Education Program
American Legion Auxiliary
2025-2026

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Purpose: The purpose of the Education Committee is to promote quality education for children—especially for military children—and adults. Standing Rule #6, Mission Outreach Programs.

Key Program Statements

- To promote quality education for 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.

EDUCATION

Department of Connecticut Education Grant (click here for application)

OBJECTIVE: At least FOUR $500 Department Education Grants are to be awarded by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut. One-half to assist Veterans' Children to secure an education beyond the high school level. The other half of the Grants to be awarded to a child or grandchild of a member of The American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut (or a member at the time of their death), or to the child or grandchild who is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion, Department of Connecticut.

The Department Chairman MUST receive the application and the required documents no later than March 30, 2026.

We gave away 5 in 2025, let's give more in 2026!

ALA National Scholarships

- The final deadline for all ALA National Scholarships is March 1, 2026.. The application form will close at 11:59 pm Eastern. No exceptions will be made. National Headquarters receives the entries and disperses them to the departments (states) for the first round of judging.
- Winners will be announced in May via social media and on the national website www.ALAforVeterans.org.
- Letters will be mailed in May to winners and their sponsoring units.
- A list of winners will be emailed in May to department secretaries and education chairs.
- For more info go to https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships

Available Scholarships:

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

Three $5,000 scholarships are awarded annually per geographic division, for a total of 15 scholarships. These scholarships are for undergraduate study only at an accredited college or university, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship

The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund is an umbrella that supports three separate scholarship opportunities for participants in American Legion Auxiliary programs. One is for American Legion Auxiliary Junior members, another for the Junior Members of the Year, and one is for participants in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

One $2,000 scholarship is awarded annually per Auxiliary geographic division. Applicant may be pursuing training in a certified, trade, professional, or technical program, or a two-year or four-year degree program.

Member Loyalty Scholarship

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are the future of our organization. To reward those who retain their membership into adulthood, the American Legion Auxiliary offers the Member Loyalty Scholarship to current college students. Ten scholarships, in the amount of $2,500 each, will be awarded to a current college students. Two scholarships will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. The scholarship is a grant; not a loan.

Department of Connecticut Convention Awards

Education

C. Joan Tarrant Award: Awarded to the Unit with 70 members or less doing the most outstanding work for the Education Program.

Louise W. Blakeslee Award: Awarded to the Unit with 71 members or more doing the most outstanding work for the Education Program.

Joyce W. Brinley Award: Awarded to the Unit with the highest percentage per member donations through the Department Office by the close of books to the Department Memorial Education Grants.

As the new school year approaches, we have an opportunity to have a positive impact on the educational environment.

A first initiative is to establish connections with local schools and create opportunities for collaboration and support. A personalized letter to the Superintendent of your school district is a great start. This proved successful for Units in the past. One letter is a request to the Superintendent to share the second letter with the Faculty and Staff in the district. The letter for the Faculty and Staff is not just for teachers, as I understand the value of all personnel inside a school, which is necessary for the success of the school and its students.

Click on the hyperlinks and you will be asked to make a copy of the Google document for personalization. Please email me (ALA_CT_Education@yahoo.com) if you would prefer a Word document. I will personalize one for you if you send me your Unit's info (Unit #, Education Chair, address and contact information, email, and/or phone).
Request to Superintendents 2025-26
Thank you teachers 2025-26

Suggestions to support The Education Program: (For more info, click here.)

- **Volunteer**: Many education programs require hands-on support, such as helping with scholarship applications, mentoring students, or assisting with educational events.
- **Promote Scholarships**: The ALA offers scholarships for students pursuing higher education. Spread the word about these scholarship opportunities within your community, schools, and among eligible candidates. Encourage deserving individuals to apply for these scholarships. Click here for more information.
- **Donate**: Make financial contributions to the ALA's education programs. Donations help fund scholarships, educational materials, and events. Even a small donation can make a difference in supporting educational opportunities for veterans and their families.
- **Participate in Fundraisers**: Many American Legion Auxiliary units organize fundraising events to support their programs. Participate in events or help organize them to raise funds specifically for education initiatives.
- **Advocate for Education**: Raise awareness about the importance of education programs for veterans, military families, and young people. Advocate for policies that support educational opportunities for these groups.
- **Mentorship**: Offer your expertise and mentorship to students or veterans seeking guidance in their educational pursuits. Sharing your knowledge and experiences can be incredibly valuable to those navigating their education journey.
- **Attend Workshops and Seminars**: American Legion Auxiliary units often organize workshops, seminars, and educational events. Attend these events to stay informed about the latest developments in education programs and to network with others who share similar interests.
- **Collaborate**: Partner with local schools, colleges, and educational institutions to create joint initiatives that support veterans, military families, and young people in their educational endeavors.
- **Share Resources**: If you come across resources, such as books, study materials, or online courses, that could benefit education programs, consider donating or sharing these resources with the American Legion Auxiliary.
- **Spread Awareness**: Use your social media platforms, community networks, and personal contacts to spread awareness about the American Legion Auxiliary's education programs. The more people know about these initiatives, the more support they can receive.
- **Collect**: Collect school supplies for American Legion Auxiliary Give 10 to Education. For more information, click here.

Remember that every little bit of support can make a difference in promoting education for veterans, military families, and young individuals. By actively engaging with and supporting the American Legion Auxiliary's education programs, you contribute to the betterment of these communities and the advancement of education for all.

Be sure to invite local media to attend any events or submit your own story! A picture or an article in your local newspaper reminds your community that the American Legion Auxiliary continues to support education in our communities with pride.

2025-2026 National Education Program Awards

Deadlines and Submission Requirements

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Education Program (per division)

- All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

National Awards Form Link: https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form

Department Award: Best Department Education Program (per division)

- All department entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1
- Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

Questions? Contact Education@ALAforVeterans.org

Resources: (click on resource for hyperlink)

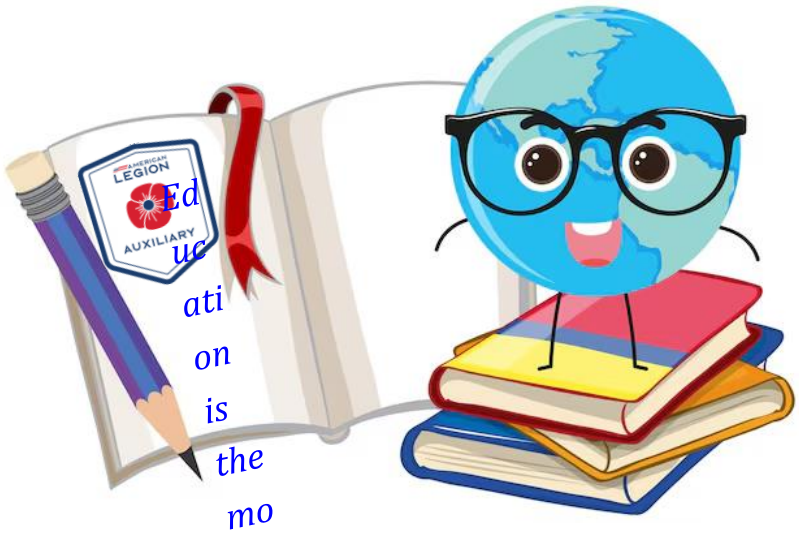
- My Auxiliary Member Portal Education Committee
- Box Tops for Education
- How to Organize a Veterans in Community Schools Event
- A Member's Role With National Scholarships
- The American Legion Scholarships page

Looking for ideas?

ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.

This is a place to share service activities and events, ask questions, obtain information, and network for those interested in the American Legion Auxiliary Education program.

Click here for American Legion Auxiliary Education Program Facebook page.



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela