



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
Education Program Guide 2023-2024**

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Purpose: The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, with a special emphasis on children of veterans and service members.

Key Program Statements:

- To promote quality education for all children, especially for military children, and adults.
- To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms
- To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education
- To support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities
- To support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion

School & Community Programs

Members/Units get involved with your local schools, whether they are public, charter, parochial or even online. "It takes a village" to grow a child. Most teachers could use a helping hand, sometimes they are a first responder for some students. Check if there are teacher "wish lists." Consider donating books to school and public libraries. Find a vet who would like to share their knowledge with schoolchildren. Share our Scholarship opportunities wherever you can.

Veterans in Community Schools

An American Legion Family program that brings history to life as local veterans tell students about their experiences in the military. They may also share: how to help a family of a deployed military service member, how to support the troops, proper respect for the flag, why the American Legion was formed, etc. Steps for organizing a Veterans in Community Schools activity visit: legion-aux.org/veterans-in-community-schools.

Give 10 To Education (Apply for Citation-see Department of Michigan Education Awards)

- Participate in the Give 10 to Education Program by purchasing items to distribute to schools.
- Place a poster with a collection box at local sites (i.e., grocery stores, banks, senior centers, post office or even your Post Home). Invite all to donate & thank them for their donations.
- School supplies are needed all year long, not only in the Fall.

Save Box Tops for Education

- If your package has a traditional Box Top, clip it off and send it/deliver it to a school-make sure it has a valid expiration date.
- If your package has the new Scan label, just use the New Box Tops app to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will find participating products instantly & add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.
- Additional details @ <https://www.boxtops4education.com>

Important Dates

- American Education Week-November 13-17, 2023. Send a card to all local school staff thanking them for the work they do. Include all school personnel with whom children interact (i.e., bus drivers, custodians, counselors, etc.). See <https://nationaltoday.com/american-education-week>
- Read Across America Day-March 2, 2024. The National Education Association encourages an annual reading motivation and awareness program for every child in every community. See <https://nationaltoday.com/national-read-across-america-day>
- Teacher Appreciation Week-May 6-10, 2024. Send cards to your local school's teachers. Donate resources that teachers or needy children may need. See <https://nationaltoday.com/teacher-appreciation-day>

Education Program Reporting

Year-End Reports (Your efforts and impact over the past year. Too much information, is better than too little).

Units-please submit Reports and Award entries to your District Education Chair and/or District Presidents by their deadline.

Districts-Education Chair and/or District Presidents, please submit your Districts combined Unit Reports and Award entries to the Department Education Chair by April 15, 2024.

Suggestions of what you might include in your annual Education Report/Narrative. What efforts did your Members/Unit contribute toward education, students, teachers, schools, etc. How many members and hours were involved? How much money raised or spent? Did you donate to the Give Ten To Education program or receive In-Kind donations & approximately what was the dollar value? Did you participate in any of the Teacher Appreciation or Education Weeks? Did you share any of our scholarships with local schools? Did you receive any Department Scholarship applications? Did you enter for any Awards?

Support military children with educational opportunities

- Military Child Education Coalition: MCEC supports all military-connected children by educating, advocating, and collaborating to resolve education challenges associated with the military lifestyle. <https://www.militarychild.org>
- April is Month of the Military Child. See Defense.gov/Spotlights/Month-of-the-Military-Child/

Department of Michigan Education Program Awards

Most Outstanding Unit Education Program-The entry must be typewritten in a narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words. Describe specific examples of how your Unit worked your Education Program. Be certain to include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc. *The First-Place entry will be forwarded on to ALA National Education Committee for the Central Division Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Education Program Award.

Give Ten to Education Citation-Each Member/Unit will receive a citation for their participation. (District Education Chairman-please be certain to include a list of American Legion Family Members and Units with your Year-End Report).

Honoring the Service of Our Military Award-Presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding promotion of education for military children. The entry must be typewritten in a narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words. Be certain to include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.

Veterans in Community Schools Award-Presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding Veterans in Community Schools Program. The entry must be typewritten in a narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words. Pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc., may be included.

“Education is one thing no one can take away from you” – Elin Nordegren

Resources:

American Legion Auxiliary website-www.alaforveterans.org

American Legion Auxiliary-Department of Michigan website-www.michalaux.org



Get the word out! Unless we inform guidance counselors, students, parents, and members of the availability of our scholarships, few will know to apply.

- Contact your local school district high school guidance counselor's office announcing the availability of our scholarships. Attach copies of the applications or share the link <https://michalaux.org/scholarships>
- Make sure that your American Legion Post Family members are aware of the Department and National Scholarships. Note some Units also provide scholarships.
- Double and triple check deadlines, where to send the information and that the application is complete. **Incomplete applications and missed deadlines will result in disqualification.**

Applicants need to start early and do their homework! The various scholarships have different requirements, such as, transcript of grades, letters of recommendation, copy of related veteran's DD-214, financial info, short essays, etc.

ALA National Scholarships

Units and Departments have two roles. The first is to make the public and especially our Juniors aware that scholarships are available, and that eligible people can apply. The second role is for units and departments to evaluate applications to move one candidate on to the next level, so an overall winner may be chosen.

March 1 – all national scholarship applications are due.

- a. For the **Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship**, those applications come directly to National Headquarters (NHQ) since they are submitted electronically. NHQ then forwards the application to the appropriate department.
 - *Please note that the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship is no longer judged at the unit level.*
- b. The remaining scholarships (**Spirit of Youth, Non-Traditional Student, and Junior Member Loyalty**) are to be submitted to their local units for the first round of judging.

March 15 – certified unit selections are due to their respective departments.

Scholarship applications must be turned in on or before March 1 of each year. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship applications are submitted electronically online to national headquarters. The Spirit of Youth, Non-Traditional Student, and Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship applications should be turned into the unit in which their membership is recorded." -ALA website Aug. 2023).

- National scholarship applications are available for download on the national website: www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships or www.michalaux.org/scholarships/

After a Unit selects the applicant they wish to sponsor and completes/and mails the Sponsor Form and application-It needs to be received on or by March 15, 2024:

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan
Executive Director
212 N Verlinden Suite B
Lansing, MI 48915

RE: Scholarships

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship (3-\$5,000 scholarships awarded per division)

- Awarded to children of veterans who served in the armed forces during the eligibility dates for The American Legion. Membership is not required.
- Applicants must be a senior in high school.
- Applicants must complete 50 hours of volunteer service within the community, during his/her high school years to be eligible for this scholarship.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship (1-\$2,000 scholarship awarded per division)

- Awarded to a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or the Sons of the American Legion and shall have paid dues for two preceding years and for the calendar year in which the application is made.
- Applicants must be a student returning to the classroom after some period of time in which his/her formal education was interrupted or a non-traditional student who is just beginning his/her education at a later point in life.
- No community service is required

Spirit of Youth Scholarship (1-\$5,000 scholarship to an ALA Junior Member awarded per division)

- Applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, hold a current membership card and continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year scholarship period.

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship (2-\$2,500 scholarships to Juniors awarded per division)

- Candidates for this award shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, held membership for the past three consecutive years and must be a paid member for the current year. Applicant must continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period.
- This scholarship is intended for the traditional student with no interruption in her education, who is at least in her first semester of college

Department of Michigan Scholarships

Memorial Fund Scholarship

- Applicant must be a descendant of a veteran.
- Applicant must be a Michigan resident and attend a Michigan school.
- Applicants are judged according to financial need and scholastic standing.
- Multiple \$1,000 awards are given each year.
- The scholarship award is for one year, but winners may reapply for one additional year.

Michigan Non-Traditional Student

(This scholarship was created by the Allen Park Auxiliary Unit 409, as a memorial in honor of Aletha (Lee) Harvey, Unit Education Chair from 1977 to 1998 and other deceased members of Unit 409).

- Applicant must be a descendant of a veteran
- Applicant must be over the age of 22 and attending school for the first time or a student who is returning to school after a period in which his/her education was interrupted.
- Applicant must be in a Michigan school or a vocational/technical/trade school.
- One two-year scholarship in the amount in the amount of \$500/year
- Only one candidate may be submitted, per Unit.

Medical Career Scholarship

This scholarship intended for students in the Field of Medicine: To assist deserving students pursuing their education in the nursing, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, etc. and medical staff in general. This scholarship is to benefit individuals entering and obtaining medical training.

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RE: Scholarships

Other Scholarships

Samsung American Legion Scholarship awarded only to Boys and Girls State delegates.

James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship (VAVS student volunteer)

Each medical center may nominate one VAVS student volunteer for receipt of this award. To be eligible, candidates must have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS volunteer service during the calendar year prior to Sept. 1; be a student in the 10th grade or above; and not have reached their 19th birthday. <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp>

The American Legion Scholarships

National: <https://www.legion.org/scholarships> / Department: <https://michiganlegion.org/scholarships>

Give Ten to Education-Suggested Donation List by Grades

School supplies are need year-round. It makes sense to donate supplies at the beginning of the school year, but supplies also need to be replenished throughout the school year. Therefore, a school supply drive @ any time of year is a good idea. Suggested items by grade listed below.

Kindergarten

School Glue/Glue Sticks
Facial Tissues, # 2 Pencils
Markers, Scissors
Dry Erase Markers
Block or Cap Erasers
Comp Notebook Binder
Watercolor Paints
Crayons
Disinfecting Wipes

First & Second Grades

Pocket Folders
Crayons, # 2 Pencils
Re-closable Storage Bags
School Glue/Glue Sticks
Facial Tissues, Scissors
Block or Cap Erasers
Dry Erase Markers
Highlighters & Markers
Comp Notebook
Spiral Notebook
Disinfecting Wipes
Hand Sanitizer
Colored Pencils
Binders/Filler Paper
Rulers
Sticky Notes
Construction Paper

Third & Fourth Grades

Pocket Folders
Crayons, # 2 Pencils
Facial Tissues
School Glue/Glue Sticks
Spiral Notebooks
Re-closable Storage Bags
Dry Erase Markers
Binders/Filler Paper
Composition Notebook, Colored Pencils
Highlighters & Markers
Block or Cap Erasers
Pens, Rulers
Disinfecting Wipes
Hand Sanitizer
Sticky Notes
Index Cards
Pencil Sharpener
Printer Paper
Permanent Markers
Dividers

Fifth & Sixth Grades

In addition to the items listed for Third & Fourth Grades:
Calculators
Graph Paper
Tab Indexed Dividers

Consider Junior & Senior High and Special Needs students too.
Check to see if your schools or teachers have "Wish Lists."



**American Legion Auxiliary
Give 10 to Education
Suggested Donation Items and
Tracking Sheet**

Suggested Item	Quantity	Monetary Value
Books		
Backpack/Book bag		
Loose Paper		
Notebooks		
Folders		
3-Ring Binders		
Pencils		
Pens		
Erasers		
Highlighters		
Crayons		
Colored Pencils		
Markers		
Pencil Box/Pencil Case		
Scissors		
Glue/Glue Sticks		
Ruler		
Calculator		
Craft Supplies		
Kleenex/Paper Towels		
Hand Sanitizer		
Disinfecting Wipes/Baby Wipes		
Mentoring/Reading		
Donation to School		
Donation to Library		
Donation to Scholarship		
Clothing		
Patriotic Item		
Sports Equipment/Games		
Box Tops 4 Education		
Totals:		