

SAMSUNG

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Samsung American Legion Scholarship



2023 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. 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 Department Finalists and National Scholars; investigating and discussing possible expansion of the program; and establishing guidelines for participation in one such expansion, 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 to 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, 85-91 American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary departments submit finalists. In 2023, 91 departments submitted, 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 27 years of managing the Samsung American Legion Scholarship trust, we have gifted **\$7,206,500** to **2,422 students**.

As of August 2023, the fund balance is **\$7,351,050**. 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:

Doug Stafford

Director, Charitable Giving

Office of Charitable Gifts, American Legion Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana

317-630-1225

dstafford@legion.org

Legion awards \$238,750 to Boys State and Girls State participants

as appeared on Legion.org

OCT 12, 2023

The 2023 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients have been named. The 91 scholarship recipients – who attended either the 2023 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, October 7.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship awarded 10 national scholars with \$10,000, 10 runners-up with \$5,000, and 71 state finalists each will receive \$1,250 for undergraduate study.

Scholarship Recipients

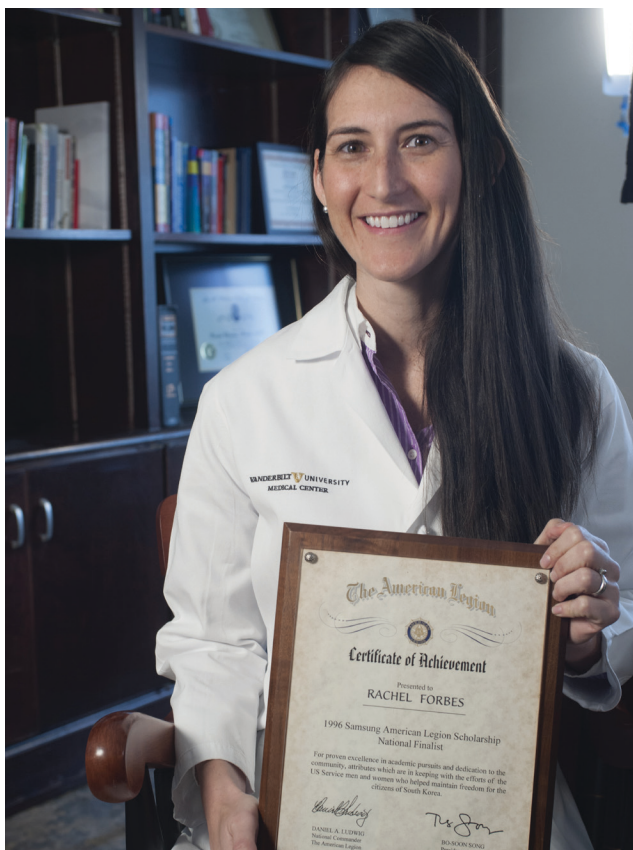
Words of Thanks

“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
Total	2422	\$7,206,500

Fund Balance

as of 8/31/2023 \$7,351,050

Samsung American Legion Scholarship Awards Suspended for 2020

Pandemics have affected humanity throughout history, including the most recent COVID-19 pandemic that gripped the world throughout most of 2020. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic caused by a novel coronavirus – a new coronavirus strain affected the respiratory system that had not been previously found in people. Adhering to “shelter in place” and other restrictive public health orders, the coronavirus pandemic brought everyday life to a grinding halt, disrupting home and families, workplaces, businesses and nearly every facet of American life.

As a result of the pandemic, The American Legion at all levels made responsible decisions to suspend many of its youth programs during 2020, including the majority of American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs across the nation. It is through the Boys State and Girls State programs that participants are afforded eligibility to apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. As a result of many Boys State and Girls State program cancellations, the difficult decision was made to suspend awarding Samsung American Legion Scholarships in 2020. Students awarded previous Samsung Scholarships still had access to unused funds they may have needed.

National Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson (retired, 2022) explained the necessity of the situation perfectly. “These times are unparalleled,” Chairman Anderson said. “And while it’s distressing to think of all those youth across the nation who are disappointed to learn of the cancellation of American Legion programs this year, it would be a much greater tragedy if even just one of those youth were to fall ill during a program. The Americanism Commission feels this is the right thing to do.”

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Prepared by:

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Americanism Division

P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1203
americanism@legion.org
legion.org