

SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 58

SCHOLARSHIP

Introduction

Founded in 1932, the Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L) exists to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans and members of the American Legion. Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a program of The American Legion. The Sons organization is divided into detachments at the state level and squadrons at the local level. A squadron pairs with a local American Legion post to work collectively to strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion: place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improve the quality of life for our nation's children, care for veterans and their families, and teach the fundamentals of good citizenship. S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership.

As one of many efforts to further the aforementioned goals, S.A.L. Squadron 58 in Smithville has established a **\$2000.00** scholarship to be awarded annually to one graduating student from Smithville High School who is pursuing post-secondary education. The recipient selected will be the individual deemed to most embody the objectives and aspirations of S.A.L.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for this scholarship you must meet all three of the criteria listed below:

- One of your grandparents or parent is either a current member of a military branch or veteran. Military eligibility is further defined below and will require proof of service documentation.
- You are a Smithville High School senior who graduates during the **2023/2024** academic year.
- You plan on attending an accredited college, university or trade school/vocational school beginning the Fall Semester of **2024** as a full time freshman student.

Military Eligibility

Active duty military service must have been served during any of the time frames listed below:

- World War I - Apr. 6, 1917 - Nov. 11, 1918
- Dec. 7, 1941 through present day
- US Merchant Marine eligibility is only from Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946

Proof of Service Documentation must be provided as listed below:

ACCEPTABLE

- American Legion Membership card
- 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

UNACCEPTABLE

- Any otherwise "acceptable" document that is illegible
- Obituaries
- Pictures of military headstones
- Pictures of service members in uniform
- Entries in non-military and/or non-official records or books
- Membership cards from veterans organizations
- VA Healthcare Cards

Selection Criteria

- Academic Achievement
- Character
- Leadership
- Community Involvement
- Attitude/Citizenship

Scholarship Application Deadline

Applications will be accepted through March 29, 2024.

- *The high school counselor's office will be notified with the winner's name within 3 weeks of the submission deadline. The winner will be announced at the Senior Awards Ceremony.*
- *The award will either be presented in person at the Senior Awards Ceremony or mailed to the winner's home address in the form of a check made to the registrar's office of the appropriate college.*

Application Process

Complete this application, attach or otherwise enclose with ALL OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW:

- Military Proof Of Service documentation
- High School Transcript – Must be current through the most recently completed semester
- Letter of Recommendation from a teacher, coach, counselor or administrator

The application and all required materials and documentation must be submitted to the SHS Counseling Center by March 29, 2024 at 3:00 PM. Failure to provide ALL requested materials and documentation by the deadline will result in the applicant being dropped from consideration.

S.A.L Squadron 58 Scholarship

Student Information:

Last Name _____ First _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell () _____ Home () _____

Email Address _____

Semester in which you graduate (Fall or Spring) _____

GPA _____

College You Plan to Attend _____

Indicate the degree/discipline you intend to pursue _____

Family Member with qualifying Military Service:

Last Name _____ First _____

Relationship to scholarship applicant (parent or grandparent) _____

Military Branch and date(s) of service _____

Type of Acceptable Proof of Documentation Provided _____

