

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

This document answers many of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. You may find this section useful in answering any questions you have more immediately rather than waiting on a reply from National Headquarters.

Q: Is there a hard copy of the application available?

A: No. The application is completely contained within the online application system. Not only is this more efficient and secure. It is more environmentally friendly. <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>

Q: Does an application have to be completed in one sitting?

A: No. In keeping with many college and career web-based systems, an applicant will create a user account and password on legion.org, which will allow the applicant to return to the application at various times, as they collect information and write well-informed essays.

Q: When will an applicant find out the status of their application after submission?

A: Generally, the applicant's American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program will make the announcement of the winner prior to the end of the program. This is not a requirement, and some programs may inform their department nominee at a later date. However, all programs are required to submit their nominees to National Headquarters no later than August 1st. As such, you may contact your Boys State or Girls State program after that date with any questions as to a particular applicant's status. National Samsung American Legion Scholars will be announced late in the month of **October**. If an applicant has heard nothing by this time, their application did not make it past the first round of judging at the program level.

Q: How are applications judged? What is the process?

A: Initially, all applications are screened by judges at the program level. One young man from each Boys State program and one young woman from each Girls State program are chosen as department finalists. These comprise a pool of 100 finalists from across the nation. A national panel of judges on the Committee of Youth Education decides the final winners. Regardless of the level, each applicant is assigned points for every part of their application based on a common, national rubric.

Q: Are letters of recommendation required?

A: No. However, during the application process, an applicant will be required to have an academic progress form filled out and attested to by a school official. This form is available for download during the application process, and the completed version will be uploaded using the application system.

Q: If I am a program representative in charge of judging the scholarships, do I need a legion.org account to access the department-level judging site?

A: Yes. You must create your OWN account, with your OWN password on legion.org. You will also need the program-specific password to log into the department judges' area. These passwords are distributed to a specific designee for each Boys State or Girls State program – usually the Director of the program.

Q: What if I work on the Boys State/Girls State staff, can I request the password from national headquarters?

A: Not usually. Information security is excruciatingly vital to the online system. As a matter of national policy, it has been decided that passwords will go through the respective program designee. That each individual approval must be gained before a password will be distributed.

Q: Why were there changes to the award system? What are these changes?

A: Unlike other scholarship funds at The American Legion, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Endowment Fund is self-perpetuating. It is funded completely through interest earned on the principal. Due to market fluctuations and in an attempt to be more precise yet expansive in scholarship distribution, the following award levels are adopted beginning with the 2017 award year:

- 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**

Note. Every applicant is encouraged to be very dedicated in time and effort while filling out the application, as ultimately, they are applying for a \$10,000 scholarship.

Q: Can I change the department password?

A: The department password can only be changed by having the designated program official contact the Youth Education & Civics Programs Manager.

Q: What counts (and doesn't) as an "official record" of military service?

A: Generally, the selection committee is looking for documentation that is found at the conclusion of a veteran's military service, which outlines the length of service and characterization of his discharge. The selection committee is quite clear on the acceptable documents to verify veteran status. Please find the listing, which may also be found at: https://www.legion.org/documents/samsung/downloads/Military_Service_Verification_Documents_List.pdf This listing shows the documents that the Committee on Youth Activity has determined as acceptable proof of service in support of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship application.

Q: Who is a "direct descendant"?

A: A direct descendent of a veteran includes the child, grandchild, great grandchild regardless of the number of generations back. This includes a natural child, legally adopted child, or stepchild (child of a spouse by prior marriage or dependent child as defined by the United States Armed Services of active-duty United States military and National Guard and military reservists). The differentiation is made between a descendent and extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, etc.), which do not count towards eligibility.

Q: What happens to applications which were began but not submitted at the start of a program?

A: Such applications are deleted from the system.

Q: Can I list more than one veteran on my application?

A: No credit is given for being the descendant of more than one veteran. However, if an applicant is the direct descendant of a Korean War veteran, it is advisable to use that person on your application. Whichever ancestor you choose, ensure you are able to provide acceptable documentation of their time in service.

Q: My school uses an embossed stamp, and it doesn't seem to show up on a scan. What should I do?

A: Applicants are no longer required to submit transcripts with a stamp or embossed seal.

Q: If I have a question about the acceptability of a document, who should I contact?

A: When an applicant questions the acceptability of any document, they should contact their Boys State or Girls State point of contact. The point of contact information is listed in the delegate packet or can be found at www.boysandgirlsstate.org. If a program representative has questions about the acceptability of a document, they should contact the Americanism@legion.org at National Headquarters. When making contact for this reason, a scan of the documentation in question should be included as an attachment.

Q: My (school, district, or state) does not use a cumulative grade point average to calculate grades.

A: All applicants must submit the Student High School Record Certification Form found on the online application portal. On this form a school official will enter all coursework from the start of the fall term of the applicant's freshman year (9th grade) through the end of the fall term of the applicant's junior year (11th grade) in a GPA calculator. We are using the GPA calculator model available online at: <https://gpacalculator.net/high-school-gpa-calculator/> to provide the weighted GPA. The calculator will accept either a percentage or an unweighted GPA and calculate a standard weighted GPA for all applicants nationwide.

Q: Once an application is submitted, can it be amended in any way?

A: If an applicant wishes to amend their application prior to the start of their respective Boys/Girls State program, they may use the contact information located in the application system to request their application be unlocked by a member of the national headquarters staff. Under NO circumstances will an application be accepted or opened for amendment following the start of an applicant's Boys/Girls State program.

Q: For applications submitted but not chosen as department finalists, how are they dealt with?

A: Such applications will be available for viewing or downloading by the applicant or department until 1 November. On 1 November, the application system will be purged of all applications not selected as department/program finalists