THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Here’s why you should belong to the Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L.)!
History of the S.A.L. Program

Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L.) is a program of The American Legion established at the national convention in 1932 in Portland, Oregon.
History of the S.A.L. Program

Since then, the S.A.L. has assisted The American Legion with its programs and activities. In 2016, The Sons attained an all time high membership of 367,948 members nationally.
History of the S.A.L. Program

The largest detachment (state level) has more than 61,000 members. There are trophies and awards given to detachments and squadrons for the largest membership, and the largest increase in membership.
History of the S.A.L. Program

The S.A.L. is more than just membership. Members have worked together with The American Legion Family to promote children and youth programs including the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (C.W.F.).

In 2016, the Sons raised over $360,000 for the C.W.F. Since 1988, the Sons of The American Legion raised over $7 million for the C.W.F.
American Legion
Child Welfare Foundation

“It is through the gifts provided to this foundation that children’s lives are saved, their quality of life is improved, and they are taught traditional American values through your selfless actions and demonstration of integrity.”

— Rick Legren, president, Children’s Organ Transplant Association

The purpose of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is:

“To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children and youths, to improve the lives of children and youth through funding projects or in other ways, including youth activities and programs sponsored by The American Legion.”

Please help us by donating. Your charitable gift of $25, $50 or $100 contributes to special moments in the life of a child.

Send your donations today to:
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Or donate online:
www.cwf-inc.org/donate/overview

American Legion
Child Welfare Foundation
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1200
cwf@legion.org
@www.legion.org/childwelfare

Dedicated to the betterment of all children.
For thousands of American children, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer and perseverance. Many of these youngsters require specialized care. Some face years of costly medical treatment and physical therapy. Others may want someone in their corner to prevent abuse or advocate for their well-being.

To overcome their obstacles, they need help from you and the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Thanks to your generosity, the foundation has awarded millions in grants since 1954 — giving youth-serving organizations across this nation the means to promote and operate their programs, plus educate families and communities about the needs of children.

Your contributions have assisted young people with autism, osteogenesis imperfecta and hydrocephalus. These dollars have gone toward warning parents about the deadly dangers of Reye’s syndrome, educating doctors about gastrointestinal disorders in infants, and protecting neglected and abused children.

Through foundation grants, the families of children with craniofacial anomalies, spinal tumors and Huntington’s disease have received aid.

Your donations have produced fun activity letters for kids with cancer and found lifesaving flights for pediatric patients to far-away medical facilities for treatment. Children with juvenile diabetes, Down syndrome, multiple sclerosis and retinal degeneration have also benefited from your kindness.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country.

To that end, the foundation considers hundreds of requests each year and allocates grants based on need. Unfortunately, many worthy projects are turned down due to a lack of funding.

But hope remains. Your donations can make the difference.

Members of the American Legion Family are the prime contributors to the success and growth of our foundation. Your support continues projects that improve the quality of life for our nation’s children.

“Resources funded by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation strengthen our volunteers’ ability to advocate for abused and neglected children, and our partnership inspires new volunteers to stand up for our nation’s most vulnerable children.”

—Michael Piraino, CEO, National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association
The National Emergency Fund

- The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than $8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

- NEF helps those affected by well-known disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy and lesser-publicized tragedies such as flooding in South Dakota or Illinois, or wildfires in the southwest.

- The fund provides up to $3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to $10,000 for posts. The eligibility requirements are:
  - Applicant must have been displaced from his or her primary residence due to a declared natural disaster.
  - Applicant must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.
  - Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.
The National Emergency Fund

PROCESSING APPLICATIONS

Members of the NEF response team should follow the standard operating procedure for processing NEF applications:

> Work with the victim to fill out the application completely and accurately, including verification of membership in The American Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.
> Attach additional supporting data (photos of damage, receipts for temporary lodging and food, gas, etc.).
> Be sure that the applicant keeps all original documentation.
> Send all grant requests to the department commander or department adjutant for approval before being forwarded to National Headquarters.
> Stay in touch with the applicants to make sure they know when and where to collect their checks.

Please note that if a member of the Legion Family is struggling financially, a partial application may be submitted and approved in order to rush payment to the victim.

ADDITIONAL COPIES

To print copies of this and other NEF brochures in this series, please visit www.legion.org/publications.

The American Legion
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-630-1330
legion.org
www.legion.org/NEF

What to do DURING an emergency

The American Legion
NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Follow The American Legion at
www.legion.org/facebook
twitter.com/americanlegion
When a disaster strikes, rescue crews, the National Guard, the Red Cross and others jump into action. To quickly provide grants from the National Emergency Fund (NEF), Legionnaires must also react quickly.

It’s hard to know what a disaster scene will look like if you’ve never been to one. Often, chaos rules the day. Fortunately, Legionnaires and others with military training will be able to provide leadership, logistics knowledge and quick decision-making skills that will help work through difficult decisions.

It is also important to create and follow a plan. Use the first brochure in this series (“Before”) to prepare your NEF coordinator and his team, then use this one to navigate through the emergency.

**SPREAD THE WORD**

> Contact the local media and let them know that The American Legion is distributing grants and that the coordinator is available for interviews. Also, send out a press release so that the local media can help distribute information about NEF, how to apply, where to go and more.

> Contact National Headquarters to let them know the scope of the disaster, who the points of contact are, and make sure you understand what’s needed for the NEF applications.

> Work with your post’s or department’s social media coordinator to share photos and updates on how you are helping Legion Family members. Posts that tag the National Headquarters Facebook page will be shared with the followers of that page.

**MOVE ON OUT**

When a disaster strikes your state, district or community, now is the time to activate the NEF response team. A sense of urgency is critical to get help to those in need. On the ground, it is important to spread the word quickly about what the Legion can offer victims to other nonprofits, the local media and other groups in the community who have already responded.

Among the first priorities is for the NEF coordinator to secure a van or other large vehicle necessary to transport other volunteers, supplies, cases of water, etc. Depending on the emergency you should also consider bringing equipment that would help get through blocked roads such as chainsaws, snow shovel, crowbars and axes.

**ASSIST VICTIMS**

> Find out where the staging area is located. The Red Cross or law-enforcement authorities should be able to provide details.

> Make sure that the coordinator and helpers understand their assignments and have exchanged cell phone numbers.

> Make sure that the person responsible for finding and directing Legion Family members to their location is hitting the streets, communicating with other veterans service organizations and reaching out to local posts.

> Download information from www.legion.org/publications about NEF, TFA and other programs that might be applicable to victims.

"Facebook is the biggest thing we used to get the word out to the veterans in Oklahoma."

— Joe DeLacruz, who processed NEF grants after deadly tornadoes hit
The American Legion & Scouting

B.S.A.’s purpose is a complement to the Legion’s own stated commitment to support the wholesome development of American children. In addition to sponsoring Boy Scout troops across the country at the local level, the Legion annually recognizes an Eagle Scout of the Year with a college scholarship, gives a Square Knot Award to Legion family members who work to further the Scouting program, and awards the Frank N. Belgrano Scouting Trophy annually to the department that renders the most outstanding service to Scouting. The American Legion has stood with B.S.A. through sustained legal attacks on its membership standards.
The American Legion & Scouting

American Legion scholarships

The American Legion awards a $1,000 scholarship to its Eagle Scout of the Year. Three runners-up receive scholarships of $250 each.

The Eagle Scout of the Year is honored at the Legion’s annual national convention.

Eligibility

An Eagle Scout of the Year nominee must:

- Be a registered and active member of a Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team or Venturing crew chartered to an American Legion post, Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion squadron.
- Be a registered and active member of a Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team or Venturing crew and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or Auxiliary member.
- Have received the Eagle Scout Award.
- Be an active member of any religious institution and have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem.
- Demonstrate practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting and the community.
- Be 15 years of age.
- Be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Download a nomination form at www.legion.org/scouting.

The Square Knot Award

The Square Knot Award recognizes American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in Scouting, and who assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion. The award includes a gold-and-purple square knot for wear on the Scout uniform, a certificate and congratulatory letter from The American Legion’s national commander.

To learn more, email scouting@legion.org or download award requirements at www.legion.org/scouting.

How can my American Legion post sponsor a troop/pack/crew?

- Invite a local Boy Scout representative to speak to your post leadership about Scouting.
- Consult with the department Scouting chairman and a RSA district executive about the charter process.
- Appoint a post Scouting chairman to lead a committee of parents and interested post members.
- Select your unit leaders and see that they complete youth protection and other required RSA training.
- Complete a site visit plan for your Scouting unit.
- Publicize and promote your Scouting program through social media, schools, churches and other community groups.
- Attend unit meetings, and once the unit is established, present the charter at a post meeting.

How do I find a local American Legion post that would charter my troop/pack/crew?

Go to www.legion.org/posts to find an American Legion post in your area. Contact post leaders and ask if they would consider becoming the charter organization for your unit.

For more information:

Boy Scouts of America

® @www.scouting.org

The American Legion

PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 661-2204
@ www.legion.org/scouting

Follow The American Legion online:

facebook

twitter.com/americanlegion
The American Legion and Boy Scouts of America: Building character in youth, together

The American Legion’s emphasis on service to God and country is the perfect complement to the Scout Oath, which begins, “On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country...”

At their first national convention in 1919, Legionnaires endorsed the Scouting movement. Nearly a century later, more than 2,000 American Legion posts nationwide continue to sponsor Scout units.

For veterans and other adult volunteers, Scouting is a tangible way to be a positive influence on young people. Besides fun, friendship and adventure, the program offers opportunities to grow in character, leadership, citizenship and personal fitness.

The American Legion has a resolution encouraging posts, districts and departments to cooperate with Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in providing a program for young people to develop skills and maintain strong values.

Why Scouting?
By working with Boy Scouts of America, an American Legion post:
- Provides an opportunity for youth to learn citizenship and service — one of the Legion's four pillars.
- Adds to its visibility in the community.
- Increases its potential for membership growth. Both groups reap benefits; as post members get involved as merit badge counselors and committee members, the Scout unit's parents and adult leaders learn about the American Legion and its programs.
- Promotes among youth the honorable nature of military service.
- Has access to an even larger pool of youth who may benefit from American Legion Boys State, American Legion Boys Nation, American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, the Oratorical Contest and the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program.

Cub Scouting
Cub Scouting is for boys in first through fifth grade, or 7 to 10 years old. Led by parents and other adult leaders, home-centered activities encourage each boy to do his personal best now and throughout his life. By learning new skills, good habits and how to keep a positive attitude, boys grow in achievement, self-confidence and respect for others. Other lessons include teamwork, physical coordination and family unity.

Boy Scouting
Boy Scouting is for boys and young men not yet 18, and who are at least 11 or have completed fifth grade (or who have earned the Arrow of Light award in Cub Scouting) and are at least 10. In regular troop meetings and on campouts, Scouts learn basic leadership, self-government and citizenship. Active learning experiences include outdoor expeditions, community or religious service projects, and merit badges for boys mastering hobby and career skills. The goal is for Scouts to learn life lessons while having fun, and to adopt and live by meaningful personal standards as a cornerstone for success in life.

Venturing
Venturing is a youth development program for young men and women who are 14 years of age or 15 years of age and have completed eighth grade, through 21. Through challenging physical activities and leadership opportunities, they learn confidence, problem-solving, ethical decision-making and other life skills.

Venturing crews organize around an interest or specialty, such as high adventure, sports, arts and hobbies, religious life and Sea Scouting. With the support of adult advisors and community organizations, Venturing provides positive experiences that help young people become responsible and caring adults.
Junior Law Cadet Program

The program provides first-hand experiences and insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies. The program also affords these highly motivated young people an opportunity to consider law enforcement as a potential career choice. Recruitment of high school students, both male and female, representing all communities and backgrounds in the state, is one goal of the program. Once these young people have been selected to attend the program, the law enforcement community is challenged to present a program that will instill an understanding and respect for law enforcement professionals and their techniques.

The program is available to male and female high school students who have completed their junior year of high school and are in good academic standing. They should be of good moral character and possess a desire to learn more about the law enforcement profession. Their high school should recommend students who meet these qualifications to local posts who are sponsoring the Junior Law Cadet Program.
Junior Law Cadet Program

“Our program is not meant for couch potatoes! We physically train the cadets every morning and our class runs a 9-mile graduation run. Not bad for a six-day program! We provide to the cadets many classes, such as SWAT, K-9, building search, arrest shooter, high risk stops, alcohol/drugs, nutrition, Americanism, citizenship, truths behind the badge, laser and more! During the week-long program, each cadet submits a 1,500-word biography, so we will know the background of the cadet and how to help them become successful during the week.”

Sgt. Dan Palmer, director, The American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, Department of Arizona

“It is a world-class program, one of which we are enormously proud - a program that has the potential to change lives. It is a serious, rigorous and intense week, including physical training, drill and ceremonies, motor vehicle and criminal code instruction, emergency vehicle operations at the Consumer Reports test track, weapons training at the state police range in Simsbury, and leadership/obsidian course training.”

Jack Monahan, treasurer, Department of Connecticut, and staff member, Connecticut State Police Youth Week
PROGRAM GOAL

American Legion departments and posts are encouraged to sponsor Youth Cadet Law Enforcement programs in cooperation with their state police or highway patrol. While some departments use names such as Trooper Week Program, Law Enforcement Training or State Police Youth Week, it is recommended for recognition and branding purposes to use “Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program” which is consistent with Resolution 30 of the Spring 2014 National Executive Committee, which states, “Change the name of The American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program to The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program.”

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QUALIFICATIONS

The program is available to all high school students who have completed their junior year of high school and are in good academic standing. They should be of good moral character and possess a desire to learn more about the law enforcement profession. Their high school should recommend students who meet these qualifications to Legion posts who are sponsoring the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program.

HOW TO START A PROGRAM

Interested Legionnaires are asked to work with their department to select contacts who will initiate such a program. Contact your state police or highway patrol about the feasibility of starting such a program in your state. Once an agreement has been obtained, develop your curriculum, application process and dates of your first program.

CURRICULUM AND DURATION

Program content may vary from state to state.

Most programs will include physical fitness training coupled with classroom instruction and hands-on training. Topics of instruction may include criminal law, constitutional law, patrol procedures, criminal investigation procedures, traffic crash investigation, evidence gathering techniques, arrest techniques, taking fingerprints, testifying in court, public speaking, leadership skills, vehicle operating procedures, report writing, interviewing techniques, crisis intervention, use of control and firearms training.

Most programs are conducted in the summer and last about a week.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Departments and/or posts should develop applications and a process to select, approve and place students into this program. State police or highway patrol agencies should be contacted to assist in or develop the course curriculum. Physical fitness certifications from a physician may be required of applicants. Release of liability forms may also be required.

Other departments that can be contacted for information concerning their current program are: Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia.
American Legion Junior Shooting Sports

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. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females can participate, through Legion sponsorship; disabled youth are encouraged to join, as competitive shooting is a sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors. Contact your local Legion post, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Auxiliary unit for information about affiliating as a club or individual.

Junior’s who want to keep improving their skills can enroll in air-rifle qualification courses provided by the National Rifle Association and the Civilian Marksmanship Programs. These courses offer personal skill-development ladders for shooters to achieve established performance standards.
JR. Shooting Sports

About the program
The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program teaches youth rifle safety and procedure and lets children participate in an Olympic skill sport while fostering healthy competition. All interested youth under 18 years old (or high school seniors no older than 20) are welcome, regardless of gender or physical ability.

 Shooters are trained to use a .177 air rifle, and levels vary from beginners learning safety basics to winners of the Legion affiliated National Championship, which consists of regional champs competing in a shoulder-to-shoulder match.

“One thing I always tell young people when they are involved in the shooting sports is to enjoy what they are doing. Remember that one reason you are participating in this sport is because you enjoy the sport and have a passion for it. It is very difficult to be great at something that you do not enjoy doing.”

Jamie Corkish, 2012 Olympic gold medalist and winner of The American Legion’s 2002 Junior Rifle Precision National Championship

Resources
The American Legion embodies strong American values and forms a grassroots force dedicated to love of country and commitment to veterans, their families, their communities and young people.

For more information on Junior Shooting Sports, email juniorsports@legion.org, visit www.legion.org/shooting or contact your department chairperson. For additional information, contact:

Civilian Marksmanship Program
888-267-9796
www.odcmp.org

National Rifle Association
800-621-7635
programs.nra.org

National Safety Council
800-621-7635
www.nsc.org

USA Shooting
719-578-4670
www.usashooting.com

The American Legion
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1200
juniorshooting@legion.org
@www.legion.org

Follow The American Legion online:
facebook: www.legion.org/facebook
twitter: www.americanlegion.com

To become a member of the American Legion, visit www.legion.org/join.

To contribute to one of The American Legion’s programs that helps veterans, youth and others, please visit www.legion.org/donate.
Learn about rifle safety, compete in marksmanship contests

Who Can Participate?
In shooting sports, you don't have to sit on the sidelines. Anyone under 18 (or high school seniors no older than 20) can participate. Physical ability and size are no match for mental toughness and discipline in this co-ed skill sport.

Why Shooting Sports?
After demonstrating knowledge of safety techniques, you will join the centuries of Americans who have mastered marksmanship for survival and sport. But the appeal doesn't stop at our nation's borders — the best shooters from around the globe vie for Olympic gold. In fact, 2002 American Legion Three-Position National Champion Jamie Corkish won a gold medal at the 2012 Olympics.

As you become a better shooter, you'll gain responsibility, confidence and self-reliance. To hit your mark, you will also have to improve your ability to concentrate. Plus, you'll develop a skill you can enjoy and hone throughout your life.

What Will We Do?
You'll practice and study with your Legion-affiliated club, but get to compete as an individual.

Beginner: Safety First
All participants start with rifle safety and fundamentals. The Legion prides itself on safety. There has never been a rifle-related injury in Junior Shooting Sports Program history. You'll learn the right way to handle, load, aim and fire a rifle.

The student handbook is available under the Resources tab of the Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Program website, www.legion.org/shooting.

Intermediate: Build Skills
Once you have mastered the basics, you can take air rifle courses from the National Rifle Association or the Civilian Marksmanship Program through your club. These will help you develop your skills, set personal goals and work to achieve established performance standards.

Advanced: Compete With Others
Your club may hold competitions among its own members, or it may host or attend regional matches. The two basic kinds of competitions are postal and shoulder-to-shoulder. In a postal match, you and fellow participants shoot at targets and then mail them off to be scored. Shoulder-to-shoulder matches are in-person and scored in real-time.

The American Legion Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament begins with state and regional postal matches. The top shooters from that round participate in a qualifying round, which is also a postal match. The best 30 junior shooters from across the country earn an expense-paid opportunity to contend for the National Championship in Colorado Springs, Colo. In the same facility where Olympians train, those junior shooters will compete in a shoulder-to-shoulder match for the title.

How Much Does It Cost?
Some American Legion posts lend participants gear, including rifles, or some equipment. Many charge a registration fee to cover these costs and the cost of the practice facility.

Often students are required to provide their own pellets and targets.

Contact your local post for detailed information.

When Can I Start?
If your local Legion post supports a Junior Shooting Sports Program, contact them directly to check on practice dates and course schedules.

If you have questions, contact juniorshooting@legion.org.
American Legion Baseball began in 1925 and held its first national tournament the following year. Today, there are nearly 3,700 teams and more than 66,000 youth who participate in the program yearly from all 50 states and Canada. Legion Baseball teaches youth good sportsmanship, loyalty, respect for rules and decisions rendered, physical fitness, fair play, courage and citizenship.

The program is divided into two divisions — seniors (18- and 19-year-olds) and juniors (17-year-olds and younger). Tournaments are conducted in the senior division and the top eight teams who win their respective division’s regional tournament advance to The American Legion World Series (ALWS).
American Legion Baseball

IT'S TIME TO JOIN

American Legion Baseball has been turning out college and Major League Baseball (MLB) players for decades. Nearly 75 percent of Legion Baseball graduates continue playing baseball in college, and about 50 percent of all current MLB players played Legion Baseball. More than 60 Legion Baseball graduates have been inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Does your team want to belong to the nation's best-organized amateur youth baseball program?

Is your team ready to play other strong competitive teams?

Is your team ready to join a winning tradition?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, contact a local American Legion post. Better yet, attend its next meeting with a couple of players and ask the veterans to help sponsor your team.

Go online to learn more or register your team.

www.legion.org/baseball

MILLIONS OF SUCCESS STORIES

Since 1925, American Legion Baseball has been a key part of the journey to adulthood for millions of young men.

Some have gone on to play the sport professionally such as current stars Albert Pujols, Madison Bumgarner and Justin Verlander. Other Legion Baseball graduates make their mark in business, politics and other fields. Former Vice President Dick Cheney played for American Legion Post 2 in Casper, Wyo. Television journalist and author Tom Brokaw played American Legion Baseball as a teen in South Dakota.

In short, American Legion Baseball alumni are proud contributing members of society and are often among the most successful people in their respective careers.
AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

A GREAT SUMMER TRADITION

Combine America’s national pastime with a winning tradition and you get American Legion Baseball. High school aged players are invited to participate in the nation’s most competitive youth baseball program, which has taught teamwork, good sportsmanship and physical fitness to generations of young men, along with promoting citizenship in their communities.

With nearly 4,000 teams from all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico, American Legion Baseball is the only program of its kind. Legion Baseball offers opportunities for quality competition in a structured format and team travel to invitational, state, regional and national tournaments. The Legion Baseball World Series games are live streamed on ESPN3 with the championship game televised live on ESPNU.

Our user-friendly website provides listings for hundreds of invitational tournaments, the latest baseball news, online team registration and more to help your team get started.

www.legion.org/baseball

WHY AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL?

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT EXPENSES PAID

Shelby, N.C., has been the official home for the American Legion Baseball World Series since 2011. The American Legion sponsors the only amateur baseball program that provides travel arrangements, which includes airfare, hotel and meal expenses while participating at a regional tournament and to qualifying teams at the American Legion World Series.

To ensure fairness on the field, the national office makes arrangements for tournament staff, umpires and baseballs at the regional and national tournaments.

“You represent a post – people who fought in a war for us. It’s an honor to be playing for them. When we step out on the field and we’re called Brooklawn Legion Post 72, it’s representing a really good cause.”

– Eric Grafton, who played for Legion World Series champion Post 72, Brooklawn, N.J.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Presented annually to deserving players, scholarships such as the All Academic Team are awarded during the national tournament, along with individual state awards.

GEORGE W. RULON PLAYER OF THE YEAR

This annual award honors integrity, mental attitude, cooperation, citizenship, sportsmanship, scholastic aptitude and good conduct. Since 1949, it has been given by special arrangement with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL TROPHY & MLB WORLD SERIES

This award recognizes American Legion Baseball’s national championship team during an on-the-field ceremony at Major League Baseball’s World Series.

USA BASEBALL TOURNAMENT OF STARS

The American Legion nominates players to participate in this tournament, which features the nation’s best ballplayers. These players form the pool of talent from which USA Baseball selects its 18U National Team to represent the United States in international competition.

“(Legion Baseball) had an impact on my career because it was the first time I got to play against older kids. The competition is a step up from high school. The friendships you make through Legion Baseball last a lifetime.”

– Hall of Fame pitcher Greg Maddux, who played for Post 8 in Las Vegas, Nev.
Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW)

As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home where they join other recent veterans who served in Iraq. Many of these servicemembers have left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has said that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI.

Even as the wars conclude, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other dangerous duties.

While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.
Operation Comfort Warriors represents the Legion's expression of gratitude to those who sacrificed to protect our freedoms.

HOW RECIPIENTS BENEFIT

Today, wounded warriors need a variety of items to help in their recovery. Some patients require loose-fitting sweatsuits to cover their healing wounds without adding pressure to burns sustained in combat. Others use fitness equipment to rebuild strength in their muscles. Still others enjoy the camaraderie and fresh air that come from a fishing trip, thanks to donated gear.

Some gifts have included sports equipment for the adaptive therapy program at Fort Jackson, gift cards to patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and fishing and kayak gear at Fort Drum.

The success of the program relies entirely on donations, which are used to purchase items for U.S. service members.

To make a donation, go to www.legion.org/ocw.
OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

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HOW TO HELP

Most military medical centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages. The Legion strongly prefers monetary donations so that it can expedite the purchase and delivery of items to troops.

HOW TO GIVE: Visit www.legion.org/ocw to contribute a donation electronically, using your credit card. Checks may be mailed to The American Legion, Operation Comfort Warriors, PO Box 361626, Indianapolis, IN 46236.

HOW TO RAISE MONEY: A fundraiser such as a motorcycle run or a fish fry can be a great way to gather donations. A Legion post, Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, Legion Riders chapter, church group or other charitable organization could assist in sponsoring a fundraiser. Proceeds from a fundraising event can be donated to OCW via the website or mailing address listed above.

HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Check out www.legion.org/ocw for the latest news and information about the program.

HOW IT WORKS

The Legion contacts officials at military hospitals, VA hospitals, warrior transition units and surrounding communities, and obtains lists to determine what is most needed by wounded, injured or ill servicemembers. Once a need is identified, the items are ordered by the Legion and delivered in an expeditious manner. It’s as simple as that. No red tape.

All of OCW’s administrative and marketing costs are paid from Legion membership dues received, meaning that 100 percent of donated funds go directly to purchasing comfort items for the troops.
American Legion Boys State

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

Legion posts select high school juniors to attend the program. In most cases, individual expenses are paid by a sponsoring post, a local business or another community-based organization.
AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE IS ... 

To the participant: A richly rewarding and educational program that has prompted many former participants to seek careers in public service. Selection serves as testimony to a participant’s character and leadership skills and is an experience recognized by employers, U.S. service academies and university admissions boards as an indicator of strong leadership and character traits.

To the parents: Assure your son is participating in a character-building program of rich tradition open to those who have earned the right to attend.

To the school: An experience that teaches young men about state government and how to become better leaders. As participants return to school for their senior year, they are able to take a more active role in student government.

To the sponsor: An opportunity to make a positive difference in a young man’s life. A sponsor provides a character-building and educational experience that the participant will cherish for a lifetime. It is also a source of satisfaction to the sponsor.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Each American Legion Boys State program selects two outstanding participants each year to represent the state at American Legion Boys Nation, an extension of the Boys State experience. Boys Nation has objectives and characteristics similar to those of Boys State except the focus is on the study of federal government. The week-long program in our nation’s capital combines lectures, forums and visits to federal agencies, institutions, memorials and historical sites in and around the District of Columbia.

At Boys Nation, each delegate represents his state as a senator and participates in scenic sessions. They organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by the senators. Instruction and operation of the Boys Nation Senate is based on the rules of the U.S. Senate.
American Legion Boys State is a unique summertime educational program for rising high school seniors that focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governmental bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective state government, while providing training in practical citizenship, leadership and character development through a non-partisan perspective.

The American Legion believes our U.S. government can survive only with an educated populace. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate our democratic republic, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations.

OBJECTIVES
American Legion Boys State seeks to:
1) Develop leadership and pride in American citizenship.
2) Promote a keen interest in the detailed study of government.
3) Develop a full understanding of American traditions and a loyalty to the United States of America.
4) Motivate young citizens to maintain our form of government.
5) Insulate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.
6) Safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
The effectiveness of American Legion Boys State in teaching state government is found within its instructional program. It consists of some classroom work and general assemblies of instruction, but the program is primarily comprised of functional hands-on activities that promote learning by doing. The majority of program hours are focused on government instruction and practical exercises. Known as “citizens” at Boys State, each young man becomes an integral part of the program by assuming responsibilities and performing duties either as an elected or appointed official, or otherwise fulfilling an assignment entailing the duties of responsible citizenship.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION
Participants are assigned to a mythical political party which results in involvement at the precinct level, the city, county, judicial circuit, senatorial or legislative district, as well as at the state level of government. The government organization provides for elections at all levels and includes party caucuses and conventions, platform development, and the organizing and operation of local government units such as county boards, agencies and courts. Boys State allows its citizens to form and operate their government with guidance of adult volunteer staff. And because the program emphasizes learning by doing, citizens are encouraged to be innovative and are not bound by rigid design.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION
The American Legion’s Americanism Commission has established certain qualifications for prospective Boys State citizens and works with the respective programs to insure compliance. Guidelines for Boys State participation include:

- Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining are to be considered.
- Any young man who has previously attended a Boys State is not eligible to attend a second session.
- Only young men with outstanding qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service to their schools are to be considered.

In the selection process, merit and ability are the two most important factors considered. Enrollment fees, or tuition, are paid by American Legion posts or other community-minded organizations, leaving little or no expense to a young man or his family.

The selection process for Boys State varies at the state-level organization of The American Legion, but it generally begins with high school counselors and/or counselors recommending several young men. The sponsor (either a Legion post or other community organization) then selects representatives from that list to participate in American Legion Boys State.
The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation’s laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and CNN anchor Lou Dobbs.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over $138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an $18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home $16,000, and third gets $14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest’s first round receives a $1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional $1,500 scholarship. The American Legion’s National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.
This contest is for students who
Welcome Learning

For the student who looks for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is in order. Students learn about our country’s Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 80 years.

“This we vote for matters. The leaders we elect should reflect the spirit of our society. Their main goal should be the preservation of our rights as written in our founding document. Failure to vote, then, is the equivalent of rejecting the freedoms bestowed on each individual by our Constitution. Those freedoms, like a family hearth, should be treasured and held dear.”

-Giada Michels, Florida
2015 National Champion

The main purpose of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high-school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

For more information on The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, look at the Legion website at www.legion.org/oratorical, or contact the following:

- For dates, sites and deadlines information concerning local, district and state level competition, individuals should contact their local American Legion post or their respective state headquarters office of the American Legion.
- For information concerning the national contest, contact:
The Americanism Division
The American Legion
PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1204
oratorical@legion.org

Follow The American Legion online:
www.legion.org/facebook
twitter.com/AmericanLegion

The American Legion
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1204
www.legion.org

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Winners receive scholarships
Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists of the national contest as follows: 1st place: $10,000; 2nd place: $10,000; 3rd place: $10,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a $5,000 scholarship. Each first-round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional $1,500 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. The scholarships awarded by the national organization of The American Legion may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.

Each department (state) is represented
Each department of The American Legion may certify one contestant into the national contest. If for any reason the department winner is unable to compete in the national contest, the department first runner-up may be substituted following approval by The American Legion’s National Americanism Commission.

For information about the oratorical contest in your state, contact your local American Legion post or state headquarters. A listing of state headquarters’ addresses and phone numbers can be found on the Legion website at www.legion.org.

Who is eligible to participate?
You are eligible to participate in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program if you are a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States. Further, all contestants must be bona fide students under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest and must be enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum of the school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

Contestants address Constitution topics
The prepared oration. The subject to be used for the prepared oration must be on some aspect of the United States Constitution with emphasis on a citizen’s duties and obligations to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department contest must be used in the national contest. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

Assigned topic. The purpose of the assigned topic is to test the speaker’s knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution. The assigned topic must take no less than three minutes and must not exceed five minutes for time of delivery. Each year, the list of assigned topics will be made available prior to the contest and posted on the Legion website at www.legion.org/oratorical/topics.

Independent judges select winners
The judges are an integral part of the contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Five judges are used in the process, which ultimately results in the selection of a national champion each year.
The chaplaincy has a long and honorable history. For it is as old as the story of military operations. The term goes back to a legend of the fourth century about Martin of Tours. It is said that on his way home from battle he met a shivering beggar. He cut his cloak in two parts and gave one to the beggar.

Legend says that night he had a vision of Christ wearing the part given to the one in need. His part known as a "cappa" was kept in a shrine called "cappella", becoming an object of veneration.

French kings applied the term "chapelains", which meant "keepers of the cloak", to those clergy who ministered to them.
The Chaplain’s Handbook

The next slide shows a sample of a Chaplain’s Handbook cover as well as the Handbook index. The index indicates just how much material can be found in this publication to assist you in fulfilling your roll as a Chaplain in the Sons of The American Legion.
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The Chaplain's Prayer Manual

The Chaplain's Prayer Manual has invocations, benedictions, table graces, and prayers for most American Legion events.

There are prayers for our organization's birthday; President's Month, the armed forces, Memorial Occasions, Post Everlasting ceremonies, Flag Day, Independence Day, V-J Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, New Year, Building Dedications, and Installations.

There are prayers for: The American Legion; Our POW/MIAs; America Civil Authorities; The Youth Legislative Bodies; and Miscellaneous needs. There are prayers in poetry and special readings. Also, there is a GUIDELINE FOR A MEMORIAL SERVICE, INFORMATION ON GRAVESIDE SERVICES, AND A FOUR CHAPLAIN'S DAY PROGRAM that are helpful.
Lets Be Right On Flag Etiquette

Flag Etiquette is showing proper respect for our Nation's Flag. This includes but is not limited to. Proper display at events and placement such as at cemeteries.

More information on this important matter can be found in a booklet available from American Legion Emblem Sales.
Let’s Be Right on Flag Etiquette
The Ten Ideals

- Patriotism - commonly defined as love of and/or devotion to one's country.
- Health - to maintain your well being in everyday life no matter where you are.
- Knowledge - is defined as the state or fact of knowing. Familiarity, awareness, or understanding gained through experience or study.
- Training – become knowledgeable about Legion activities so that you are able to assist by volunteering or if your called upon.
- Honor - is defined as high respect, as that shown for special merit.
- Faith - is defined as a confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing. Belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence.
- Helpfulness - is defined as providing assistance; useful.
- Courtesy - is defined as polite behavior.
- Reverence - is defined as feeling of profound awe and respect; venerate. An act of showing respect.
- Comradeship - is defined as the state of being a comrade, intimate fellowship. The company, friendship or fellow purpose of others.
A national Award of recognition maybe presented to those who have completed the Ten Ideals Program.
5 Star Program Of Service

Patriotism • Love of Flag • Love of Country

Citizenship • Individual obligation of citizenship

Discipline • Respect for and obedience to rules

Leadership • Participation in group activities

Legionism • Knowledge of The American Legion
5 Star Program Of Service

The Five-Star Award, which can be presented to those SAL members who show dedication and knowledge in the Five Point Program of Service
Insignia for the Five–Star Award can only be had by certification. All orders must first be approved by Department and / or Detachment Headquarters, and sent together with the remittance to The American Legion, National Emblem Sales PO Box 1050, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206.
Americanism is love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is a vital, active, living force. Americanism means peace, strength, the will and the courage to live as free men in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking. It is not a word; it is a cause, a way of life – the best way of life ever known – a challenge and a hope in this world.

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country.

It is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for our nation and for our posterity.
The Sons of The American Legion

For more information about other great American Legion Programs please go to [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications) or contact your local American Legion.