

AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
SCHOLARSHIP



INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES

# **THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES**

## **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.

The American Legion Department Scholarship program is overseen by the Director of Americanism and Youth Activities with the Scholarship Screening Committee.

The American Legion Department of Ohio Scholarship Screening Committee consists of the following individuals, all members of the Ohio American Legion:

State Commander  
1<sup>st</sup> State Vice Commander  
2<sup>nd</sup> State Vice Commander  
Immediate Past State Commander  
State Adjutant  
State Treasurer  
Director of Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation  
State Americanism Chairperson  
State Child Welfare Chairperson  
Three (3) members appointed by the current State Commander

Decisions of the Scholarship Screening Committee are final.

## **ONE TIME SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The scholarship offered by the American Legion Department of Ohio is a ONE TIME NON-RENEWABLE award.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE**

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.

## **SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION / NOTIFICATION**

All scholarship applications received will be reviewed by the American Legion Department of Ohio Screening Committee in mid-May with scholarship recipients and non-recipients to be notified via surface mail or e-mail as soon as possible thereafter.

## **SCHOLARSHIP JUDGING CRITERIA**

The judging criteria utilized by the Ohio American Legion Scholarship Screening Committee to choose the recipients for any scholarships awarded shall be based upon:

The applicant's academic achievement based on course grades; difficulty of the curriculum; ACT scores; participation in school activities and activities outside of the school and a general impression of each applicant's character obtained through a personal statement.

The American Legion Department of Ohio Scholarship consists of the following categories and the criteria required for each category are:

### **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.

The amount of each American Legion Department of Ohio high school award will be contingent upon the annual earnings of the Scholarship Fund.

### **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.

The amount of each American Legion Department of Ohio college award will be contingent upon the annual earnings of the Scholarship Fund.

**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.

The Donald L. Lanthorn award, as chosen by the Scholarship Screening Committee of the Ohio American Legion, is awarded annually to one (1) selected high school student, including home schooled and online students, or veteran residing in and attending high school in **Delaware, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow or Union counties**. Those applicants not selected for the Lanthorn scholarship may still be eligible for other Department of Ohio scholarships.

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.

The amount of the Donald L. Lanthorn scholarship will be contingent upon the annual earnings of the Scholarship Fund.

**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.

The Durward I. Bernhard award, as chosen by the Scholarship Screening Committee of the Ohio American Legion, is awarded annually to one (1) selected Belmont County high school student, including home schooled and online students, or veteran residing in Belmont County. Those Belmont County applicants not selected for the Bernhard scholarship may still be eligible for other Department of Ohio scholarships.

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.

The amount of the Durward I. Bernhard award will be contingent upon the annual earning of the Scholarship Fund.

**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.

The amount of the award to an American Legion/Military applicant will be contingent upon the annual earnings of the Scholarship Fund.

**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.
- Also eligible for the Legacy Scholarship. More information can be found at [www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy](http://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy)

**NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Scholarship Screening Committee shall choose no award based on sex, age, race, creed or national origin.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – PROPERTY OF OHIO AMERICAN LEGION**

ALL scholarship applications and related documentation received by the Scholarship Screening Committee of the American Legion Department of Ohio become the property of the Ohio American Legion and the Scholarship Screening Committee.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – SECURITY/PRIVACY**

**ALL** scholarship applications and related documentation received by the Scholarship Screening Committee of the American Legion Department of Ohio will be maintained for a short time and then destroyed by shredding.

## **APPLICATION FORM**

**ALL** applications for the American Legion Department of Ohio Scholarship must be submitted on the official Scholarship application. Any application not submitted on the official Scholarship application will not be considered by the Scholarship Screening Committee.

The official American Legion Department of Ohio Scholarship application is available online annually. To download the official application:

Go to: [www.ohiolegion.com/scholarships](http://www.ohiolegion.com/scholarships)

Completed applications should be mailed to:

The Ohio American Legion  
Attn: Scholarship Screening Committee  
P.O. Box 8007  
Delaware, OH 43015

Contact information for questions:

740-362-7478  
[programs@ohiolegion.com](mailto:programs@ohiolegion.com)

## **CHECKLIST**

Please ensure you have included the following documentation, based on the award you are applying for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Copy of current Ohio American Legion membership card.

\_\_\_\_\_ Copy of DD214, Report of Separation from military service or copy of military identification card.

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter from the Commander of deceased American Legion member's Post attesting to the member's membership at time of death. Letter must state the deceased member was in "good-standing" at time of death.

\_\_\_\_\_ Copies of ALL birth certificates necessary to establish a direct descendent relationship.

\_\_\_\_\_ Copy of marriage certificate(s) in cases of stepchildren and spouse of deceased veteran.

\_\_\_\_\_ Copy of adoption paperwork if applicant has been adopted.

\_\_\_\_\_ Original high school transcript showing GPA and ACT score, sent in a sealed envelope.

\_\_\_\_\_ Original college transcript showing GPA if applicant is attending or taking college classes, sent in a sealed envelope.

\_\_\_\_\_ Deadline for receipt is April 15<sup>th</sup>

### **DOCUMENTS**

Birth certificates submitted must be a State certified copy bearing the stamp or imprint of the issuing health agency. Photocopies of birth certificates are not acceptable.

High school and/or college transcripts must be an original form and in a sealed envelope from the high school and/or college

