

EDUCATION PROGRAM 2026-27

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The purpose of the Education Program is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, especially for military children.

Things your unit can do to promote the Education Program:

1. Support Give 10 to Education, American Education Week, and Teacher Appreciation Week. (Give 20 to Education is happening in 2026-27. Will post when I get the new information.)

- Participate in the Give 10 to Education program by soliciting items from members and local residents to distribute to the schools in your community. Education plus the American Legion Auxiliary always equals success. The members of the American Legion Auxiliary strive to ensure that students and teachers have the supplies necessary to make learning successful. Give 10 to Education means members donate 10 items in sets of 10. Teachers now use social media to post the needed supplies on the school's Facebook page and often will create wish lists on Amazon. Members are great resources for the school supply list as they are often teachers or family members of students. Give 10 Forms should be sent to Jan Seibel, 42542 102nd St, Britton 57430, or take a picture and send to email or cell phone. DUE DATE May 1.
- Participate in American Education Week, November 16-20, 2026, by recognizing school administrators, staff, and teachers
- Promote Teachers Appreciation Week, May 3-7, 2027, by reaching out to teachers and asking how your unit can enhance their curriculum OR other ideas:
 - Contact local Parent Teacher Organizations or schools to see what your unit could sponsor or donate (e.g., donating doughnuts to your local schools).
 - Show your appreciation to teachers by designing and presenting certificates of appreciation.
 - Provide Teacher Survival Kits with fun and helpful items such as candy and snacks, tea bags or coffee, restaurant gift cards, or items for the classroom.
- The Box Tops app helps you find schools that need extra help. To direct your earnings to a school in need, download the app and tap "Find a School in Need."

2. Encourage schools to participate in Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day in April to honor their students who are military children.

- Sponsor a Purple Up! Day on April 15 in your school by providing purple items for students to wear,
- Present the Military Child Table at your school, unit meeting, or at your post.
- Sponsor a party for the military children in your school.

3. Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in the Classroom programs at local schools

- Collaborate with your local American Legion post to present Veterans in the Classroom within your local schools. Volunteer to provide transportation to and from the school for the veteran speaking
- Promote your Veterans in the Classroom event through local media and on your own social media accounts.
- Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel when you visit schools.
- Ask the teacher(s) to have their students make cards for the veteran(s)
- Work with the teacher(s) to prepare students to ask questions of the veteran

4. Promote American Legion Auxiliary scholarships and award local scholarships at the Department and unit levels.

- UNIT Education Chairman should contact your school's guidance counselor or teacher who handles scholarship opportunities. Make copies of any scholarship application and provide them to the schools. Set a date at the school and talk with the senior students about these scholarships.
- Make a unit donation or member donation to ALA National Scholarship Funds. Those scholarships are listed below.
- Publicize the winners of ALA scholarships at a school presentation and in the media.
- Please keep track of the total number of applications received for any scholarships and send that information to your Dept. Education Chairman.
- **Department Scholarships:** DUE to the DEPT. CHAIRMAN, JAN SEIBEL, by March 1
 - Thelma Foster Scholarship for Junior Members - \$300. Candidate must be a paid junior member for the past 3 years and hold a current year membership card. Must not be over the age of 18 and a senior in high school.
 - Thelma Foster Scholarship for Senior Members - \$300. Candidate must be a paid member for the past 3 years and hold a current senior membership card. For those seniors in high school that are 18 or 19 years old your senior year.
 - Scholarship for College/University or Technical School – Two \$500 scholarships for each College/University and Technical Schools. Applicant must be the child or grandchild of a veteran or Auxiliary member. Must be between 16 and 22 years of age and show financial need.
 - Senior Member Scholarship - \$400. The applicant must be a Senior member, and have been a Junior or Senior member of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary for at least three years, and be a current member. Must be in need of financial assistance.

*Links: <https://sdlegionaux.org/>

National Scholarships are ALL submitted on-line by March 1.

- Applications are available at www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships
 - Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship – Three \$5000 scholarships awarded in each division. Awarded to children of Legion-eligible veterans. The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during their high school years and be a senior. Those hours MUST BE VERIFIED by the recipient organizations. **Application must be completed and submitted on-line by March 1.
 - Non-Traditional Student Scholarship – One \$2000 scholarship will be awarded in each division. The applicant must be a member of the American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of American Legion for the two preceding years as well as be a currently paid member, OR a spouse of an active duty service member OR a veteran who was honorably discharged. Non-traditional is defined as a student

who has returned to the classroom after a period of time where their education was interrupted or someone who is beginning their educational career at a later point in their life. ** Your application must be completed and submitted on-line by March 1.

- Spirit of Youth Scholarship –National Headquarters will award each state/department winner a \$1000 scholarship. The National Education Committee will select 1 winner per division for a \$5,000 scholarship.
- The applicant must be a member of the Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years and hold a current paid membership card and agree to continue her membership during the scholarship period. Applicant must be a senior in high school with a minimum 3.0 GPA. **Application must be completed and submitted on-line by March 1
- Member Loyalty Scholarship – Two Junior Members in each division will each receive a \$2500 scholarship. The applicant must be a member of the Auxiliary for three consecutive years and hold a current paid membership card and continue her membership during the scholarship period. This scholarship is meant for the traditional student who has attained their high school diploma, has had no interruption in education, and who has at least 1 semester of coursework and is working towards their degree but has not yet attained their bachelor's degree. Applicants must be completing one, two, or three years of college/technical courses.
- Previous Auxiliary National Scholarship recipients are welcome to apply. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required. **Applications must be completed and submitted on-line by March 1.

5. Local unit scholarship

- What better way to show our communities what we do than by supporting our youth.

6. Assist and support military children with educational opportunities

- Provide your local school with a copy of the Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment
- Inform schools of a free tutoring website for military children: www.tutor.com/military
- Provide information on the ALA Children of Warriors National President' Scholarship.
- Provide your junior ALA members with scholarship opportunities.

With school underway, high school students are looking for ways to help them with their future college, university, or technical school expenses. The only way for these young adults to learn about these scholarships is to get them in **KNOW. Please talk with your school and set up a date to talk the students about these scholarships. If you need help with anything, please call, text, or email me. Have a great year promoting your education programs!