



Americanism

Community and youth-oriented programs of The American Legion further a strong sense of patriotism and loyalty.

American Legion Baseball. One of our country's best known and most respected youth athletic programs, American Legion Baseball has been the training ground for many major league stars. Each year, 90,000 athletes experience the benefits of good sportsmanship and team play.

Boys State/Boys Nation. American Legion Posts select outstanding high school students for Boys State/Boys Nation every year. During the week long program participants receive instruction in citizenship and experience first-hand how their state and federal governments function.

High School Oratorical Competitions. High school students vie for college scholarships awarded by The American Legion by demonstrating their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution in public speaking contests at local, state and national levels.

Scouting Sponsorship. Seventy thousand young people are served each year through more than 2,700 Post-sponsored Boy Scouts of America units. Four recipients are selected annually for The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year college scholarship.

Flag Education. Through this program, our youth are taught flag etiquette and appreciation for the United States Flag.

Scholarship Information. "Need a Lift?" is The American Legion's annual publication for high school students on the "hows and wheres" of obtaining college financial aid. The booklet is distributed nationally to public and private high schools. In addition, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship helps students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship assists the children of America's military, to include the Guard and Reserve, who have died on active duty since September 11, 2001.

Junior Shooting Sports. The American Legion recognizes that guns are a part of sports and recreation in our society and strives to teach youngsters the proper use of firearms before accidents occur. Many local Posts sponsor Junior Shooting Clubs, which provide training in gun safety and marksmanship for junior shooters through the use of air rifles. The American Legion hosts an annual national air rifle tournament that draws more than 1,400 contestants annually.

Children & Youth

The American Legion has been a strong advocate for the children and youth of our nation since our founding in 1919. To date there exists no area of child welfare that has gone untouched by the collective hand of The American Legion.

Children's Miracle Network. Children's Miracle Network raises critically needed funds for 170 children's hospitals, which treat 17 million children annually in the United States and Canada. These hospitals treat children with all types of afflictions and injuries, rendering service based on need, not the ability to pay.



Ronald McDonald House Charities. The Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program, adopted by The American Legion, generates funds to help offset the costs associated with a family's stay while their child is receiving specialized treatment.

Family Support Network. In support of the War on Terror, National Guard and Reserve units have been activated in record numbers. Their families often find themselves unable to meet normal monthly household obligations. The American Legion maintains a nationwide toll-free telephone number, 1-800-504-4098, for service personnel and their families to call for assistance, or they may e-mail a request to familysupport@legion.org.

Operation Military Kids. When Guard and Reserve parents are mobilized, their children suddenly have unique needs and lack the community support systems associated with