

SAMSUNG

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Samsung American Legion Scholarship



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

legion.org/scholarships/samsung

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Mission Statement

The American Legion ensures the overall purpose of Samsung's scholarship endowment is fulfilled, providing direct descendants of veterans who honorably served their country with higher learning opportunities. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship supports undergraduate studies at accredited colleges and universities in the United States with the purpose of developing future leaders of our nation. This is accomplished by reviewing and maintaining eligibility rules for participants; determining the number and value of scholarships to be awarded; selecting the most qualified applicants as National Scholars and Department Finalists; and facilitating networking opportunities through the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association.

Introduction

On July 26, 1995, the Samsung Group and The American Legion held a joint press conference in Washington, D.C., to announce Samsung's endowment of a \$5 million educational scholarship fund to The American Legion for administration to direct descendants of U.S. war veterans. It was a gesture of appreciation from Samsung to U.S. military veterans for coming to the aid of South Korea in its war against invading forces from China and North Korea.

K.S. Park, then-chairman of Samsung Engineering & Construction Co., words from that day remain a source of immense pride to The American Legion:

"We (Samsung) wanted to demonstrate our appreciation. The best way to do this, we believe, is to offer educational opportunities to the children and grandchildren of the American veterans who served their country so honorably. The American Legion is the perfect organization for accomplishing this."

At the press conference, then-American Legion National Commander William M. Detweiler, thanked Samsung for its generous endowment. In part, Detweiler stated, "We are fully aware of the significance of Samsung's offer ... Americans who answered a call to duty in the earliest days of the Cold War, and served under the United Nations banner to enforce its mandate and preserve the security of the Korean Peninsula, are truly deserving of this long-awaited and deserved recognition (Korean War Veterans Memorial) in what has become known as 'The Forgotten War.'"

Program Overview

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship issues awards only from interest and other income to the fund. The principal amount of the fund is not used for the scholarships.

Through its existing organizational structure, The American Legion administers the endowment fund and scholarship program at the local, state and national levels. This includes selection of scholarship awardees, development and implementation of program organization, and marketing strategy for the program.

Since inception of the scholarship, the Americanism Commission of The American Legion has invited a representative of Samsung to aid its Committee on Youth Education (COYE) in selection of the national scholars. The COYE consists of members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. In addition to selecting the national scholars, the Americanism Commission's COYE is responsible for developing and maintaining a plan for the scholarship program's selection process and eligibility criteria. The commission announced the first Samsung American Legion national scholars in September 1996.

“Samsung values education. One of the most important contributions we can make is to support students in their pursuits of academic excellence. Helping future generations achieve their scholastic goals is a priority for us.”

- K.S. Park, then-chairman of Samsung Engineering & Construction Co.



Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

Those eligible to apply for Samsung American Legion Scholarships shall be students who are direct descendants (1) of U.S. wartime veterans of the following war periods:

- April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918; or
- Dec. 7, 1941 – Until such time as determined by the federal government

Attend an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program

Be between their junior and senior years of high school

Complete the online application process, including uploading all supporting documentation before 11:59 p.m. at the close of the first day of their respective Boys State or Girls State programs.

To be considered as a national scholar, the applicant must:

Have been selected as the finalist from their respective Boys State or Girls State program. (2)

Have been selected as a Samsung American Legion National Scholar by members of the Committee on Youth Education at The American Legion's annual Fall Meetings, conducted every October.



1) Direct descendant is defined as the applicant being the legal child, grandchild, great grandchild, step-grandchild, etc., or a legally adopted child of a qualified wartime veteran.

2) 100-102 department finalists can be named each year (two from each state; one from each Boys State and one from each Girls State). Hawaii has historically been given the opportunity to nominate two young people (male and female), by virtue of not having a Boys State or Girls State program. However, in 2016, Hawaii began its Girls State program. Historically, American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary departments submit 85-91 recipients as the top finalists. In 2025, 101 finalists were submitted for an all-time high.



Program Rules and Conditions

Through five national resolutions, The American Legion clearly stated all rules, conditions and support of the American Legion Samsung Scholarship. The resolutions can be accessed in their entirety using the links below:

Resolution No. 1, 1995 - “Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program.” Resolution No. 1: Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program | Digital Archive

Resolution No. 7, 2015 - “Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program Enhancement” Resolution No. 7: Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program Enhancement | Digital Archive

Resolution No. 29, Amendment to Resolution No. 28, 2019/20 - “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program.” Resolution No. 29: Amendment to Resolution No. 28 - “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” | Digital Archive

Resolution No. 9, 2019 - “Updated Eligibility for Samsung American Legion Scholarships.” Resolution No. 9: Updated Eligibility for Samsung American Legion Scholarships | Digital Archive

To receive a copy of the most recent Samsung American Legion Scholarship Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), please email americanism@legion.org

Financial Stewards

The American Legion is an excellent financial steward to the funds in its' purview.

Being an excellent financial steward requires the heart, the passion and discipline to protect the fund. It requires competence, being able to judge objectively and with wisdom. Also required is courage; the ability to speak for the cause and protect the individuals and funds involved.

Prudent decision making and sustainability are key factors in American Legion fiscal management.

In 1995, we were given **\$5 million** from the Samsung Corporation.

In the past 30 years of managing the Samsung American Legion Scholarship trust, we have gifted **\$7,701,500 to 2,618 students**.

As of Aug. 31, 2025, the fund balance is **\$7,116,626**. Our work is far from over.

The American Legion doesn't just manage funds, we build relationships and change lives.

To establish a fund in your name, please contact:

Office of Fund Development, American Legion Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana
317-630-1225

Legion awards \$251,250 to Boys State and Girls State participants

as appeared on Legion.org

OCT 10, 2025

The 2025 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients have been named. The 101 scholarship recipients – who attended either the 2025 American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State program – were selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Oct. 10, 2025.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship awarded 10 national scholars with \$10,000, 10 runners-up with \$5,000, and 81 state finalists each will receive \$1,250 for undergraduate study.

Scholarship Recipients

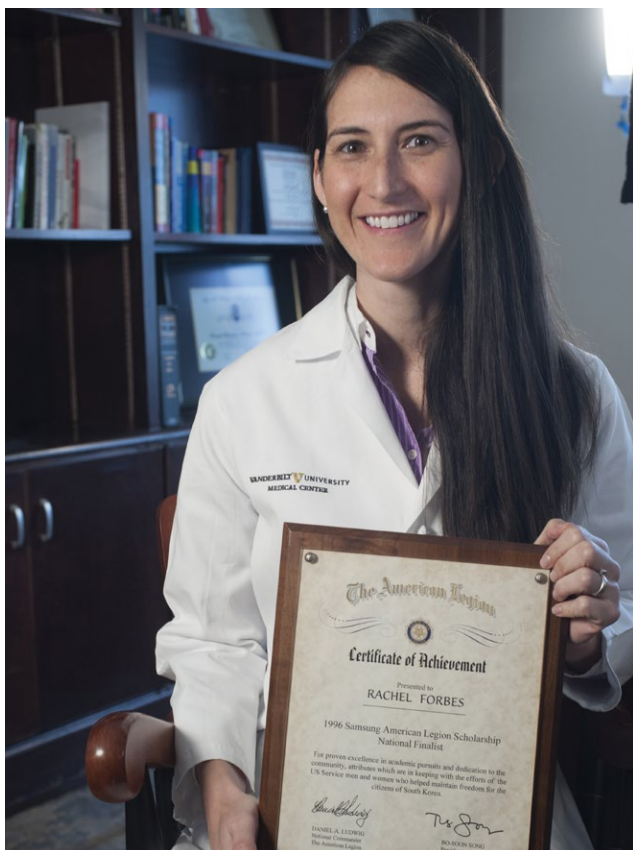
Words of Thanks

“Thank you so much for this honor. To say I am ecstatic is an understatement. I cannot wait to share this great news with my local American Legion and Auxiliary (and all my friends from Girls State). Thank you again!”

“It is an honor and a privilege to receive this award. Thank you so much!”

“Thank you very much for sending the announcement that I will be receiving the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. Once again, thank you very much, and I am incredibly grateful.”

“Thank you so much for this award. I am incredibly honored and extremely grateful. This will significantly help me achieve my college goals and beyond.”



Program Award History

Award Year	Recipients	Total Awarded
1996	95	\$242,500
1997	90	\$310,000
1998	88	\$328,000
1999	86	\$326,000
2000	87	\$233,000
2001	90	\$230,000
2002	91	\$232,000
2003	90	\$231,000
2004	90	\$229,000
2005	91	\$230,000
2006	85	\$325,000
2007	87	\$288,000
2008	86	\$306,000
2009	87	\$307,000
2010	87	\$288,000
2011	89	\$277,900
2012	89	\$276,800
2013	89	\$277,900
2014	89	\$277,900
2015	88	\$275,000
2016	89	\$266,750
2017	99	\$248,750
2018	98	\$247,500
2019	98	\$247,500
2020	0	\$0*
2021	87	\$232,500
2022	86	\$232,500
2023	91	\$238,750
2024	95	\$243,750
2025	101	\$251,250
Total	2,618	\$7,701,500

* Samsung American Legion Scholarship Award suspended for 2020 due to COVID-19 global pandemic at the recommendation of National Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson (retired, 2022).

Fund Balance

as of 8/31/2025

\$7,116,626

Boys State and Girls State Information

American Legion Boys State and American Auxiliary Legion Girls State programs are among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government.

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 and Girls State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

American Legion posts and American Legion Auxiliary units 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.

For more information about Boys State and Girls State, please go to the following links:

Boys State

legion.org/boysnation

Girl State

legion-aux.org/ala-girls-state

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