

Samsung American Legion Scholarship

<https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. As of 2019 the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than \$6.5 million in college scholarships to 2,308 applicants since its inception in 1996.

Award Amounts

Samsung scholarships may be used for undergraduate studies and applied toward tuition, books, fees, and room and board. Winners are selected according to academic record, involvement in school and community service.

- 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

Eligibility

- Scholarship applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current session of either The American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. - or a legally adopted child of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership.

Deadline

- Scholarships are due no later than the first day of a participant's American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program. All applications must be submitted using the online application system by 11:59PM on this day. Applications will not be modified after the due date or given a deadline extension under any circumstance.

All scholarship applications must contain the following. If items (documents) are missing, application will be disqualified.

- Student High School Record Certification Form
- High School Transcript
- Understanding and Consent Form
- Supporting documents that support claims of work experience, student activities, volunteer opportunities or community service, honors, and awards and descendancy from a Korean War Veteran.
- Two original essays not to exceed 500 words each on a topic determined by the Committee on Youth Education prior to the opening of the Samsung American Legion application window.

All scholarship applications will be graded and given points within each of the following categories.

- Weighted GPA, *20 points maximum.*
- Essays. Two essays at 10 points possible for each essay, *20 points maximum.*
- Work Experience and Student Activities, *20 points maximum.*
- Volunteer Opportunities or Community Service, *20 points maximum.*
- Honors and Awards, *20 points maximum.*
- Descendant of Korean War Veteran, *award 3 points.*

Attached are sample forms that will need to be completed and signed. Once you sign on to the scholarship website, the forms you need to use will be there. These are only sample forms. Be sure that all blanks that need an answer, have an answer. Be sure that all signatures required are on the form. The Activity Certification Form will be used for multiple items. Be sure to place your check mark on the form to indicate what area you are using the form for. Each activity, sport, paid position, volunteer position or club participation gets a separate form for each item. You may have many of this form.

Also attached is the Essay Grading Rubric we will use for grading the two essays. Be sure to read through this so you know what we are looking for when we grade your essays. After essays are scored using the criteria definitions within that area, points will be added up to give final essay score. (Thinking + Organization + Content + Diction + Mechanics = points)



STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL RECORD CERTIFICATION FORM

For use by a certified official of the applicant's high school only.

(Student Name) _____ is being considered for an American Legion Scholarship. Once this form is completed, please return it to the student along with a copy of his/her transcript. The student is responsible for uploading this information to an online application system. We do not accept hard copies.

Are community service hours REQUIRED of this student for any school program? YES / NO

IF YES to the above, how many community service hours should be completed by this student as of the time of this application? _____ hours.

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Cumulative Unweighted GPA (4.0 scale) _____ & Weighted GPA (See note below) _____

Note. This form reflects the applicant's work from the start of the fall term of the freshman year (9th grade) through the end of the fall term of the junior year (11th grade). To determine a common national standard Cumulative Weighted GPA do not use any local weighting criteria, instead use the GPA calculator model available online at: <https://apacalculator.net/high-school-gpa-calculator/>.

Signature _____
Printed / Typed Name _____
Title of School Official _____
Date _____

Table B-1 is a sample Student High School Record Certification Form

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement and Agreement
Samsung American Legion Scholarship

If my child is selected as a scholarship winner and in consideration thereof, I understand, agree and hereby grant permission to The American Legion and Samsung Group to use my child's likeness and name in announcing and promoting this scholarship program. I understand and agree that the National Selection Committee is solely responsible for the selection of the scholarship winners and its decision is final. My child has completed the scholarship application and has attached the veteran's verification document. I grant permission to the school of higher education my child attends to release information concerning my child's enrollment status, academic standing, and financial need to The American Legion for use in administering my child's scholarship award. In submitting this application, I certify that the information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand and agree that falsification of information will result in termination of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

_____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

Note: If a legal guardian signs this certification, a copy of the appointment of guardianship must be attached.

Table B-2 is a sample Parental Understanding and Consent Form



ACTIVITY CERTIFICATION FORM

(Student Name) _____ has applied for an American Legion Scholarship. Once this form is completed, please return it to the student. The student is responsible for uploading this information to an online application system. We do not accept hard copies.

Name of the organization _____

Address _____

Is this: an activity, sport, paid position, volunteer position, or club participation?

Nature of the applicant's role _____: Team Captain, Supervisor, Associate, Participant, Organizer

How many hours has the applicant completed with your organization? For volunteer positions, Activities, sports, or clubs provide the total number of hours completed, for paid employment please provide the weekly average completed: _____ hours.

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Note. This form reflects the applicant's work from the start of the fall term of the freshman year (9th grade) through the end of the fall term of the junior year (11th grade).

Signature _____

Printed / Typed Name _____

Title of Official _____

Date _____

Table B-3 is a sample Supporting Document Template

APPENDIX D - ESSAY GRADING RUBRIC

1. A maximum of two (2) points are awarded for each of the five (5) areas which include: *Thinking, Organization, Content, Diction, and Mechanics*. The rubric below outlines the grading criteria for assessing points in each of these areas and determining how many points area awarded in each area.
2. Review the essay and carefully assess it using each of the scoring criteria definitions within that area. Pay attention to the distinctions between what defines the scoring criteria for exemplary (2 points) versus commendable (1.5 points), commendable (1.5 points) versus effective (0.5 points), and so on.
3. When Evaluating the essay do not allow your personal biases regarding its score in one area or your opinion regarding the essay topic to color your judgment in any of the other areas. Assess each essay and each area on its own merit.
4. After scoring the essay against all of the criteria independently, tally up each of the scores to determine the total score for that essay.

Example: Thinking: 1.5 + Organization: 2 + Content: 1 + Diction: 2 + Mechanics: 1.5 = 8 points

	THINKING <i>Development of ideas, clarity of purpose</i>	ORGANIZATION <i>Arrangement and flow of logic</i>	CONTENT <i>Supporting details</i>	DICTION <i>Use of language, sentence structure</i>	MECHANICS <i>Spelling, punctuation, paragraphing</i>
EXEMPLARY 2	Writer generates original ideas, provides a compelling thesis, synthesizes complex concepts, and offers keen insights.	Writer's thesis/thesis and supporting evidence are presented clearly and artfully, enhancing impact.	Writer's choice of supporting evidence is rich and substantive; sources are integrated in a sophisticated manner.	Writer's voice is clear. Varied and elegant sentences enhance impact. Rich, effective vocabulary and figurative language.	Writing contains very few or no errors. Use of mechanics enhances meaning. Writer "breaks rules" artfully.
COMMENDABLE 1.5	Writer demonstrates evidence of original thinking, offers a clear thesis, synthesizes concepts, and displays insight.	Writing contains clear focus and flow of logic, includes an effective introduction and conclusion, and skillful transitions.	Writer's choice of content is interesting and meaningful, with effective details and integration of sources.	Writer demonstrates and awareness of value of good sentence variety and generally rich language in enchanting meaning.	Writing contains few errors, sophisticated use of grammar and punctuation, and effective paragraphing.
EFFECTIVE (but with flaws) 1	Writer attempts analysis, but demonstrates little or no original thought or insight; thesis is present but weak.	Writing is generally focused; some attempt at flow of logic, but with limited success; adequate but "formulaic" introduction/conclusion.	Writer uses correct information and sufficient details to support focus, but content does not enhance meaning/impact.	Writing contains some sentence variety, correct word usage, and acceptable vocabulary, but lacks richness.	Writing features generally correct spelling, paragraph structure and grammar. Errors do not interfere with meaning.
APPROACHES EFFECTIVE 0.5	Writer demonstrates general awareness of purpose, but central thesis is missing; no evidence of original thought.	Writer's focus is either limited or too broad; organization is awkward and/or inconsistent; ineffective introduction and/or conclusion.	Information is generally correct, but writing lacks sufficient details and/or some details fail to support focus.	Lack of sentence variety, limited vocabulary, and/or errors in usage (ref, S/P, V.T., inappropriate use of first or second person).	Writing contains errors – in spelling, grammar and/or punctuation – that interfere with meaning.
NOT EFFECTIVE 0	Writer shows little or no understanding of purpose; thinking lacks coherence.	Writer's focus is unclear, with poor organization, lack of transitions; introduction and/or conclusion is missing.	Writing contains details that are confusing, irrelevant or repetitive; no integration of sources.	Writing contains no sentence variety, some sentence fragments and/or run-on sentences; simplistic vocabulary.	Writing contains many errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation and/or paragraphing. Errors seriously interfere with meaning.