

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

or

Mike Kraft

605-448-8368

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 1st 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.
- ❖ 2026 – 1st SD American Legion sporter Air Rifle Tournament held in Pierre – Emma Dissing receiving \$500 and Stazy Sass receiving \$300 scholarships
- ❖ 2026 National American Legion Air Rifle Postal had 50 youth from South Dakota in the Sporter Division (10% nationally) which continues to be the highest in the nation. Three South Dakota youth qualified for the National American Legion Sporter Rifle Tournament, Austin Crawford, Emma Dissing and Mason Stoesser with Crawford finishing 2nd in kneeling.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 2024 Clary Crawford, Marshall County, placed 3rd in kneeling.
- ❖ 2023 – Rylie Stoesser received the National Sportsmanship Award
- ❖ 2020 Pierre Junior Shooters, Rylie Stoesser, Jusin Merriman, Jessica Hays and Jenna Kruger were 3rd in the nation.

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)