



# National Scholarship FAQs

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## **Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship**

15 - \$5,000 scholarships awarded to students across the country

1. Where can a student find the application?
  - Applications may be downloaded at [www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Children-of-Warriors-National-Presidents--Scholarship/](http://www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Children-of-Warriors-National-Presidents--Scholarship/)
2. When is the scholarship deadline?
  - March 1 is the final deadline. The local unit will judge the entries. Winners will then be passed on to the department (state) and eventually to the national chairman.
  - Winners will be announced in May via social media and on the national website [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).
  - Letters will be mailed in May to winners and their sponsoring units.
  - A list of winners will be emailed in May to department secretaries and education chairmen
3. Can anyone apply for the National Presidents' Scholarship?
  - Candidates for this award shall be daughters, sons, grandsons, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, great-grandsons (direct descendants) of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion, listed below.

WW I	April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
WW II	December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
Korean War	June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955
Vietnam War	February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
Lebanon and Grenada	August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
Panama	December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990
Desert Shield/Storm	August 2, 1990 to date
Gulf War/War on Terrorism	

- Membership in The American Legion or The Legion Family is not required.
- Applicants must be in their senior year of high school.
- Students younger than senior but taking college courses are not eligible.
- Homeschooled students may apply providing they are the equivalent of a high school senior.
- Students who have already graduated high school and/or are currently enrolled in college are not eligible.



4. Is community service required and how many hours?
  - 50 hours of volunteer service is required to be eligible for this scholarship.
  - Verification of the time served must be in writing from the recipient organization(s).
  - Hours served volunteering for the ALA and The Legion Family are acceptable.
    - For documentation purposes the Unit President or Post Commander should sign off on the hours by writing a letter.
  - Hours may be spread over the course of the applicant's high school career.
  - Hours may be from one organization or spread across several.
    - If spread across several, documentation must come from each organization.
    - The exception being if the various organizations were arranged through the applicant's school. Then a single letter from the applicant's school counselor listing all the organizations and hours will be sufficient.
  
5. Is a letter from a clergy person really required?
  - Yes. The applicant does not need to be a member of a church, however, nor is the clergy person restricted to one religion or another.
  - The letter can be from a clergy person by acquaintance, someone who can speak for the applicant's good moral, character.
  - If a letter from a clergy person is not included, the application should be deemed incomplete.
  - This question arises every year and the response has been that the requirements of Auxiliary scholarships were established by former national leaders and cannot be waived. Our mission statement and everything we stand for begins with our Preamble "For God and Country." Requiring a letter from a clergy person is a reasonable requirement.
  
8. My parents aren't comfortable making copies of our FAFSA due to privacy concerns. Are there other options?
  - You may include a copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) instead of the full FAFSA. The SAR is the email confirmation you get when you submit your FAFSA. You may also submit your FAFSA with your social security number blacked out. However when you print your FAFSA, those numbers should already be crossed out.



9. Where do applicants turn in their scholarship entry?
  - Scholarship entries are to be turned into your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit.
  - Students may contact their department (state) to locate a unit if needed.
  - Some departments may accept applications directly from the student. This varies by department.
  
10. What happens to the scholarship entry after it has been turned in?
  - Scholarship entries are judged at the unit where the entry is submitted. After it has been certified the winner at the unit level, it is then to be judged at the department level. If the entry is certified at the state, then the entry is judged and certified one last time at the division level. There will be three winners in each of the 5 divisions. These entries are certified the winners and receive the scholarship.
  
11. How is the scholarship judged?
  - Character/Leadership                      25%
  - Essay/Application                            25%
  - Financial Need                                25%
  - Academic Achievement                    25%
  
12. What is the amount awarded?
  - \$5,000, 3 per division, for a total of \$75,000 annually
  
13. How long does the student have to use the scholarship?
  - ALA NHQ must receive the Scholarship Certification Form within 12 months of notification (date on the winner's letter). The scholarship money must be used within 24 months of the winner receiving notification.
  
14. How does a winner claim their scholarship money?
  - a. A Scholarship Certification Form will be enclosed with the winner's notification form, which must be completed by the student and their school's registrar (or an equivalent position if no registrar is available).
  - b. Once completed, the Scholarship Certification Form should be returned to the Education Program Coordinator at NHQ.
  - c. Funds will then be released in the form of a check to the school.



15. Does the scholarship winner get the money or does the school?
- The check is paid to the school for tuition and/or room and board.
  - *A special exception was made for SOY scholarship for a student in the Air Force Academy, which has no tuition or room and board. A check was sent to the US Treasury on her behalf to offset her expenses (books, uniforms, etc.)*
16. Is the money paid out in one lump sum or installments?
- The Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship is paid in one lump sum, payable after NHQ receives the completed Scholarship Certification Form.
17. Is the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship renewable? Can a winner apply for it again?
- No, since one of the requirements is the applicant must be a senior in high school. A previous winner would no longer be in high school.



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## **Spirit of Youth Scholarship**

### 5 - \$5,000 scholarships awarded to ALA Junior members across the country

1. Where can a student find the application?
  - Applications may be downloaded at [www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Spirit-of-Youth-Scholarship-Fund](http://www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Spirit-of-Youth-Scholarship-Fund).
2. When is the scholarship deadline?
  - March 1 is the final deadline. The local unit will judge the entries. Winners will then be passed on to the department (state) and eventually to the national chairman.
  - Winners will be announced in May via social media and on the national website [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).
  - Letters will be mailed in May to winners and their sponsoring units.
  - A list of winners will be emailed in May to department secretaries and education chairmen
3. Who can apply for the Spirit of Youth Scholarship?
  - The Spirit of Youth (SOY) Scholarship is available to ALA Junior members who are in their senior year of high school.
  - They must have been an ALA member for three consecutive years, and have paid all of their dues (including the year in which a Junior is wanting to apply for a scholarship).
4. Is community service required to receive this scholarship?
  - No, there is no volunteer service required.
5. Is a letter from a clergy person really required?
  - Yes. The applicant does not need to be a member of a church, however, nor is the clergy person restricted to one religion or another.
  - The letter can be from a clergy person by acquaintance, someone who can speak for the applicant's good moral, character.
  - If a letter from a clergy person is not included, the application should be deemed incomplete.



- This question arises every year and the response has been that the requirements of Auxiliary scholarships were established by former national leaders and cannot be waived. Our mission statement and everything we stand for begins with our Preamble “For God and Country.” Requiring a letter from a clergy person is a reasonable requirement.
6. My parents aren’t comfortable making copies of our FAFSA due to privacy concerns. Are there other options?
- You may include a copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) instead of the full FAFSA. The SAR is the email confirmation you get when you submit your FAFSA. You may also submit your FAFSA with your social security number blacked out. However when you print your FAFSA, those numbers should already be crossed out.
7. Where do I turn my scholarship entry in?
- Scholarship entries are to be turned into your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit.
  - Students may contact their department (state) to locate a unit if needed.
8. What happens to the scholarship entry after it has been turned in?
- Scholarship entries are judged at the unit where the entry is submitted. After it has been certified the winner at the unit level, it is then to be judged at the department level. If the entry is certified at the state, then the entry is judged and certified one last time at the division level. There will be one overall winner in each of the five divisions. These entries are certified the winners and receive the scholarship.
9. How is the scholarship judged?
- Character/Leadership                      30%
  - Essay/Application                            30%
  - Academic Achievement                    40%
10. What is the amount awarded?
- \$5,000, one per division, for a total of \$25,000 annually.



11. How long does the student have to use the scholarship?

- ALA NHQ must receive the Scholarship Certification Form within 12 months of notification (date on the winner's letter). The scholarship money must be used within 6 years of the winner receiving notification.

12. How does a winner claim their scholarship money?

- a. A Scholarship Certification Form will be enclosed with the winner's notification form, which must be completed by the student and their school's registrar (or an equivalent position if no registrar is available).
- b. Once completed, the Scholarship Certification Form should be returned to the Education Program Coordinator at NHQ.
- c. Funds will then be released in the form of a check to the school.

13. Does the scholarship winner get the money or does the school?

- The check is paid to the school for tuition and/or room and board.
- *A special exception was made for SOY scholarship for a student in the Air Force Academy, which has no tuition or room and board. A check was sent to the US Treasury on her behalf to offset her expenses (books, uniforms, etc.)*

14. Is the money paid out in one lump sum or installments?

- The Spirit of Youth Scholarship is paid in two installments, payable after NHQ receives the completed Scholarship Certification Form.

15. Is the Spirit of Youth Scholarship renewable? Can a winner apply for it again?

- No, since one of the requirements is the applicant must be a senior in high school. A previous winner would no longer be in high school.





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## **Non-Traditional Student Scholarship**

### 5 - \$2,000 scholarships awarded to Legion Family members across the country

1. Where can a student find the application?
  - Applications may be downloaded at <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Non-Traditional-Student-Scholarship>.
2. When is the scholarship deadline?
  - March 1 is the final deadline. The local unit will judge the entries. Winners will then be passed on to the department (state) and eventually to the national chairman.
  - Winners will be announced in May via social media and on the national website [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).
  - Letters will be mailed in May to winners and their sponsoring units.
  - A list of winners will be emailed in May to department secretaries and education chairmen
3. Who can apply for the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship?
  - Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which application is made.
  - Applicants must also be a student returning to the classroom after some period of time in which his/her formal education was interrupted or a non-traditional student who is just beginning his/her education at a later point in life.
4. Do I have to be a full time undergraduate student?
  - No, part time students are eligible, as are other degree students such as masters or doctorate students.
5. I was a winner of the Spirit of Youth Scholarship. Am I eligible to apply for the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship?
  - No, SOY scholarship winners are not eligible to receive this scholarship.
6. Is community service required to receive this scholarship?
  - No, there is no volunteer service required.



7. I am not comfortable making copies of my FAFSA due to privacy concerns. Are there other options?
  - You may include a copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) instead of the full FAFSA. The SAR is the email confirmation you get when you submit your FAFSA. You may also submit your FAFSA with your social security number blacked out. However when you print your FAFSA, those numbers should already be crossed out.
  
8. Where do I turn my scholarship entry in?
  - Scholarship entries are to be turned into your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit.
  - Students may contact their department to locate a unit if needed.
  - Some departments may accept applications directly from the student. This varies by department.
  
9. What happens to the scholarship entry after it has been turned in?
  - Scholarship entries are judged at the unit where the entry is submitted. After it has been certified the winner at the unit level, it is then to be judged at the department level. If the entry is certified at the state, then the entry is judged and certified one last time at the division level. There will be one overall winner in each of the five divisions. These entries are certified the winners and receive the scholarship.
  
10. How is the scholarship judged?
  - Character/leadership                      25%
  - Initiative/Goals                              25%
  - Financial Need                                25%
  - Academic Achievement                    25%
  
11. What is the amount awarded?
  - \$2,000, one per division, for a total of \$10,000 annually
  
12. How long does the student have to use the scholarship?
  - ALA NHQ must receive the Scholarship Certification Form within 12 months of notification (date on the winner's letter). The scholarship money must be used within 24 months of the winner receiving notification.



13. How does a winner claim their scholarship money?

- a. A Scholarship Certification Form will be enclosed with the winner's notification form, which must be completed by the student and their school's registrar (or an equivalent position if no registrar is available).
- b. Once completed, the Scholarship Certification Form should be returned to the Education Program Coordinator at NHQ.
- c. Funds will then be released in the form of a check to the school.

14. Does the scholarship winner get the money or does the school?

- The check is paid to the school for tuition and/or room and board.
- *A special exception was made for SOY scholarship for a student in the Air Force Academy, which has no tuition or room and board. A check was sent to the US Treasury on her behalf to offset her expenses (books, uniforms, etc.)*

15. Is the money paid out in one lump sum or installments?

- The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship is paid in one lump sum, payable after NHQ receives the completed Scholarship Certification Form.

16. Is the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship renewable? Can a winner apply for it again?

- No, since one of the requirements is the applicant be returning to or starting school after a period of time. A previous winner would no longer be returning to school.



## **James H Parke Scholarship**

1. What is the James H Parke Scholarship?
  - Each Veterans Affairs medical center may nominate one Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) Student Volunteer to be considered for this scholarship. The nominee must have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS during a calendar year prior to September 1. The nominee must also be in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade or above and have not reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday to be considered.
2. Where do I find more information on this scholarship?
  - Visit the website <http://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp> to find more information on this scholarship.

## **Samsung American Legion Scholarship (ALA Girls/Legion Boys State)**

1. Who can apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship?
  - Scholarship applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current session of either the Legion Boys State or ALA Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. - or a legally adopted child of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as [eligibility dates](#) for membership in The American Legion.
2. What is the deadline for the application of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship?
  - Applications for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship are due no later than the first day of the Legion Boys State or ALA Girls State program, using the online application.
3. Where can I find the online application and/or more information?
  - <http://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>



## **Certification of Scholarship by University or College**

1. Where do I find the form to complete the certification?
  - A Scholarship Certification Form will be enclosed with the winner's notification form. If an additional copy is needed, please send a request to [Education@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Education@ALAforVeterans.org).
2. Where do I send the certification once it is completed?
  - Send the form to the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters once it is completed. The address is on the bottom of the certification form.
3. By what date do I need to send the certification to the American Legion Auxiliary?
  - Certification needs to be received by the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters 30 days prior to needing money. Once it is received, the turnover period for the money to be sent to the school is two weeks. The National Headquarters asks for 30 days so that if there is a discrepancy it can be figured out before the money is needed.