 sent to legion@michiganlegion.org or call 517-220-2754.

\$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 that fits the criteria to be nominated for this award. Nomination forms are available on our website and are **due by April 7, 2025**.

Contact the Programs Coordinator, legion@michiganlegion.org, if you have any questions or need a hard copy of the nomination form mailed to you.

The American Legion Department of Michigan Winter Meeting 2025



February 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2025

BlueWater Convention Center,
800 Harker St., Port Huron, MI

On the Water - Below the BlueWater Bridge
Hosted by the Genesee County Convention Corp

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The American Legion requires each person attending register with the corporation and be issued proper credentials to attend any meeting, session, or event in connection with the Conference.

Registration fee is \$25.00 per person.

(Please print legibly so we can correctly spell your name on your conference badge.)

Name _____ Leg Aux Sons ALR Location (# & city) _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

email address: _____ phone: _____

Additional registrants covered under same payment:

Name: _____ Leg Aux Sons ALR Location (# & city) _____

Name: _____ Leg Aux Sons ALR Location (# & city) _____

Name: _____ Leg Aux Sons ALR Location (# & city) _____

Total registrations _____ times (x) \$25.00 per person = \$ _____

Please make your check payable to: **GENESEE COUNTY CONVENTION CORP**

and mail with this form to: **AMERICAN LEGION GCCC, P. O. Box 441, Linden, MI 48451**

Confirmation of registration being received will be emailed back by diane7171@yahoo.com

Contact: with any questions. Tim Hill at <text> or call 810-444-8644 timothy_w_hill@yahoo.com

Room reservations at hotels are your responsibility and should be made directly with them.

Reserve your room early - Limited number of hotel rooms are available at discounted rates.

Reservations will be made directly with the hotels at:

**Host Hotel attached to
Convention Center**
DoubleTree by Hilton
800 Harker St.
Port Huron

810-984-8000
Or Hotel Website

\$139 Plus 11% tax
Reference Code GEN
Price is only reserved until
1/5/2025 or sold out

Approx 2.2 miles from
Convention Center
Hampton Inn by Hilton
1655 Yeager St.
Port Huron

810-966-9000
Or Hotel Website

\$119 Plus 11% tax
Reference Code ALD
Includes free breakfast
Price is only reserved until
1/6/2025 or sold out

Approx 2.2 miles from
Convention Center
Holiday Inn Express
2021 Water St.
Port Huron

810-662-3400
Or Hotel Website

\$136 to \$176 Plus 11% tax
Reference Code ALW
Includes free breakfast
Price is only reserved until
12/3/2024 or sold out



Convention Center



Downtown Port Huron Area



**2025 NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET
RESERVATION FORM**

Friday, February 7, 2025

DoubleTree Hilton Port Huron 800 Harker Street

Cash Bar & Social: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Please select type of dinner and quantity of each:

BEEF	x # of dinners	_____	x \$45	=	\$ _____
CHICKEN	x # of dinners	_____	x \$45	=	\$ _____
FISH	x # of dinners	_____	x \$45	=	\$ _____

*** No Veggie Option this year ***

TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable and send to: The American Legion, Department of Michigan
212 N Verlinden Ave, Lansing, MI 48915 Attn: Kim

Paypal link available at www.michiganlegion.org/banquet/

Credit Card: _____ Exp _____ CVV _____

Questions: Contact Kim at kim@michiganlegion.org or 517.220.2753

Deadline for reservations is Monday, January 13, 2025. No refunds after this date

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.

2024-2025 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



Tentative Program Dates for the 2024-2025 Year:

December 2024

December 9th- Oratorical Registrations deadline

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

January 2025

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

January 6th- Brewer/Wilson Scholarship submission deadline.

January 10th- Law Officer of the Year submission deadline

January 10th- Firefighter of the Year submission deadline

January 20th- District Oratorical Contests deadline

February 2025

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 10th- Zone Oratorical Contests deadline.

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

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