



*Sons of the American Legion
Ames Squadron #37*



2023 Merit Award for Continuing Education

The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #37, of Ames Iowa will award two Merit Awards, for up to \$1000.00 for 1st Place, and up to \$500.00 for second place to the individuals that meet the outlined qualifications, and submit the best essays.

The Sons of the American Legion is an organization of descendants of veterans of all wars. We work to support the American Legion to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism, and to safeguard and transmit to prosperity the principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. "The American's Creed", written by Tyler Page is our way of life. The creed states;

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

The Sons of the American Legion Merit Award for Continuing Education was established to assist students in continuing their education at a state accredited college, university, professional, nursing or vocational school of the student's choice, which is located in the United States of America. The merit award payment will be made directly to the school, after proof of enrollment is provided to the Sons of the American Legion.

A complete submission will include; the attached application, documentation to verify eligibility (Qualification 1), a transcript of high school grades verifying a minimum 2.5 GPA (Qualification 2), and, two essays which each address one of the three Points of Service (**submitted on separate paper, with no personal identifiers on the essay**).

Keep in mind, that the Legion Family is apolitical. We have democrats, republicans, conservatives, and liberals in our family. We want to read your opinions and thoughts, not what you think we want to hear. There is no wrong answer. Essays will be judged on how well you state your position and the quality of your writing. Not the position itself.

Your submission may be mailed or delivered, to:

The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #37,
Attn: Squadron Commander
225 Main St,
Ames, IA 50010

The Sons of the American Legion will not be responsible for, or consider, any submissions not received by **Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 7:00 pm.**

Thank you for applying for The Sons of the American Legion Merit Award For Continuing Education. We wish you the best of luck in the scholarship selection process, and in all your future endeavors.

The Sons of the American Legion

Ames Squadron 37

Sons of the American Legion

Ames Squadron #37

2023 Merit Award for Continuing Education Application

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Qualification 1: I am eligible for this scholarship, **(Must indicate one.)**

- As a descendant of an honorably discharged American Veteran, who served anytime from after April 6, 1917 to present, **OR**,
 - As a descendant of a currently serving member of the U.S. Armed Forces, **OR**,
 - I am currently an Ames Legion Family (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders) member, **OR**,
 - I am a descendant of a current, or deceased, member of the Ames Legion Family.
- ✓ Please submit a copy of;
1. A. A parental DD-214, current military identification card issued by the VA or other government entity, or DEERS Form listing you as a dependent, (SSN and DOB redacted), **OR**
B. Your Military ID, or current DEERS Form, (SSN and DOB redacted), **OR**
C. Your current Legion Family membership card, **OR**
D. The current Legion Family membership card, or if the member you are applying under is deceased, the member's name and last year of membership.

Qualification 2: I am a senior, with a minimum 2.5 GPA, **(Must indicate one.)**

- At Ames High School, **OR**,
 - At Gilbert High School, **OR**,
 - I am home schooled, and reside within the Ames or Gilbert school districts, **OR**,
 - I do not attend or live within the Ames or Gilbert school districts, but qualify as a current member, or descendant of a current or deceased member of the Ames Legion Family.
- ✓ Please submit a copy of your High School transcripts, which verify a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Essay Requirements:

Each essay should be typed, using a minimum of 14 point font, and double-spaced. The essay should be a minimum of 1000, and no more than 1600 words.

Do not put your name or any other type of identifier on your essays. To avoid any type of bias, when your submission is received, the submission envelope, your application, and your essays, will be marked with a matching number by the Merit Award Administrator. Only copies of your numbered essays will be submitted to the Judging Committee. Only the Merit Award Administrator will know who submitted each essay, until the Judging Committee has made their decision. The Merit Award Administrator will have no say in the selection of the winners.

Listed below are 3 of the 5 Points of Service of the Sons of the American Legion. Your essays must address **two** of the three Points of Service, your choice. The three Points of Service are:

Patriotism: Love of Flag; Love of Country. (Define what patriotism means to you, and discuss in what ways can you, as an individual, show and promote patriotism to strengthen our country?)

Citizenship: Individual obligation of citizenship. (Define what citizenship means to you, and discuss the importance of good citizenship in a free republic.)

Leadership: Participation in group activities. (Identify someone who has taken a leadership role and impressed you as a leader. Discuss the characteristics of leadership and the benefits of strong leadership.)

Submission Checklist:

- ✓ This completed application.
- ✓ Documentation that verifies your eligibility for both Qualification 1 and Qualification 2.
- ✓ Your essay, which addresses **two** of the three Points of Service listed above.
Your essay should be on separate paper with no type of identification on the essay.

Place all of the above items in an envelope, with your name and address clearly printed on the envelope, and mail or deliver it to the American Legion Post 37 so it arrives prior to **Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 7:00 pm.**

