

**South Dakota American Legion
Educational Scholarship
Checklist (2025-2026 School Year)**

Yes No

_____ I have read the SDAL Educational Scholarship Brochure?

_____ At least one of my parents (to include Grandparents) or myself is a member of the South Dakota American Legion or its Auxiliary or the Sons of the America Legion. If you marked No, you are not eligible for this scholarship.

_____ The applicant must be able to obtain a High School Diploma or a GED certificate prior to Scholarship Award money disbursed to recipients for the current School Year applied. Attach appropriate high school and dual credit transcripts or proof of successful completion by School Administration.

_____ Will you have a combined 16 successful college credits/dual credits prior to end of the current school year? If you marked No, you are not eligible for this scholarship. Attach appropriate college transcripts or proof of completion by competent School Administration Staff.

If you are submitting a Veterans DD214 Discharge Form or other discharge documentation, please ensure the Block: "Character of Service" states the type of discharge. Other than Honorable or Dishonorable Discharge are disqualifiers for this Scholarship.

If your veteran is still on active duty, please submit a LES (Leave and Earning Statement) or other documentation showing he/she is on active duty.

Ensure you blackout all Personal Identifiable Information (PII) on attachments. (Social Security Numbers, Date of Birth)

Your attachments must be in PDF format.

Submit your application in the following order:

The Application (approximately 11 pages)

Essay #1

Essay #2

High School Diploma/GED Certificate

Transcripts, high school and post-secondary

Membership Card(s)

Veteran's discharge or active-duty information

21 April 2025
This application supersedes all previous applications.

**South Dakota American Legion
Educational Scholarship**

Application Due Date: Prior to 11:59pm, February 15, 2026 (CT)

Mailing address: **South Dakota American Legion**
 PO Box 67
 Watertown, SD 57201
 Email: maryjo@sdlegion.org

Applicant's Personal Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____

High School Graduation Year: _____ or Year attained GED: _____

Institution in South Dakota which applicant is attending: _____

Date of enrollment: _____

Veteran's Information: (Must be a member of the SD American Legion unless deceased)

Name: _____

Address: _____ or _____ Deceased

City/State/ZIP _____

Relationship of applicant: _____ Child or _____ Grandchild

Attach a copy of Veteran's discharge form (DD Form 214) or certificate. If veteran is on active duty, attach a copy of their Leave and Earning Statement (LES) or other documentation showing he/she is on active duty. Please blackout SSN/serial number.

21 April 2025

Parents' Information:

Parent #1:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Occupation: _____

Parent #2

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Occupation: _____

Please attach copies of your high school diploma or GED Certificate; and high school and post-secondary/dual credit transcripts. You must have graduated high school and successfully completed 16 hours of post-secondary education to apply for and receive this scholarship.

High School GPA: _____

Post-secondary GPA: _____

ACT Score: _____

or

SAT Score on a 1600-scale: _____ or SAT Score on a 2400-scale: _____

If any, which American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary programs have you participated in:

Boys State _____ Girls State _____ Oratorical Program _____

Youth Trooper Academy _____ AL Baseball _____ Shooting Sports _____

Others: _____

Membership in the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or SAL:

Applicant: Yes Membership Number: _____

No

(Grand) Parent #1 Yes Membership Number: _____

No

(Grand) Parent #2 Yes Membership Number: _____

No

Attach a copy of membership cards.

21 April 2025

Finances:

Do you qualify to apply for Federal or State Financial Aid? Yes or No

I understand that this application for a Department of South Dakota American Legion Scholarship is in the **maximum** amount of \$2500.00. The amount can be less than \$2500.00. This amount of money is required by me to meet necessary expenses in connection with my education. The money will be mailed to the higher education institution in your name.

My estimate needs of one (1) year of schooling are as follows:

Tuition and fees \$ _____

Books and supplies \$ _____

Room and board \$ _____

Applicant's Signature

Date

21 April 2025

Applicant's Employment:

Employer: _____

Dates (M/YYYY): _____ to _____

Weekly Number of Hours: _____

Duties:

Employer: _____

Dates (M/YYYY): _____ to _____

Weekly Number of Hours: _____

Duties:

Employer: _____

Dates (M/YYYY): _____ to _____

Weekly Number of Hours: _____

Duties:

21 April 2025

Applicants' Community/Volunteer (to include Veterans Service Organization Participation) (secondary and post-secondary only):

Organization: _____

Dates: _____

Description:

Organization: _____

Dates: _____

Description:

Organization: _____

Dates: _____

Description:

Organization: _____

Dates: _____

Description:

Organization: _____

Dates: _____

Description:

If necessary, additional sheets may be included using the above format.

Applicant's School Participation (secondary and post-secondary only):

Organization: _____

Grade(s): _____

Office(s) Held: _____

Organization: _____

Grade(s): _____

Office(s) Held: _____

Organization: _____

Grade(s): _____

Office(s) Held: _____

Organization: _____

Grade(s): _____

Office(s) Held: _____

Organization: _____

Grade(s): _____

Office(s) Held: _____

Organization: _____

Grade(s): _____

Office(s) Held: _____

If necessary, additional sheets may be included using the above format

21 April 2025

Awards Received at the State/National Level (list only 5 awards):

Award: _____

Description:

Award: _____

Description:

Award: _____

Description:

Award: _____

Description:

Award: _____

Description:

Awards Received at the School/Local Level (list only 5 awards):

Award: _____

Description:

Award: _____

Description:

Award: _____

Description:

Award: _____

Description:

Award: _____

Description:

Essays:

Please attach essays on the following topics. Maximum of 500±50 words per essay. Must be typed and double spaced.

Essay #1. What does your civic responsibility look like to you and which characteristic of your veteran family member most impacts your perspective on exercising your civic responsibility?

Essay #2. Are you or your sponsor an active member of an American Legion component? If yes, why and if not, why? What can the American Legion do differently to encourage more involvement and recruitment in your opinion?

