



WHERE DOES THIS MONEY COME FROM?

These funds come from voluntary contributions from individuals, groups, corporations, and American Legion Posts. There is no authority on Posts to support this fund.

This fund was launched with a \$500 donation from the Royal C. Johnson Memorial Fund.



IS THERE A NEED FOR THIS FUND?

Educational Scholarship funds of this kind, under the auspices of the American Legion are proving vitally important in many states – important to children of those who served their country; important to those veterans themselves; and important to the nation in helping to make possible the higher education of bright young people who are an important resource for America in keeping up with the world.

A majority of the children in the United States are the children of veterans, demonstrating the need for such a fund. In fact, utilized by all who are eligible, the need would far surpass the present resources



HOW CAN INTERESTED PARTIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND?

Donations can be given or sent to the State American Legion Headquarters, specifically marked for the American Legion Educational Scholarship Fund. The Fund is part of the South Dakota Community Foundation.

Bequests may be made to this fund, as memorials to the memory of those who served their country in time of war, or as memorials to those dear to persons now wishing to serve their country through their aid to the education of America's youth.

All such memorials or other contributions are formally acknowledged.

Funds donated – any income from the interest or notes – will be used entirely and exclusively for educational scholarships. Overhead costs are born by the American Legion, Department of South Dakota.



WHO WILL HANDLE THE MONEY?

The fund will be handled by the South Dakota Community Foundation and bonded officers of the American Legion, Department of South Dakota. A duly appointed Educational Scholarship Selection Committee will select the scholarship recipients.



The attention of school administrators and counselors is called to the fact that this scholarship fund is available in limited amounts, and they are asked to call it to the attention of qualified students.

AMERICAN LEGION EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP



HOW CAN I QUALIFY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?



HOW CAN I HELP MAKE THESE SCHOLARSHIPS POSSIBLE?

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The Educational Scholarship
Committee
of**



**The American Legion
Department of South Dakota**

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WHAT IS THE AMERICAN LEGION EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND?

This is a fund, made up by voluntary donations of legion posts, individuals, and corporations. This fund was authorized by the Department Executive Committee of the American Legion in South Dakota, meeting in Yankton, June 16, 1956. It is to be used for loans to eligible veterans, their children, and grandchildren for educational opportunities beyond high school. It is to be used to enable recipients to continue their education in college or technical schools in South Dakota. In July 2019 this fund was changed from a loan to a scholarship.

Scholarships of a **maximum** of \$2500 per person, will be granted, on a basis of need, as long as funds are available. The granting of these scholarships will be determined by the Department Education Committee, based on merit, need and prospective best use of training sought.

It is expected that most scholarships will be less than \$2500.00, so more students can receive assistance.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS?

These scholarships are open, as funds are available to wartime veterans, their children, and their grandchildren, who are legal residents of South Dakota. Wartime veterans are those who are members of or are eligible for membership in the American Legion – those who were in the service of their country at some time during the periods April 6, 1917-November 11, 1918 and

after December 7, 1941 though the cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. government (LEGION Act). Current & Present membership of the veterans, parent, or grandparent in the South Dakota American Legion, is required, unless deceased.

There is a further provision to allow children and grandchildren of wartime veterans not residing in South Dakota to apply, provided that the veteran is certified by the post is a living member in good standing of a South Dakota American Legion post.

The program was expanded in 2002 to allow the veteran themselves, who are eligible to belong to the American Legion, to take advantage of these education scholarships. This provision is contingent upon the fund continuing to be self-sustaining. The program was further expanded in 2006 to allow the grandchildren of wartime veterans the opportunity to apply for scholarships.

If funds should become limited, priority will be given to the (1) children and (2) grandchildren of qualified veterans, since the program was originally intended for the education of youth.



FOR WHAT PURPOSES WILL THESE SCHOLARSHIPS BE MADE?

Scholarships are restricted to use for educational purposes beyond high school – either regional accredited college or technical school/college. The school must be located in South Dakota unless there is no school in South Dakota which offers the profession or technical degree being sought. The American Legion has other scholarship funds for Youth Trooper Academy, state oratorical program, Boys State, Girls State, and baseball.



HOW DOES ONE APPLY?

Applications may be obtained from the Secretary of the American Legion Educational Scholarship Committee, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201 or from the SD American Legion website at; <https://sdlegion.org/scholarship-information> . These applications identify the applicant and his/her veteran; parents and siblings; outline the educational goals of the applicant; provide for reporting of his/her scholastic record and vocational plans and aptitudes; attestation of his/her financial situation; and additional information.

Completed applications are to be returned to the Secretary before 11:59pm February 15, 2026. Monies will be distributed at the beginning of the fall semester 2026.



WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THIS SCHOLARSHIPS?

Applicants must be a high school graduate or have attained a GED; and have successfully completed at least 16 hours of post-secondary credits prior to award of scholarship funds.

High School diplomas and transcripts; and the most current post-secondary transcripts will be submitted with the application or letter of intent to meet requirements signed by School Administration prior to disbursement of funds.

Checks will be made payable to the post-secondary school and forwarded to the school.