FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

This document answers many of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. You may find this section useful in answering any questions you have more immediately rather than waiting on a reply from National Headquarters.

Q: Is there a hard copy of the application available?
A: No. The application is completely contained within the online application system. Not only is this more efficient. It is more environmentally friendly.

Q: Does an application have to be completed in one sitting?
A: No. In keeping with many college and career web-based systems, an applicant will create a user account and password on legion.org, which will allow the applicant to return to the application in multiple settings, as they collect information and write well-informed essays.

Q: When will an applicant find out the status of their application after submission?
A: Generally, the applicant's Boys or Girls State program will make the announcement of the winner prior to the end of the program. This is not a requirement, and some programs may inform their department nominee at a later date. However, all programs are required to submit their nominees to National Headquarters no later than August 1st. As such, you may contact your Boys or Girls State after that date with any questions as to a particular applicant's status. National Samsung American Legion Scholars will be announced during the month of October. <u>If an applicant has heard nothing by this time, their application did not make it past the first round of judging at the program level.</u>

Q: How are applications judged? What is the process?
A: Initially, all applications are screened by judges at the program level. One boy from each state's Boys State and one girl from each state's Girls State programs are chosen as department finalists. These comprise a pool of 100 finalists from across the nation. A national panel of judges on the Committee of Youth Education decides the final winners. Regardless of the level, each applicant is assigned objective points for their academic performance, community service, extracurricular activities, honors, and awards. Subjectively, the applications are judged on the applicant's ability to communicate themselves strongly and concisely, using appropriate language and grammar.

Q: Are letters of recommendation required?
A: No. However, during the application process, an applicant will be required to have an academic progress form filled out and attested to by a school official. This form is available for download during the application process, and the completed version will be uploaded using the application system.

Q: Why does the application system only accept image file uploads and not PDFs?
A: Given the nature of our website coding system, using image files allows the site to compile the application neatly and in order upon submission. Allowing PDF uploads would rearrange the layout of the final, submitted application view, making it less readable.

Q: What if an applicant only has a particular piece of information in PDF form?
A: First, print any information needing to be translated to an image file. The applicant should go to their school or local library and use an all-in-one printer or scanner to scan the documents as an image file. Or, the applicant may use an app on their smartphone or tablet to achieve the same effect.

Q: If I am a program representative in charge of judging the scholarships, do I need a legion.org account to access the department-level judging site?
A: Yes. You will also need the program-specific password. These passwords were distributed to the TAL Adjutants and ALA Secretaries in each department. Requests for these passwords should be passed through these individuals or their offices.

Q: What if I'm a Boys/Girls State Director or Chairman, can I request the password from national headquarters?
A: Not usually. Information security is excruciatingly vital to the online system. As a matter of national policy, it has been decided that passwords will go through the respective department adjutants or secretaries. In special cases where an adjutant or secretary position is vacant or the individual is incapacitated at the time of distribution, we will make arrangements for the password to be transmitted to the program director.

Q: Can I change the department password?
A: The department password can only be changed by having the department adjutant or secretary contact the Assistant Director – Education at National Headquarters.

Q: As an ALA Girls State representative, our program requested specific information regarding Girls State be sent to Person X. Why are the passwords going to the Secretaries?
A: The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is a program of The American Legion. As such, information submitted to ALA National Headquarters regarding communication preferences are for ALA programs and communications only. Due to the policies of The American Legion, passwords will continue to be distributed to department adjutants and secretaries unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

Q: Is there a set amount of money an applicant receives for being a department finalist?
A: No. A department finalist is guaranteed a scholarship of some lesser amount than $20,000. However, the amount of this scholarship fluctuates with the availability of funds drawn from the scholarship endowment. Every applicant is encouraged to be very dedicated in time and effort while filling out the application, as ultimately, they are applying for a $20,000 scholarship.

Q: What counts (and doesn't) as an "official record" of military service?

ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
➤ Form DD214 (Official discharge certificate) ➤ Official "Honorable Discharge" certificate ➤ Form DD1300 (Official military death certificate) ➤ Official record of burial in a military cemetery issued by the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs ➤ Current or former military ID card ➤ Current or former LES (Leave and Earnings Statement) ➤ Official logbook entries from a military unit	➤ Any otherwise "acceptable" document that is illegible ➤ Obituaries ➤ Pictures of military headstones ➤ Entries in non-military and/or non-official records or books ➤ Membership cards from veterans organizations ➤ VA Healthcare Cards

Q: Who is a "direct descendant"?
A direct descendant is the child, grandchild, great-grandchild, et cetera of a veteran. Stepchildren and adopted children ARE considered direct descendants. Any other relationship (e.g. siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles) does not count as direct descendancy.

Q: Should I list more than one veteran on my application?
No. No credit is given for being the descendant of more than one veteran. However, if an applicant is the direct descendant of a Korean War veteran, it is advisable to use that person on your application. Whichever ancestor you choose, ensure you are able to provide acceptable documentation of their time in service.

Q: If I have a question about the acceptability of a document, who should I contact?
A: Whether an applicant or a judge, questions regarding the acceptability of any document should be directed to the Assistant Director-Education at LegionEd@Legion.org. When making contact for this reason, a scan of the documentation in question should be included as an attachment.

Q: Once an application is submitted, can it be amended in any way?
A: If an applicant wishes to amend their application prior to the start of their respective Boys/Girls State program, they may use the contact information located in the application system to request their application be unlocked by a member of the national headquarters staff. Under NO circumstances will an application be accepted or opened for amendment following the start of an applicant's Boys/Girls State program.

Q: What happens to applications which were began but not submitted at the start of a program?
A: Such applications are deleted from the system on the day following the start of the respective program.

Q: For applications submitted but not chosen as department finalists, how are they dealt with?
A: Such applications will be available for viewing or downloading by the applicant or department until 2 August. On 2 August, the application system will be purged of all applications not selected as department/program finalists.