

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
EDUCATION PROGRAM ACTION PLAN
2022-2023**

Key Education Program Statements

- To promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults.
- To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms.
- To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education.
- To Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities.
- To support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion.

How can the Member or Unit accomplish this?

There are many ways, some of which include:

- Your Unit can raise funds in various and creative ways to donate to the Texas Education Scholarship Fund.
- Veterans in Community Schools Initiative. This is a great way to bring history to life by connecting veterans with students in classrooms or at school assemblies.
- Give 10 to Education. This isn't just needed at the beginning of the school year. Teachers and students need assistance throughout the year. The suggested donation items and tracking list can be located on the National website.
- Plan an event during Education Week, November 14 -18, 2022.
- Plan an event to support and show appreciation of our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1 -5, 2023
- Create a Unit Scholarship Fund if you don't already have one.
- Form a relationship with your local school and offer to be available to read to students.
- Inform and educate students, teachers and parent about scholarship offered through National: Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship, Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship, as well as the Texas PDP's Medical Scholarship and the American Legion's scholarships.
- BE CREATIVE AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO STEP OUTSIDE THE BOX!

RESOURCES

Some VERY helpful resources and activity ideas can be found at the following. You can also share your activities and ideas with others on either of the Facebook pages.

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education>
www.facebook.com/groups/alaeducation

<https://alateexas.org/programs/programs-action-plan>
<https://www.facebook.com/ALADoTEducation>

Department of Texas Education Program Awards and Deadlines

Units Donating Scholarship Funds to Department

- **ALL** Units donating to the Texas Education Program Scholarship Program will receive a Certificate of Recognition.
- Deadline – June 1, 2022

Year-End Narrative

- Units submitting a Year-End Narrative to the Education Program Chairman will receive a Certificate of Recognition.
- Make sure to report your activities on your Unit End of Year Narratives and send to the Department of Texas Education Chairman and your District President. Make sure to include your Unit's volunteer hours and children impacted. Include a few photos.
- Deadline – May 1, 2023.

Department of Texas Most Outstanding Unit Education Program

- A Department of Texas Most Outstanding Unit Education Program will be awarded.
- The award will be presented during the Education Report at Department Convention.
- The submission application cover sheet can be found on <https://member.legion-aux.org>
- Deadline to submit to the Texas Education Chairman – May 1, 2023.

Department of Texas Education Program Incentives

- Each Unit donating to the Texas Education Program Scholarship Fund will be entered into a drawing for \$50.
- Each Unit donating \$100 or more to the Texas Education Program Scholarship Fund will be entered into another drawing for \$100. Yes, you will have two chances if donating \$100 or more.
- Each Unit submitting a Year-End Narrative will be entered into a drawing for \$50.
- Drawings will be during the 2023 Department Convention.

ALA Department of Texas Scholarship

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Texas offers a scholarship award to a resident of Texas, child or grandchild of a veteran who served in the Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in the American Legion.

Type of Scholarship:

Gift Scholarships of \$500 each will be given, based on contributions received from Units. Final determination shall be vested in the Education Chairman and her Committee. Recipients will be announced at the annual Department Convention and checks will be mailed to the college or university the applicant will be attending. Additional applications and information may be

obtained from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit in the community where the applicant resides.

*Note - If anyone is having trouble finding an available unit, the application can be mailed to Department Headquarters at ALA Department of Texas, P.O. Box 140407, Austin, Texas 78714-0407; or by mailing to the Department Education Chairman, Candy Zavala, at 8368 FM 775, Seguin, Texas 78155.

https://alatexas.org/files/Education/ALA_General_Scholarship

2022-2023 American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas General Scholarship Information and Rules

1. Candidates for this award shall be a resident of Texas and a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a veteran who served in the Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in the American Legion.

a. April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918 (WWI)

b. Any time after December 12, 1941 - All Wars/Conflicts

2. Selection of recipients shall be based upon goal, character, citizenship, need, objective, and war service of father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, great-grandfather, or great-grandmother.

3. Scholarships are not limited to persons in their senior year of high school. Anyone meeting eligibility requirements may apply.

4. Participation in the scholarship program shall be voluntary in all Units.

5. Applications must be secured from the Auxiliary Unit in the community in which the applicant resides.

6. Judging, at all levels, shall be on the following basis:

Character/Leadership 25%

Initiative/Goals 25%

Financial Need 25%

Scholarship 25%

Application Requirements: (All listed items must be attached to the application)

1. Completed application form. (Please double check requirements.)

2. A letter from the applicant, stating qualifications and intentions.

3. Three (3) letters of recommendation.

a. From the principal or Counselor of the school from which he or she is a graduate, or from the advisor or instructor of the current college or university.

b. From a representative citizen, certifying to the applicant's character, Americanism and scholarship.

c. From your choice.

4. **A CERTIFIED COPY** of applicant's high school grades for the last two (2) years of work or college transcript.

5. Recommendation of the local American Legion Auxiliary President or Education Chairman.
6. Resume to include statements of financial support from all their sources not listed on the application, extracurricular activities and honors and awards received.
7. The completed application packet must be received by the Unit Chairman no later than March 31, 2022.
8. The Unit's winning application must be received by the Department Education Chairman no later than April 15, 2022, for review and judging.

National Education Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements

Thank you for taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission! Your story may inspire another member into service. It also helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Here are the National awards for this committee:

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Education Program (National's Southern Division)

- Deadline June 1, 2023
- All department entries must be sent by the department chairman to their national division chairman postmarked by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above. Members should follow instructions from their department.

NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A MEMBER'S ROLE WITH NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Legion Auxiliary has four¹ national scholarships that are awarded each year:

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship—15 \$5,000 scholarships
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship – (5) \$5,000 scholarships
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship – (5) \$2,000 scholarships
- Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship – (10) \$2,500 scholarships

Units and Departments have two roles. The first is to make the public and especially our Juniors aware that scholarships are available, and that eligible people can apply. The second role is for units and departments to evaluate applications to move one candidate on to the next level, so an overall winner may be chosen.

Distributing Scholarship Information

1. First, print out scholarship information from the ALA website
 - To make sure you have the most current application go to <http://www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships>

- Be familiar with the information and keep information out and readily available during Juniors meetings.
 - Announce the scholarship information so that the public is aware of the scholarship opportunities.
2. When announcing scholarship information, make sure to publicize the due date of the scholarship. Scholarship applications must be turned into the unit on or before **March 1** of each year. After this date, scholarships are not to be submitted or accepted. Some applicants may want to turn in scholarship information sooner than the deadline. Have someone that is responsible keep a folder available to put these entries in, and make sure the folder does not get misplaced. Once the deadline arrives, if the Unit Education Chairman does not already have the folder of entries, make sure it is given to them right away.

HQ also awards Honorary National Junior Division Vice Presidents, ALA Girls Nation President, ALA Girls Nation Vice President, and ALA Girls Nation Outstanding Senator scholarships

Judging at Unit Level

1. Ideally, a unit Education chairman should be involved in the judging process. However, in the absence of a unit Education chairman, this responsibility would fall upon the unit president. Judging should be non-biased.
2. If only one entry is turned in, make sure that the entry has met all of the requirements set forth for that particular scholarship in the guideline. Do not forget to check and verify if the applicant is a member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary if the application is for the Spirit of Youth scholarship. For the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, an applicant can be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion. Next, make sure the entry would be able to get past the first glance criteria in the ALA document "How to Select a Scholarship Winner" (see below). After it has been looked over, and could pass the first glance section, the entry should be certified by the American Legion Auxiliary unit president and sent to the department secretary to be received on or by March 15.
3. If there is more than one entry turned into your unit, follow the guidelines in "How to Select a Scholarship Winner" (see below). Use the score sheets to help determine your selected entry. Score based on how the entry meets its categories and fits into the guidelines set forth for the scholarship. Judging should be non-biased, and favoritism should be avoided by evaluating objectively. Again, after the selection process and certification of the selected entry by the president, send the scholarship you have chosen to represent your unit to the department secretary on or by March 15. Only one entry for each scholarship should be sent to the department secretary.

Judging at Department Level

1. Departments should receive entries on or before **March 15**. Follow the ALA document, "How to Select a Scholarship Winner" guidelines (see below) to determine the scholarship winner from your department. The selected entry for each department shall

be certified by the department president and department secretary or Education chairman and sent to the respective Division Education Chairman to be received on or before April 1.

Process of Application thru Succession

- Application due to Unit - **March 1**
- Certified Unit entry due to Department of Texas - **March 15**
- Certified Department entry due to National Division chairman - **April 1**
- Certified National Division winner to National Chairman - **April 15**
- Certified Division winner to National Headquarters - **May 1**

Please note – when applicable, Unit and Department deadlines differ.

Just follow these simple steps to submit your award entry:

1. Fill out the form as completely as possible
2. Send your form to the appropriate division chairman for the Education program found at the [Red Book](#) link on this committee page by June 1. Please email a copy to National Chairman Melanie Taylor, mtaylor95425@gmail.com, and include any photos that aid in your storytelling.

If you have questions, please contact Education@ALAforVeterans.org

Your Department of Texas Education Team Members Are:

Division 1

Candace Wicks

214-694-5767

cwdst1913@yahoo.com

Division 2

Janice Winters

214-354-5338

janice.winters68@gmail.com

Division 3 – Chairman

Candy Zavala

210-559-6786

czavala@gvec.net

Division 4

Peggy McCoy

432-254-3668

jeaniebgood@yahoo.com

Your Education Team is here to assist, and we look forward to working with you. Scholarships and educating our youth by connecting with Veterans is of great importance. Take a few minutes to review new ideas and your opportunities to execute the program in your communities and report your worthwhile deeds for possible awards and recognition.

Candy D. Zavala

Education Chairman