



The American Legion offers a wide array of scholarships on the local, state and national levels. Requirements and application guidelines differ for each scholarship. I would like to quickly highlight four of these scholarship opportunities.

Oratorical contest: This scholarship is offered at the national level. Scholarships are awarded to the three finalists. First place receives \$18,000, second gets \$16,000 and third takes \$14,000. Scholarships can be used at any college or university in the United States. Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

Eagle Scout of the Year: The American Legion offers a \$10,000 dollar scholarship to the Eagle Scout of the Year at the National Convention. The three runners-up receive a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. This scholarship is specifically for those Boy Scouts who have reached the Eagle Scout level.

Americanism and Government Test: This scholarship is offered at the state level. Students will take an Americanism and Government test. The test will determine a student's level of expertise on subjects such as U.S. Government, citizenship, the U.S. Constitution and flag etiquette. The test is now offered in an online format and can be taken/completed during the 12 day testing window in April. This opportunity is offered to students in grades 10-12. Students must be enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home-school program within the state. Thirty-two scholarships are awarded, 10 \$250 scholarships to both sophomores and juniors, and 12 \$500 scholarships to seniors.

Samsung Scholarship: Scholarship recipients are restricted to high school juniors who have attended the American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and are a direct descendant i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild etc. or legally adopted child of a U.S. wartime military veteran who served on active duty during one of these conflicts:

- World War I - Apr. 6, 1917 - Nov. 11, 1918
- World War II - Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946
- Korean War - June 25, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955
- Vietnam War - Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
- Lebanon/Grenada - Aug. 24, 1982 - Jul. 31, 1984
- Panama - Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990
- Persian Gulf War - Aug. 2, 1990 - Until cessation of hostilities
- Includes Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, & War on Terrorism

Award amounts:

- Ten National Scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region)
- Ten National Runners-Up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region)
- Remaining Department Finalists receive \$1,250 each guaranteed