



# Children & Youth

---



## Objectives

- What the Legion does to ensure a normal American childhood for all children, particularly veterans' children
  - The types of assistance local Legion posts can provide to a family in need
  - How you can support children, our nation's greatest natural resource, and families in your community
-



## Overview

- In 1924, Legionnaires elected James Drain of Washington as National Commander and charged him with raising a \$5 million endowment fund to aid disabled veterans and orphans
  - More than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and citizens contributed to the campaign, which reached its goal almost entirely through small gifts
  - Today, the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program provides direct aid to Legionnaire's children through earnings from that endowment fund
-



## Temporary Financial Assistance

- Through Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), a Post can call upon the national organization for a cash grant (no repayment) to help maintain the basic needs of a Legionnaire's children when all other sources of assistance have been used
  - All TFA applications originate at the post level
  - A local investigator visits with the family to determine the children's needs
  - The application is forwarded to the Department VA&R Coordinator
  - Once approved, the application is forwarded to the Legion's national headquarters. Upon approval by the national adjutant, a check is sent to the Department Adjutant for delivery to the Post or family
-

## Family Support Network

- Through the American Legion's Family Support Network (FSN), Legionnaires assist families of deployed military personnel in various ways: child care, yard work, car repairs, grocery shopping and routine household jobs
  - The National American Legion established a toll-free telephone number for families to call for assistance, and local posts responded to their needs
  - Requests are referred to the department, which in turn refers calls to local American Legion posts. The posts contact the families and, if able, provide assistance
-

## Child Welfare Foundation

- Every year, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to help nonprofit youth service organizations improve the lives of children and youth
  - CWF has granted more than \$14 million to hundreds of deserving organizations.
  - These include the Children's Organ Transplant Association, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the National Children's Cancer Society, the National Autism Association, the MY HERO Project, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and many more
-



## How do I fit in?

- Legion Posts are the hands, feet and hearts of the programs that support our youth and community
  - The Legion encourages posts without active Children & Youth programs to build them up, because every community has children in need
  - You can provide direct help by conducting fundraisers for the Child Welfare Foundation or The American Legion Endowment Fund. All contributions go to grants; not a single penny is applied to overhead costs
  - You can also notify local nonprofit organizations with worthwhile programs that CWF grants can help them with the services they provide
-



# Children & Youth in Ohio

2021-2021 Department Children & Youth Committee approved donations

- Sojourner's Care Network (local)
  - Special Olympics (local)
  - Child Welfare Foundation (National)
  - Suicide Prevention
-





# Scholarships

---



# History

- The American Legion Department of Ohio Scholarship was established in 1971 to assist deserving high school students and veterans attending institutions of higher learning with the ever-increasing costs of higher education.
  - Any accredited institution of higher learning with a program of education or a vocational objective qualifies.
  - 6 different scholarships offered through The American Legion
-



# Eligibility

- Be a Legionnaire in good standing OR
  - Be a direct descendant of a Legionnaire in good standing OR
  - Be a direct descendant of a deceased Legionnaire in good standing at the time of passing
  - If not a Legionnaire, must be a high school senior or military veteran eligible for Legion membership
  - Have a GPA of 3.5 or higher AND
  - Have an ACT of 25 or higher
  - Provide an accurately completed application along with all required documentation
  - If a high school senior, be attending college fall semester immediately following high school graduation
-



# Judging Criteria

- Judging criteria shall be based upon academic achievement through course grades, difficulty of curriculum, scholastic and ACT test scores, participation in outside activities, and the Committee's general impression of student's character obtained from personal statement.
  - Failure to meet or provide the required documentation will result in applicant being disqualified
  - All scholarship applications mailed to the American Legion Department of Ohio State Headquarters in Delaware, Ohio must be received by or postmarked by APRIL 15 annually.
  - The scholarship offered by the American Legion Department of Ohio is a ONE TIME NON-RENEWABLE award
-



# Durward I. Bernhard Award

- Durward I. Bernhard was a lifelong resident of Belmont County who at the time of his passing, through his estate, provided funds to the American Legion Department of Ohio with the stipulation these funds be used to directly benefit the higher educational pursuits of Belmont County high school students, including home schooled or online students, or veterans residing in Belmont County.
- Requirements:

Restricted to high school, home schooled, online students or veterans residing in Belmont County.

Applicant must be a direct descendant of a current paid member of the Ohio American Legion or a direct descendant of a deceased member of the Ohio American Legion who was in good standing at the time of death.

Applicant must have a high school and college (if attending college) GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Applicant must have an ACT score of 25 or higher.

---



# Donald L. Lanthorn Award

- Donald L. Lanthorn was a lifelong resident of Licking County who served as the State Director of Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation for the Ohio American Legion State Headquarters for forty (40) years.

- Requirements:

Restricted to high school, home schooled, online or veterans residing in Delaware, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow or Union County.

Applicant must be a direct descendant of a current paid member of the Ohio American Legion or a direct descendant of a deceased member of the Ohio American Legion who was in good standing at the time of death.

Applicant must have a high school and college (if attending college) GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Applicant must have an ACT score of 25 or higher.

---



# American Legion/ Military Award

- One (1) award, as chosen by the Scholarship Screening Committee of the Ohio American Legion, is awarded annually to a selected American Legion/Military applicant. The applicant must show proof of being a current, paid member of the Ohio American Legion and of serving in the United States military.

- Requirements:

Open statewide.

Applicant must provide a copy of current year Ohio American Legion membership card.

Applicant must provide a copy of DD214, Report of Separation from Military Service or if currently on active duty, a copy of the military identification card.

---



# High School Award

- High school awards, as chosen by the Scholarship Screening Committee of the Ohio American Legion, are awarded annually to selected high school seniors, including home schooled and online students, attending high school within the state of Ohio.

- Requirements:

Open statewide.

Applicant must be a direct descendant of a current paid member of the Ohio American Legion or a direct descendant of a deceased member of the Ohio American Legion who was in good standing at the time of death.

Applicant must have a high school and college (if taking college courses) GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Applicant must have an ACT score of 25 or higher.

---





# College Student Award

- An American Legion Department of Ohio scholarship may be awarded annually to a college student.
- Requirements:

Open statewide.

Applicant must be a direct descendant of a current paid member of the Ohio American Legion or a direct descendant of a deceased member of the Ohio American Legion who was in good standing at the time of death.

Applicant must have a high school and college GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Applicant must have an ACT score of 25 or higher.

---



# Surviving Spouse or Child Award

- Open statewide.
  - Applicant must be the surviving spouse or child of a deceased U.S. service member who died on active duty or from injuries received on active duty.
-