

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Illinois
2025-2026

SUBJECT: ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS

Applicants for this award shall be/shall have been Junior members of the Department of Illinois American Legion Auxiliary; said Junior to have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three (3) years and must now hold a membership card for the year 2026. Junior members may be daughters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, or sisters of the veteran.

The Illinois Scholarship for Junior members will provide \$1,000 scholarships as funds permit.

The full amount of the scholarship will be paid in one payment. Each recipient will be required to sign an agreement that in the event she does not complete the semester of school as planned, arrangements must be made with the American Legion Auxiliary within thirty (30) days for the return of the full amount of the scholarship.

RULES GOVERNING THIS SCHOLARSHIP:

1. Applicant must be in her senior year or a graduate of an accredited high school, but she may not have attended an institution of higher learning. (College courses taken while High School student do not apply) **Those pursuing a NURSING career are not eligible for the Illinois Scholarship for Junior Members and MUST apply to our Nurses Scholarship program even if they are enrolling in a college school of nursing.**
2. Application for the Illinois Scholarship for Junior Member **must be secured from and returned to the sponsoring Unit.**
3. **A Unit may enter ONLY ONE APPLICANT IN DEPARTMENT COMPETITION** sponsored under the Education Program and an applicant may be sponsored by only one Unit.
4. If a Unit has more than one applicant, a committee of three qualified people shall be appointed to serve as judges. If you have more than one applicant, you can always check with another Unit about sponsoring one. Judging as follows:
 - A. **CHARACTER /LEADERSHIP–25%** - High standard of conduct, keen sense of right, strength of character, adherence to truth and conscience, and devotion to church and religious principles and volunteerism, ability to lead and to accomplish through group action, personal magnetism, guidance and thought of others. Volunteer participation in Auxiliary programs.
 - B. **ESSAY - 25%** - Content and spelling.
 - C. **SCHOLARSHIP – 25%** - Scholastic attainment with grades of most recent year of study and rank in class.
 - D. **BASIS OF NEED – 25%** - Actual need of financial assistance to continue higher education.
5. The scholarship must be used within twelve (12) months of date received.

6. All applicants shall be notified of the results and a copy of the letter sent to the sponsoring Unit President after June 1. Application packets will not be returned.
7. The applicant is limited to applying for ONLY ONE ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORED UNDER THE EDUCATION PROGRAM BY THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (Applicant material MUST INCLUDE)

1. Completed application.
2. The following two (2) letters of recommendation or reference are required. **(Recommendation letters from school must be on letterhead and all letters signed.)**
 - a. One from either the principal or guidance counselor of the school from which the applicant is attending or a graduate. On Letterhead.**
 - b. One (1) from adult citizen, other than a relative, attesting to the applicant's character in regard to conduct, citizenship and leadership.
3. **List of volunteer activities and hours** for the past 3 years, including extracurricular activities.
4. An original essay written by applicant consisting of not more than 1000 words. The title of the essay will be **"The Veteran in My Life."**
5. Certified transcript or photocopy of the high school grades of the applicant.
6. A photocopy of parents or grandparents DD214, or one from the following list.
 - Official "Honorable Discharge" certificate
 - Form DD1300 (Official military death certificate)
 - Official record of burial in a military cemetery issued by the National Cemetery Administration of the
 - Current or former military ID card
 - Current or former LES (Leave and Earnings Statement)
 - Official logbook entries from a military unit
 - ANY OTHER DOCUMENT LISTED ON THE "Military Service Verification Documents List"
7. Copy of latest Federal Income Tax Return for proof of need (Parent's)
8. **The completed application packet must be submitted by the applicant to the sponsoring Auxiliary Unit PRIOR TO MARCH 15, 2026.**

NOTE: Sponsoring Unit **MUST sign back of application and VERIFY** all necessary information is in the packet. Application **MUST BE** submitted on an American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois form. The Application packet **MUST BE** mailed flat and first class. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

The Unit **MUST SUBMIT** the completed application packet to be received NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2026 to the Department Education Committee Member:

Melinda Davis, 5362 Yellowstone Dr., Rockford, IL 61009-3870, 815-978-6456

All applicants and Units will be notified after June 1.

**Letterhead preferred. If not available, a letter or email showing the name and address of the institution will be accepted.

Department of Illinois

APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBER

APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SPONSORING UNIT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2026.

(Application will not be returned.) PRINT CLEARLY

1. Name of applicant _____

Address _____/Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number (include Area Code) _____ Date of birth _____

Date of enrollment in the American Legion Auxiliary _____ Unit Name & No. _____

2. Name and relationship of veteran through whom applicant is eligible _____

3. Is this person current active military or Reserve? _____

4. Number in family occupying home _____

Number of dependent children under 18 years? _____ Over 18 years _____

Grade levels _____

5. Total monthly government compensation (i.e., GI Bill) or pension received by parent and/or child
\$ _____

6. Monthly compensation or pension for applicant if Parent has remarried or is deceased
\$ _____

7. Are you eligible for benefits under Survivors Dependents Education? Yes _____ No _____

8. Proposed date of graduation from high school _____

9. Name of College/University you plan on attending _____

Estimated yearly cost \$ _____

10. Degree/Degrees and Career Field you plan to pursue _____

over

PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTACH OTHER REQUIRED MATERIAL TO THE APPLICATION AND SUBMIT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2026.
ALL APPLICANTS AND UNITS WILL BE NOTIFIED AFTER JUNE 1.

Signature of applicant

Date

APPROVED BY:

Type or print Unit President's name

Signature of Unit President Date

Address

City Zip Code

Email

Telephone Number (include Area Code)

Unit Name & Number District

Located at

Approval of eligibility -
Signature of Unit Secretary or Unit Education Chairman

- | |
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| <p>Check List for Unit:
<i>Please check each item for completion.</i></p> <p>1. Completed Application _____</p> <p>2. Two Letters on letterhead
Principal/Guidance Counselor _____

Adult Citizen _____</p> <p>3. Volunteer Activities/Hrs. _____</p> <p>4. Essay _____</p> <p>5. Certified Transcript _____</p> <p>6. DD214 for discharged
military and Statements
of Service for active military _____</p> <p>7. Parent
Federal Tax Return _____
<i>Block out all SS and banking #s</i></p> |
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Unit to mail this application to: Melinda Davis, 5362 Yellowstone Dr., Rockford, IL 61009-3870