

# 2023-24 Education and Scholarship Program

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*The purpose of the Education Committee is to promote quality education for children—especially for military children—and adults. Standing Rule #6, Mission Outreach Programs.*

- To promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults
- To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms
- To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education
- To Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities
- To support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion

The American Legion Auxiliary has four<sup>1</sup> national scholarships that are awarded each year:

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship—15 \$5,000 scholarships
- **Spirit of Youth Scholarship—NEW FOR 2023-24:** State/Department: National Headquarters will award each state/department winner a \$1,000 scholarship (47 scholarships total). National: From the potential 52 state/department scholarship winners, the national Education Committee will select 5 winners (1 per division) for a \$5,000 scholarship based on a scoring rubric.
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship—5 \$2,000 scholarships
- Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship —10 \$2,500 scholarships

Units and Districts have two roles. The first is to make the public, and especially our Juniors, aware that scholarships are available and that eligible people can apply. The second role is for Units and Departments to evaluate applications to move one candidate on to the next level, so an overall winner may be chosen.

The Spirit of Youth and Non-Traditional scholarship applications are both online. Applications will be received at ALA National Headquarters then routed to the appropriate department (state) for the first round of judging.

Do not forget to check and verify if the applicant is a member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary if the application is for the Spirit of Youth scholarship. For the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, an applicant can be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion.

***ALL Student Applications for National scholarships, with supporting documents, are due online on or before March 1, 2024 by 11:59p.m. EST***

## ***National President Lisa's Project***

Spirit of Youth Scholarships will total 67 with the amount awarded of \$100,000. An easy way for Members to donate: text "Lisa" to 1-844-940-3460.

## ***Veterans in Community Schools:***

Veterans in Community Schools is an activity endorsed by The American Legion that brings history to life by connecting military veterans with students in classrooms or at school assemblies in conjunction with history lessons about World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War or Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ever-decreasing numbers of healthy veterans from World War II points to the fleeting nature of the opportunity to pass on these important lessons.

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Veterans are important pieces of American history. The American Legion Family believes accounts of their experiences while in uniform and as a result of their military service should be preserved and shared with others. Veterans have witnessed monumental events in history. They can help students learn from and appreciate the sacrifices individuals and their families have made.


In addition to sharing their experiences, veterans may also discuss a wide range of topics including how to help a family who has a deployed military service member, how to show support for the troops, proper respect for the flag, or why The American Legion Family was formed and what it stands for. Also, veterans' sharing of their military experience with an appreciative audience can help them heal psychological wounds from combat, deployment or family separation. Veterans who have spoken to students generally describe the experience as a rewarding and personally satisfying experience.

## Promote ALA and Report Your Impact:

The ALA encourages members to identify themselves as such. When interacting with teachers, parents and veterans, however, it is important that members not push ALA membership aggressively, as that is not the primary purpose of this activity. Please, do feel free to wear ALA apparel and mention why you value association with The American Legion Family. Please also be sure to report your volunteer activities and hours to your unit's Education or VA&R committee chairman.

**Important Dates:**  
**March 1: National scholarship applications due**  
**March 1: Unit Reports due to Dist. Chairman**  
April 1: Dist. Reports Due to Debbie Carr  
April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children  
May 6-10, 2024: Teacher Appreciation Week

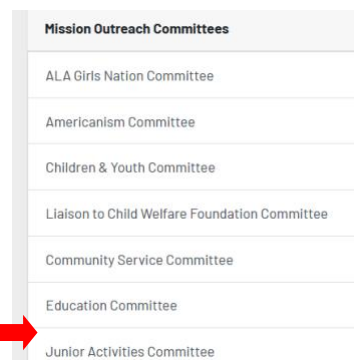
*Many valuable resources are readily available and easy to find on the National website:*

www. legion-aux.org  "Featured Section" for Students OR, for you, "Member Log In"

Scroll down & click "Committee"



Click on "Education"



There you will find any resource you might need: scholarship Applications, judging sheets and guidelines, how to organize Veterans in Schools events, Legion scholarships, Education Program Awards (Hint: I would be honored and delighted if YOUR UNIT were to win!), and more – MUCH more!

*Please don't hesitate to reach out and ask questions. If I know, I'll share!  
If I don't know, I will find out & get back to you!*