

## **Benefits of the American Legion Sporter Scholarship Program:**

### **Youth Development:**

- ✓ Teaches responsibility
- ✓ Focus
- ✓ Self-discipline

### **Community/Civic Engagement:**

- ✓ Strengthen relationships  
between youth and veterans

### **Scholarship & Career Opportunities:**

- ✓ Opens pathways to collegiate  
shooting programs
- ✓ Military careers

### **Veterans Involvement:**

- ✓ Allows American Legion  
members to mentor and coach  
young participants

**“The American Legion  
Junior Shooting Sports  
Program is a gun safety,  
education, and  
marksmanship program  
that encompasses the  
basic elements of safety,  
education, enjoyment  
and competition.”**

**Send donations to:  
The American Legion  
Department of South Dakota  
PO Box 67  
Watertown, SD 57201  
Memo line:  
Junior Shooter Scholarship Program**

### **More information:**

**605-886-2870**

**[hq@sdlegion.org](mailto:hq@sdlegion.org)**

**or**

**Mike Kraft**

**605-448-8368**

**[bbgunmike@gmail.com](mailto:bbgunmike@gmail.com)**



**South Dakota  
American  
Legion  
Sporter Air  
Rifle Junior  
Shooter  
Scholarship  
Program**



- ✓ Coaches will need to register with the National American Legion, do the background check, and take the safety test prior to December 1 of every year.
- ✓ Participants will shoot their 1<sup>st</sup> round postal at their home range.
- ✓ February of each year the participants will participate in the Winter Sporter Match in Pierre.
- ✓ Participants who participate in both the postal and match will be eligible for the scholarships.
- ✓ Top competitors with both scores combined will receive a scholarship.
- ✓ Scholarships will begin at
  - \$500 for USAS ages 15–19
  - \$300 for USAS ages up to 15

- ❖ Over 175 Youth shoot the air rifle program in South Dakota each year.
- ❖ 2025 National American Legion Air Rifle Postal had 39 youth from South Dakota in the Sporter Division and 6 in the Precision Division – this was the highest participation rates in the nation.
- ❖ We have collected the names of 14 teams in South Dakota who are interested in participation.
- ❖ 2020 Pierre Junior Shooters, Rylie Stoeser, Jusin Merriman, Jessica Hays and Jenna Kruger were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation.
- ❖ 2023 – Rylie Stoeser received the National Sportsmanship Award
- ❖ 2024 Clary Crawford, Marshall County, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in kneeling.

## What to do as an American Legion Post

\*Look in your community for existing Shooting Sports Programs

\* Club Registration –  
<https://register.legion.org/jssp-club-registration>

\*Information for the program can be found at:

<https://www.legion.org/> Starting on the Home Page, click options as follows:

- Getting involved
- Youth Programs
- Junior Shooting Sports
- Scroll down to “Resources”

### Suggested financial support

- \*Cover the costs for the coaches to register and background check
- \*Pay for targets for the American Legion Postal Tournament (approx. \$5.00 per competitor)
- \*Make an annual donation to the South Dakota American Legion Shooting Sports Scholarship Program
- \*Offer to purchase ammunition for competitors (if funds allow)