

# American Legion Programs

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION **FAMILY**



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  - Children and Youth
  - Veterans Employment & Education
  - Foreign Relations
  - Legislation
  - National Security
  - Media & Communications
  - Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

# Programs

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  - Internal Affairs
  - Membership
  - Media & Communications
  - Sons of the American Legion
  - Legion Riders

# Legion Program

## Americanism

- To inspire patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observances, patriotic and civic instruction in schools, Americanization of aliens, information on anti-American propaganda, youth activities such as Boys State, Scouts, Oratorical Contest, School Award Medals, baseball, flag etiquette, and other similar community services.

# Boy Scouts



## Boy Scouts

- The American Legion's support for Boy Scouts of America began at the Legion's first national convention in 1919.
- Today, Legion posts sponsor more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country.
- The 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.
- American Legion members that are Scout Masters are eligible for the Square Knot award in recognition of their efforts in working with our youth.

## Boys State



# Boys State

- American Legion Boys State is among the most respected educational programs of government instruction for high school students. Each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.
- At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices.

# Boys State

- Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.
- High school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program.

# Oratorical



# Oratorical

- The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students.
- The program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

# Oratorical

- Over \$203,500 in scholarships can be awarded each year.
  - The overall national contest winner gets an \$25,000 scholarship.
  - Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000.
  - Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship.
  - Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship.
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- Department level scholarship awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,000, with Zone winners receiving \$500 and Zone runners-up receiving \$200.

# Oratorical

- A contestant must register with their American Legion, Department of Michigan by December 9, 2024(see registration form attached to information sheet). Your Zone Chairman will notify you of the dates, times and locations of all contests at the District and Zone level. All District contests will be conducted in January and Zone Contests will be conducted in February. The Department contest will be conducted in March 15, 2025. Nationals are in May 16-18, 2025.
- The event will take place at The Michigan Historical Museum, on Saturday, March 15, 2025

# American Legion Baseball



# American Legion Baseball

- American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues.
- Today, the program registers over 5,400 teams in all 50 states, including Canada and Puerto Rico. Almost 100,000 youths, ages 13 to 19, participate annually.
- Since its inception, the league has had 10 million players, and nearly 75 percent of current college players are program graduates.

# American Legion Baseball

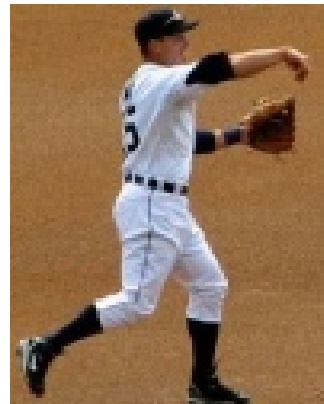
- Legion Baseball also has a reputation for serving the young people who play for it. In college scholarships, the league annually awards a total of \$25,500 - \$500 for a player selected from each department based upon leadership, character, scholarship and financial need.
- Recently, the Legion passed a resolution allowing corporate sponsorship, in the hope of creating more financial aid for college.

## American Legion Baseball Alumni

**Trammell**



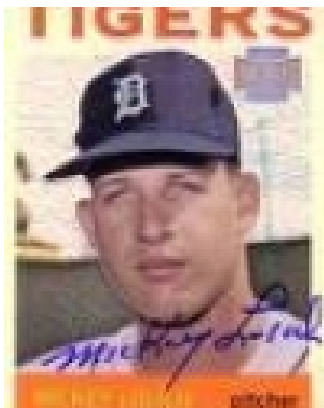
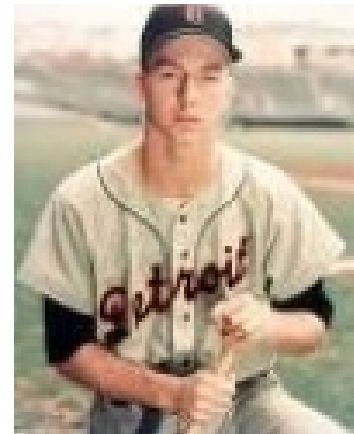
**Inge**



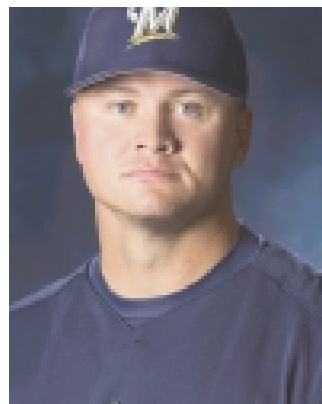
**Verlander**



**Kaline**



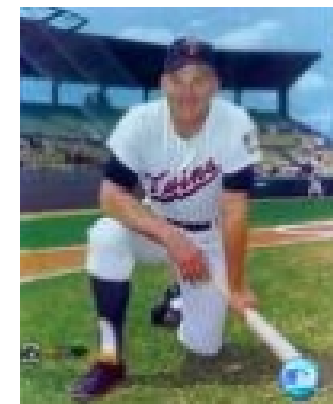
**Lolich**



**Helling**



**Steinbach**



**Killebrew**

## Junior Shooting Sports

- The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females can participate, through Legion sponsorship; disabled youth are encouraged to join, as competitive shooting is a sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors. Contact your local Legion post, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Auxiliary unit for information about affiliating as a club or individual.

# Junior Shooting Sports

- Junior Shooting Sports is a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards and Air Rifle Competition into a well-rounded activity.
- The American Legion 3-Position Junior Rifle Championship, held each year, awards the winners of the Precision and Sporter Categories a \$5,000 scholarship each. Second place finishers receive a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the American Legion Auxiliary.

## First Responder Awards

- The American Legion Department of Michigan presents an award for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the year and EMT of the year at the Department Convention in June.
- Post can submit candidates for the award to Department headquarters.

# Teacher of the Year

- The American Legion Department of Michigan awards a Teacher of the Year award to one teacher in each Zone of the Department at the Department Convention.
- Post can submit candidates for the award to Department headquarters.

# Legion Program Children & Youth

- To insure that any child of a veteran in need of care and protection shall receive proper and timely service and aid; to strengthen the family unit; extend support to sound organizations and facilities that provide services for children and youth; and to maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of the young people in their respective community.

# Temporary Financial Assistance

- Through grants, TFA keeps children of deceased or disabled veterans at home rather than in institutions. This cash aid is still available for cases not covered by subsequent state and federal programs for the needy.
- Local posts can request cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veterans' children. The fund helps families meet the costs of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses when parents are unable, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable home environment.

# American Legion Legacy Scholarship

- The American Legion wants to ensure higher education is a possibility for children whose parents have been killed while serving our country. It is a civic duty to provide them with equal opportunity. The Legion offers its support through the Legacy Scholarship Fund.
- In 2024 a total of 506 scholarship were awarded with approximately \$1,645,558 scholarship funds distributed.
- Since the inception over \$7,892,400 in funds has been awarded.

# American Legion Legacy Scholarship

- There has been a significant shortfall in government money allotted to children with parents lost in war. The government gives these children a college education stipend worth slightly more than \$37,000. Taking into account living expenses, textbooks and rising tuitions, this benefit covers only a little more than half of college costs in the most affordable situation.
- The most conservative estimates predict a 5-percent annual increase, meaning that in 16 years the most affordable college education will be \$132,800.

## American Legion Legacy Scholarship

- Clearly, money provided by law will not cover college costs for these children, let alone the projected increase in costs.
- The American Legion American Legacy Scholarship Fund helps bridge the gap of growing college costs and provide for those who deserve it most.
- The Legion Riders have been the premier sponsor of this program having raised over \$1 million dollars on the Legacy Scholarship run leading up to the National Convention.

# Legion Program

## Veterans Employment & Education

- To serve and assist veterans in meeting and overcoming economic problems such as employment, veterans preference, housing, civil service appeals, employment of handicapped and older workers.

# Emblem Sales

- The primary purpose of the Emblem Sales Division is to supply Legionnaires and Posts with official American Legion merchandise, while preventing commercialization and misuse of the emblem.

# Legion Program Foreign Relations

- The purpose of the program is to influence our government's foreign policy to be in accord with the Legion's membership beliefs – to promote and protect the national interests of the United States.

# Legion Program Legislation

- To promote the official legislative mandates of The American Legion; disseminate monthly legislative updates; establish, maintain and promote proactive grassroots lobbying activities; and establish and maintain liaison with elected officials and their staff. All activities must be in compliance with Section 2, Article II of the Constitution of The American Legion:  
*“The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.”*

# Legion Program National Security

- To organize the post membership in support of national or civilian defense projects in the community, state and nation; to organize the post and to assist in organizing the community for readiness to meet any emergency.

# Legion Program

## VA & R

To assist veterans in obtaining needed hospitalization, in the pursuance of claims and in obtaining other veteran's rights and benefits; to visit comrades who are sick or disabled; to visit and comfort members of their families when sick or bereaved.

The head of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee may be the post service officer or the post veterans affairs and rehabilitation chair. In addition, the post chaplain may serve as chair of the Visiting Committee.

# Legion Program

## Sons of the American Legion

- To act as a supervisory committee for the Sons of The American Legion Squadron in connection with its organization, activities, recreational and educational programs.

# American Legion Riders

- Began in 1994 at Post 396 in Garden City, Michigan
- Became National Program by Resolution 35 in 2007
- All members of The American Legion Riders must be current members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion
- Each ALR member must own a motorcycle and be properly licensed and insured as required by state law, or be the spouse or child of a member that owns a motorcycle, and who rides regularly with that member

- M E M O R A N D U M
- TO: Department Adjutants & Department Judge Advocates
- DATE: 8/13/2024
- **Four Rules of an American Legion Program**
- Whether a program is chartered by a post, department or national, it is incumbent on The American Legion that we control the actions of that program to best meet the needs of our organization, provide oversight and protect the brand. Therefore, when a body sets up a program, whether it's a Sons of The American Legion squadron or an American Legion Riders chapter, the program itself must be answerable to the body which chartered it.

- **Rule #1** – “*Leadership*” – All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization after each selection, or as needed.
- **Rule #2** – “*Rules*” – All bylaws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and approval prior to use.
- **Rule #3** – “*Reports*” – The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities reports; (b) quarterly financial reports; (c) an annual financial statement; and (d) any additional report(s) requested by the parent organization.
- **Rule #4** – “*Controls*” – The parent organization may provide the program with the employer identification number (EIN) and the tax-exemption status with the necessary financial controls over their usage. All program financial accounts must have a minimum of two (2) parental signatories appointed by the parent organization.

- “*Parent Organization*” denotes an American Legion organization level as it relates to the program at the post, district, department and/or the national organization.
- This will alleviate confusion and problems that sometimes occur when a program initiated in good faith by a parent organization gradually falls out of favor and begins to act as an independent body without answering to the parent affiliate. Any programs that use the name “American Legion” must follow these four rules so that national does not have to enforce intellectual property rights against a subsidiary organization using our name.
- Mark C. Seavey, J.D.
- National Judge Advocate

# Department of Michigan Programs

- Student Trooper
- Reconnect
- Wilwin Lodge at Cygent Cove

# Student Trooper

- The program is held at the [Michigan State Police Training Academy](#) on Canal Road , Lansing .
- In partnership with the Michigan State Police, this program will teach young men and women about a career in law enforcement. If a student is interested about a career in law enforcement or is not sure, they should attend this program.
- Scholarships ranging from \$500-\$1,000 are awarded to 4 participants.

## Student Trooper

- They learn:
- Proper handling of firearms
- Self-defense techniques
- Water safety
- Classes on crime lab and forensics
- Intense physical training
- and other aspects of a law enforcement career

## Student Trooper

- For high school students entering 10th, 11th and 12 grade males and females, age 16 to 18, in good physical condition with an interest in law enforcement.

# Reconnect

Our Reconnect Programs Include:

- Reintegration Assistance: (Yellow Ribbon Workshop Support; VA Claims Assistance; Employment; Educational; General Quality of Life)
- Temporary Financial Assistance: (Utility Shut Off; Eviction Protection; Medical Expenses, etc...)

# Reconnect

- Wounded and Returning Warrior Program: (Family Retreats; Group PTSD Retreats; Community Awareness Presentations; Adaptive Sports; Home Modifications)

## Wilwin Lodge @ Cygnet Cove

- Wilwin at Cygnet Cove sits on 1183 acres of land in a peaceful area approximately 4 miles south of the peaceful community of Custer, Mason County, Michigan. Continuing our mission as a veterans facility, Wilwin at Cygnet Cove is a place for hope and healing; recovery and renewal; education and inspiration; sharing and support.

## Wilwin @ Cygnet Cove

- The main house is currently used as our handicapped veteran's residence that can house 8 - 12 people. It is a four bedroom, wheel chair accessible building with a wrap-around porch on the south and west sides of the building; the south side overlooking the lake.
- Cygnet Cove has a 67 acre private lake (Lake Woodruff), with boat house and dock. Recreational programs now include swimming, canoeing, boating or fishing the lake on a pontoon boat, or relaxing near the lake.

## Wilwin @ Cygent Cove

- There are well over 15 miles of recreational trails for hiking, golf carting, and bicycling. The back acreage of the lake is home to migrating birds. There is a walkway to a lookout site within the marsh. The marsh is also the headwaters to the Pentwater River. There is also acreage that will remain a milkweed preserve that is home to thousands of migrating Monarch butterflies each fall.

# Michigan Legion Foundation

- The Michigan Legion Foundation is a 501(c)3 and can accept donations as a not for profit that are tax deductible.
- Wilwin Lodge, Reconnect, Boys State and Student Trooper are all part of the foundation and donations can be earmarked for a specific program.

# Other

- The American Legion Department of Michigan also has Wilson and Brewer Scholarships, a blood donor club and awards, Leadership College classes, a Hero's to Hometown program and a Homeless Veterans Task Force.