

AUXILIARY AMERICANISM INFORMATION

The following information includes some of the Auxiliary Americanism opportunities in South Dakota. If your Post is interested in supporting any of these Unit activities, please visit with your Unit or visit the websites listed. Also, please look at the scholarship information on the back - there are several that your Post's membership either may be eligible for or they may have children or grandchildren that could be eligible.

LEGION AUXILIARY AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after convention. There is a new topic every year, decided upon by the New National President – and published in September. Please check The SD Legion Auxiliary website for the topic. <http://www.sdlegionaux.org/americanism-education-poppy-forms>.

SD LEGION AUXILIARY AMERICANISM POEM CONTEST

Each year, the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary conducts a poem contest based on the current year Department President's theme. This contest is unique to our Department and there is no National Poem contest. There are 5 classes, 3rd through 6th grades and the Developmentally Disabled. Again, please see the SD Legion Auxiliary website, <http://www.sdlegionaux.org/americanism-education-poppy-forms/> for the topic and other details.

LEGION AUXILIARY POPPY POSTER CONTEST

The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary also sponsors a poppy poster contest in local schools. The contest can have seven classes: Class I: Grades 2 and 3, Class II: Grades 4 and 5, Class III: Grades 6 and 7, Class IV: Grades 8 and 9, Class V: Grades 10 and 11, Class VI: Grade 12, and Class VII: Students with special needs. There are specific directions for the posters – please see the following website for those details: <http://www.sdlegionaux.org/americanism-education-poppy-forms/>. Winners are chosen on the Unit, Department, and National Levels.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary sponsors Girls State, just as the American Legion sponsors Boys State. It is held in Vermillion, SD, generally the week of Memorial Day and runs Monday through Saturday. Please check out the following website for details: <http://www.alasdgirlsstate.org>.

Please check out the following Auxiliary Scholarships – there are some that do not require membership in the Legion or Auxiliary, but rather, just be a descendant of a veteran. Please let your school know about these resources if you do not have an Auxiliary Unit.

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS:

Applications are available at www.sdlegionaux.org/scholarships

- **THELMA FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS** - \$300. Candidate must be a paid Auxiliary member for the past 3 years and hold a current year membership card. Must be a senior in high school.
- **THELMA FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS** - \$300. Candidate must be a paid Auxiliary member for the past 3 years and hold a current year membership card.
- **SENIOR MEMBERS SCHOLARSHIP** - \$400. Candidate must be a paid Auxiliary member for the past 3 years and hold a current year membership card. Must demonstrate financial need.
- **SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL** – Two \$500 for each 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.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

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 his/her high school years and be a senior in high school.
- **NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP** – One \$2000 scholarship will be awarded in each division. The applicant must be a member of the Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons for the two preceding years as well as be a currently paid member. Nontraditional 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.
- **SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP** – One Junior Auxiliary Member in each division will receive \$1250 per year for four years (\$5000). 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 four-year scholarship period. Applicant must be a senior in high school with a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- **JUNIOR MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP** – Two Junior Auxiliary 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 four-year scholarship period. This scholarship is meant for the traditional student who has finished at least 1 semester of coursework and is working towards their degree but has not yet attained her bachelor's degree. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required.