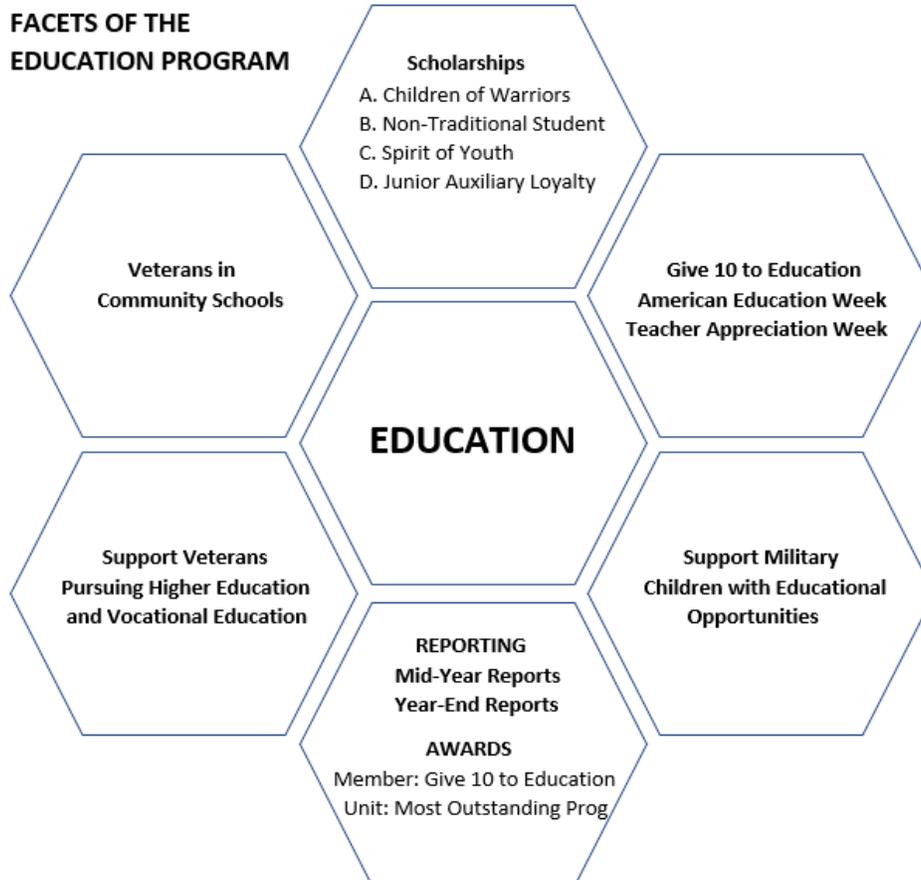




Education *Pam Gades ~ Chairman*

The Education Program promotes 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, with a special emphasis on children of veterans and servicemembers.

As we celebrate the **100th Anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary**, here are some historical facts about the Education Program: The American Legion and the Auxiliary have been advocates of Education through the years. Kicking off at its inception in 1919, The American Legion met with representatives of the National Education Association to discuss the state of Education in our country and to create awareness of the problems of illiteracy. The first American Education Week was introduced in December of 1921, with the American Legion and the NEA as cosponsors. **The week before Thanksgiving has been designated as American Education Week** and Auxiliary members still support this important week.



Scholarships

All ALA scholarships listed below (A through D) should be submitted by **March 1, 2020 to your local ALA Unit President**. Full details and application forms on all scholarships are available on the national website: www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships.

- A. Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship
 - a. Awarded to the children of veterans who served in the armed forces.
 - b. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school.
 - c. Three \$5000 scholarships will be awarded in each division.
 - d. The applicant must have completed 50 hours of community service during his/her high school years to be eligible.
- B. The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
 - a. Applicant must be a current member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion and shall have paid their dues for two years preceding the calendar year in which the application is made.
 - b. One scholarship in the amount of \$2000 will be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division.
 - c. Decision of the Judges shall be final.
- C. Spirit of Youth Scholarship
 - a. One Junior member in each division will receive a \$5000 scholarship.
 - b. Applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, hold a current membership card and continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year scholarship period.
 - c. This scholarship is to attend an accredited institution of higher education.
 - d. Applicants must be of good character and have grades which meet entrance requirements at the institution of their choice.
 - e. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 base.
 - f. Decision of the Judges shall be final.
- D. Junior Auxiliary Loyalty Scholarship
 - a. Scholarship applications should be sent to your local ALA Unit President.
 - b. Two scholarships in the amount of \$2500 will be awarded in each division.
 - c. Candidates for this award shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2017, 2018, and 2019) and must be a paid member for the current (2020) membership year. Applicant must continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period. Applicant must have completed at least one semester of college but not yet attained a bachelor's degree and have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 base.

In addition to the above national scholarships, we support the Department of Minnesota Auxiliary Scholarship and the American Legion Legacy Scholarship.

- **The Department of Minnesota Auxiliary Scholarships** are awarded to deserving sons and daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of a veteran who need financial assistance to avail themselves of higher education at the post-secondary level. Scholarships are awarded at \$1000 each. Student can be a first-year college student or may be continuing his/her education in a master's program or any further education program. The application deadline is March 1st to the Unit President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit located in your school district or the Unit that holds your membership. The guidelines and application form will be available from the mnala.org website.

- **The American Legion Legacy Scholarship** provides college scholarship money to children of post-9/11 veterans who died in active duty or have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater. Apply at: <https://www.legion.org/legacy-scholarship-application/eligibility> .

Oratorical Contest

High school students are eligible to compete, and local deadlines vary. Competition begins at the local American Legion Post level and advances to a State champion. State winners move on to compete at the National level. Visit www.legion.org for more information.

Veterans In Community Schools

Veterans in Community Schools is an activity endorsed by the American Legion that brings history to life by connecting military veterans with students in classrooms or at school assemblies in conjunction with history lessons about World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War or Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom. The American Legion Family believes accounts of Veterans' experiences while in uniform and as a result of their military service should be preserved and shared with others. They can help students learn from and appreciate the sacrifices individuals and their families have made. In addition to sharing their experiences, veterans may also discuss how to help a family who has a deployed service member, how to show support for the troops, or proper respect for the flag.

How to Organize a Veterans in Community Schools Event:

<https://www.alaforveterans.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=8401>

Give 10 to Education

Participate in the Give 10 to Education program by soliciting items from members to distribute to the schools in your district. Check with your local schools to learn what their specific needs are. Contribute supplies to local classrooms. Recognition certificates are available to download and print at www.ALAforVeterans.org on the Education Committee page. See the donation tracking form here: <http://bit.ly/21AufC8> .

American Education Week

American Education Week, **November 18-22, 2019**, spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through 12th grade. Send a card to all local school staff thanking them for the work they do. Include all school personnel with whom children interact (bus drivers, school nurse, lunchroom staff, custodians, etc.).

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is **May 4-8, 2020**. Send cards to your local school's teachers. Donate resources that teachers or students may need. Give apples, pens, or gift cards.

Box Tops for Education

Encourage participation in the Box Tops for Education. **NEW!** No more clipping, no more sending Box Tops to school. Download the app for your phone, choose a local school, and scan your receipts! The school will receive \$0.10 for each qualifying item. For more information, go to: boxtops4education.com and find the Box Tops Product List here: <http://bit.ly/2lZrOzS> .

Assist and Support Veterans Pursuing Higher Education and Vocational Education

Collaborate with a campus student veterans' group at colleges and universities in your community. Arrange for your Post home to be available for off-campus events/chapter meetings. Provide information/handouts to members on organizing and delivering presentations on career and life skills topics to student veterans. Encourage members to sign up to receive The American Legion's Legislative Action Alerts, and support alerts regarding the GI Bill.

Assist and Support Military Children with Educational Opportunities

Provide your local schools with a copy of the Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment (www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oe/homefront/homefront.pdf). Encourage junior members to contact their school guidance counselor and volunteer to be a mentor to new military children at their school. Use some of your Give 10 to Education supplies to make backpacks welcoming military children at school. Inform schools of a free tutoring website for military children: www.tutor.com/military . Provide information on the ALA Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship.

Join the American Legion Auxiliary Education Program Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1489034401420831> .

Please keep record of all you do, as mid-year reports are due in early December and our year end reports are due April 15th.

Pam Gades, Education Chairman

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