



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** **SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP**

*This document answers many of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. You may find this section useful in answering any questions you have more immediately rather than waiting on a reply from National Headquarters.*

**Q: Is there a hard copy of the application available?**

**A:** No. The application is completely contained within the online application system. Not only is this more efficient and secure. It is more environmentally friendly.

**Q: Does an application have to be completed in one sitting?**

**A:** No. In keeping with many college and career web-based systems, an applicant will create a user account and password on legion.org, which will allow the applicant to return to the application at various times, as they collect information and write well-informed essays.

**Q: When will an applicant find out the status of their application after submission?**

**A:** Generally, the applicant's American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program will make the announcement of the winner prior to the end of the program. This is not a requirement, and some programs may inform their department nominee at a later date. However, all programs are required to submit their nominees to National Headquarters no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>. As such, you may contact your Boys State or Girls State program after that date with any questions as to a particular applicant's status. National Samsung American Legion Scholars will be announced during the month of **October**. If an applicant has heard nothing by this time, their application did not make it past the first round of judging at the program level.

**Q: How are applications judged? What is the process?**

**A:** Initially, all applications are screened by judges at the program level. One young man from each Boys State program and one young woman from each Girls State program are chosen as department finalists. These comprise a pool of 100 finalists from across the nation. A national panel of judges on the Committee of Youth Education decides the final winners. Regardless of the level, each applicant is assigned points for every part of their application based on a common, national rubric.

**Q: Are letters of recommendation required?**

**A:** No. However, during the application process, an applicant will be required to have an academic progress form filled out and attested to by a school official. This form is available for download during the application process, and the completed version will be uploaded using the application system.

**Q: If I am a program representative in charge of judging the scholarships, do I need a legion.org account to access the department-level judging site?**

**A:** Yes. You must create your OWN account, with your OWN password on legion.org. You will also need the program-specific password to log into the department judges’ area. These passwords are distributed to a specific designee for each Boys State or Girls State program – usually the Director of the program.

**Q: What if I work on the Boys State/Girls State staff, can I request the password from national headquarters?**

**A:** Not usually. Information security is excruciatingly vital to the online system. As a matter of national policy, it has been decided that passwords will go through the respective program designee. That individuals approval must be gained before a password will be distributed.

**Q: Can I change the department password?**

**A:** The department password can only be changed by having the designated program official contact the Assistant Director – Education at National Headquarters.

**Q: Why were there changes to the award system? What are these changes?**

**A:** Unlike other scholarship funds at The American Legion, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Endowment Fund is self-perpetuating. It is funded completely through interest earned on the principal. Due to market fluctuations and in an attempt to be more precise yet expansive in scholarship distribution, the following award levels are adopted beginning with the 2017 award year:

- 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**

Every applicant is encouraged to be very dedicated in time and effort while filling out the application, as ultimately, they are applying for a \$10,000 scholarship.

**Q: What counts (and doesn’t) as an “official record” of military service?**

A:	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Form DD214 (Official discharge certificate)</li> <li>➤ Official “Honorable Discharge” certificate</li> <li>➤ Form DD1300 (Official military death certificate)</li> <li>➤ Official record of burial in a military cemetery issued by the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs</li> <li>➤ Current or former military ID card</li> <li>➤ Current or former LES (Leave and Earnings Statement)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Any otherwise “acceptable” document that is illegible</li> <li>➤ Obituaries</li> <li>➤ Pictures of military headstones</li> <li>➤ Pictures of servicemembers in uniform</li> <li>➤ Entries in non-military and/or non-official records or books</li> <li>➤ Membership cards from veterans organizations</li> <li>➤ VA Healthcare Cards</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Official logbook entries from a military unit</li> <li>➤ ANY OTHER DOCUMENT LISTED ON THE “Military Service Verification Documents List” (Link on the Samsung American Legion Scholarship homepage)</li> </ul>	
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**Q: Who is a “direct descendant”?**

A direct descendant is the child, grandchild, great-grandchild, et cetera of a veteran. Stepchildren and adopted children ARE considered direct descendants. Any other relationship (e.g. siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles) does not count as direct descendancy.

**Q: Can I list more than one veteran on my application?**

No. No credit is given for being the descendant of more than one veteran. However, if an applicant is the direct descendant of a Korean War veteran, it is advisable to use that person on your application. Whichever ancestor you choose, ensure you are able to provide acceptable documentation of their time in service.

**Q: If I have a question about the acceptability of a document, who should I contact?**

**A:** When an applicant questions the acceptability of any document, they should contact their Boys State or Girls State point of contact. The point of contact information is listed in the delegate packet or can be found at [www.boysandgirlsstate.org](http://www.boysandgirlsstate.org). If a program representative has questions about the acceptability of a document, they should contact the Assistant Director – Education’s office at National Headquarters. When making contact for this reason, a scan of the documentation in question should be included as an attachment.

**Q: My school uses an embossed stamp, and it doesn’t seem to show up on a scan. What should I do?**

**A:** You have a few options here. First, you may try to darken your scan by adjusting the scan density settings. Second, you may choose to shade over the embossed seal with a pencil (preferably) or a dark highlighter to bring out the indentation. If you are taking a picture of the document instead of scanning, you may try illuminating the picture from a particular direction to bring out the embossment. You could also shade the seal and take the picture after doing so.

**Q: Once an application is submitted, can it be amended in any way?**

**A:** If an applicant wishes to amend their application prior to the start of their respective Boys/Girls State program, they may use the contact information located in the application system to request their application be unlocked by a member of the national headquarters staff. Under NO circumstances will an application be accepted or opened for amendment following the start of an applicant’s Boys/Girls State program.

**Q: What happens to applications which were begun but not submitted at the start of a program?**

**A:** Such applications are deleted from the system.

**Q: For applications submitted but not chosen as department finalists, how are they dealt with?**

**A:** Such applications will be available for viewing or downloading by the applicant or department until 1 November. On 1 November, the application system will be purged of all applications not selected as department/program finalists.