



Samsung American Legion Scholarship

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million in 1996 to be administered by The American Legion. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. In 2015, ten \$20,000 scholarships and nearly one hundred \$1,100 scholarships were awarded. To date, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than \$5.4 million to over 1,800 applicants.

Eligibility

Scholarship applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current session of either The American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. - or a legally adopted child of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as [eligibility dates](#) for American Legion membership.

Samsung scholarships are for undergraduate study only and may be used for tuition, books, fees, and room and board. Winners are selected according to:

- academic record
- involvement in school and community activities
- community service
- financial need

Applicants who are direct descendants of Korean War era veterans will receive special consideration.

Deadline

Technically, and stringently, set as arrival at the registration hall on the first day of KBS. For KBS 2016, that is Sunday, 19 June 2016. Bring a printed copy of the application with you and turn it in at registration.

Application:

Applications must be filled out online and submitted electronically. To access the application, you will be required to register. [Download the application](#) leads you to the introduction page that includes a link at the end for the follow-on registration page. The registration process calls for a user name, an e-mail for that user, and the establishment of a password for security of your data. You may indicate *None* or *Non-member* in the Membership box. Ensure you check the Scholarships box at the end of the registration. You may also check any other boxes you are interested in.

For more information: scholarships@legion.org

Keystone Boys State Samsung Scholarship Supplemental Instructions

You qualify for this scholarship if you are a direct descendant of someone in your family tree who served in the United States military in time of war. (Battlefield service not required.) If you have a choice of which ancestor you select, choosing one who served during the time of the Korean War is recommended. **As you complete the application, think about making that ancestor proud.**

You are applying for a \$20,000 scholarship. To get to that amount, you must first be deemed most qualified of all your peers at Keystone Boys State. If you meet this goal, you will be awarded the \$1,000 Keystone scholarship and your file will be sent to compete against the other state finalists in a 10-state region, Boys State and Girls State. We suggest you review the synopsis of the 2015 winners of the Samsung scholarship on pages 15 – 19 of the 2015 Samsung Scholarship Annual Report. Links to that report are found on: the www.pa-legion.com web page that also linked you to this document; and at the bottom of the first page of the Samsung Scholarship application, also linked at www.pa-legion.com. The write-up on those ten winners is obviously a very condensed version of their application, but they paint a picture of your competition.

We also suggest you print a blank copy of the application and use it as your worksheet to collect your story. Discuss it with your parents and your school counselor as you fill it out, capitalizing on their experience in preparing competitive applications.

Providing the required Proof of Military Service is addressed in the Veteran Information section of the application. Some Samsung Scholarship applicants through the years have found that getting adequate documentation of their ancestor's military service to have been a tortuous path. **Start on that task early!** Obviously, if your qualifying ancestor is living, first ask him or her for a copy of their DD214, or other documentation proving his or her service dates. If the ancestor is deceased, his or her spouse or the executor of the estate may have some qualifying documents. If you need to request a copy from the government, be prepared for a 1-2 month wait. **Again, start on that task early!**

Here are some suggestions of what and where to look for Veteran Proof of Service Documentation:

Documentation may include, but is not limited to, copies of Department of Defense documents, Department of the Army documents, Department of the Navy documents, Department of the Air Force documents, Department of Veterans Affairs documents (federal or state), and American Legion documents.

The following locations may be of assistance.

- Many certificates of discharge prior to 1979 do not appear to be "official" documents as many were typed onto a sheet of paper. If you are unsure if it is an official document, please ask your American Legion service officer. Department Service Officers are listed by state at <http://www.legion.org/serviceofficer> or download The American Legion Claims Coach Mobile App through Google Play or iTunes App Store.
- The National Archives and Records Administration: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/index.html

- The County Clerk and Recorders Office where the veteran resided.
 - The funeral home may have kept a copy if military honors were provided.
 - The monument company may have a copy, if a VA headstone or marker was ordered.
 - If the veteran had utilized a VA Home Loan there may be a copy of the DD214 with the title documentation.
 - Veterans who have signed up for EBENEFITS through the Veterans Administration may be able to obtain a printable copy from <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>
 - The State Director of Veterans Affairs may have received a copy of the veterans DD214 at the time of discharge from military service. This will be specific to the state which was the veterans official home of record.
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1. Your best set of ACT and/or SAT scores is important. If your school doesn't have a class rank, your National Test Scores become even more significant.
 2. Because the scholarship has a "need-based element," the information in the Education Provider section should highlight your degree of need based on your family demographics. When completing the last several sections, demonstrating that you have managed school, work and extracurricular activities is meaningful.
 3. Keep in mind that the Samsung Corporation has elected to partner with the American Legion, and in doing so, "long-range" goals and "personal values" become very important elements. Placing emphasis on citizenship, patriotism and "making a difference" in society is also extremely important.
 4. Recognition and Honors received (Grades 9 – 11 inclusive) from city, county, state, national, civic, veteran or fraternal organizations, churches or political leaders are meaningful and important. Your extracurricular activities should reveal that your involvement is well rounded and that you can multitask successfully. Also, they will help you separate yourself from other outstanding candidates
 5. When listing clubs, activities, student council, musical/theatrical groups – whether in or out of school – they should demonstrate a judicious use of your 168-hour week.
 6. The competition among finalists is fierce, as you would expect. Those Legionnaires tasked with choosing the winners will look for tie-breakers in applications. One personal characteristic they would consider is your attention to detail, as evidenced by your spelling, punctuation and vocabulary use in the application.
 7. Once you have completed writing out the application, you are ready for your final edition, done on-line. **Follow the instructions given throughout the application.**
 8. Your application must have been submitted electronically by 11:59pm on 19 June, 2016. **Do not expect** to have any time after KBS registration on that day to complete your application. Therefore we expect and require a completed copy of your application to be turned in at KBS Registration on 19 June.
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Various adults will be helping you in the completion of this application, but remember this project is YOUR application and therefore YOUR responsibility for its accuracy, timeliness and comprehensiveness. As has been said in the above narrative, the competition for these scholarships is fierce. When deciding between two applications, one of which is missing a signature or a date, or has a number with an incorrectly positioned decimal point, may be all that differentiates between the two applications and therefore between which wins and which does not.

GOOD LUCK.