



Samsung American Legion Scholarship

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. 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 and financial need. Applicants who are direct descendants of Korean War veterans will receive special consideration.

Deadline

Applications are submitted to program staff upon participants' arrival to Keystone Boys State.

Application (May not be available until early 2016)

[Download the application](#)

Applications must be filled out online (not handwritten) and printed for submission.

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, make that person proud.**

You are applying for a \$20,000 dollars 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 \$1,000.00 Keystone scholarship and your file will be sent to compete against all other state finalists, Boys State and Girls State.

Print a blank copy of the 8-page application, downloadable from <http://pa-legion.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/Samsung-Application-2016.pdf> . 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. If the 2016 link is not yet activated, download and print the 2015 application and use it for your first-draft: <http://pa-legion.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/Samsung-Application-2015.pdf>. The two years' applications will be very similar. The current year's application is usually posted early in its calendar year.

Providing the required Proof of Military Service is addressed on the last page 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, ask him or her first for a copy of the DD214, or other documentation. 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 this task early!

At the bottom of Page 1 is a clue. The "official use only" space lists the elements of the application and has a space for a total. **Each section is therefore important.**

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 more significant.
2. Because the scholarship has a "need-based element," the information on page 2 should highlight your degree of need based on your family demographics. 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 extremely important.

4. Recognition (Grades 9 – 11 inclusive) from city, county, state, 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.
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. Recognition and Honors earned at a local, district, county, or state level will allow you to separate yourself from other outstanding candidates.
7. 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.
8. You must be prepared to submit your application during registration on the morning of 19 June, 2016. “Not quite finished” would be another tie-breaker.

Once you have completed writing out the application, you are ready for your final copy. **Follow the instructions on the cover page of the application.**

Good luck.