



## *Sons of the American Legion*

*Ames Squadron #37*



### *2024 Merit Award for Continuing Education*

The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #37, of Ames Iowa will award two Merit Awards (\$1000 for each award) to students that best fulfill the outlined requirements.

The Sons of the American Legion is an organization of descendants of veterans of all wars. 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 located within 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, and must be requested by the next academic year (e.g., the 2024 award must be expended no later than the start of the 2025-26 academic year).

A complete application will include:

- the attached application form
- documentation to verify eligibility (Qualification 1)
- transcript of high school grades verifying a minimum 2.5 GPA (Qualification 2)
- topical essay, 800-1600 words in length (instructions in the application form)

Complete applications may be e-mailed to [salmeritawardames37@gmail.com](mailto:salmeritawardames37@gmail.com) or may be printed and mailed/delivered to:

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

Completed submissions must be received by **7:00 pm, Thursday, February 29, 2024**. The Sons of the American Legion will NOT be responsible for, nor consider, any late submissions.

*Sons of the American Legion*

*Ames Squadron #37*

*2024 Merit Award for Continuing Education Application*

**ABOUT YOU**

**Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Complete Address:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**E-Mail:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**QUALIFICATION #1 (check only one box):** I am eligible for this scholarship as a...

Direct descendant of an honorably discharged American Veteran, who served anytime from after April 6, 1917 to present

Direct descendant of a currently serving member of the U.S. Armed Forces

Current Ames Legion Family (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders) member

Direct descendant of a current, or deceased, member of the Ames Legion Family

✓ Include a copy of:

A. A parent's or grandparent's 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), If for any reason you, or your family, do not have these, you may contact the County Recorder's Office, or Erin Rewerts, at Story County Veterans Affairs [ERewerts@storycountyiowa.gov]. They will need the veteran's full name and DOB. They will not be able to provide the copies of the actual forms, but they will verify years of service, and character of discharge. There may be a small fee. Make sure they respond to your request in writing, either a letter or email. We will accept a copy of that verification.  
**OR**

B. Your current Legion Family membership card, **OR**

C. The current Ames 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 (check only one box):** I am a senior with a minimum 2.5 GPA...

- At Ames High School
- At Gilbert High School
- Being home-schooled and residing within the Ames or Gilbert school districts
- Who does not attend/live within the Ames or Gilbert school districts but qualifies as a current member, or descendant of a current or deceased member of the Ames Legion Family
- ✓ Include a copy of your high school transcripts, which verify a minimum 2.5 GPA.

**ESSAY**

Compose an essay on ONE of the topics below. It should be 800-1600 words long, on a separate page. Use 14-point, double-spaced Arial font with normal margins. DO NOT put your name or any other type of identifier in your essay, because submissions are sent anonymously to the reviewing committee (to avoid reviewer bias).

Below are 3 of the 5 “Points of Service” of the Sons of the American Legion. Choose ONE to write about. Note: The Legion Family doesn’t have a political bias. We want to read your opinions and thoughts (not what you think we want to hear). There are no wrong viewpoints. Essays will be judged on how well they respond to the topic and their clarity.

<b>PATRIOTISM: Love of Flag, Love of Country</b>	<b>CITIZENSHIP: Individual Obligation</b>	<b>LEADERSHIP: Participation in Group Activities</b>
What does patriotism mean to you? How can you, as an individual, show and promote patriotism to strengthen our country?	What does citizenship mean to you? Why is good citizenship important in maintaining a free republic?	What are characteristics and benefits of strong leadership? Identify someone who has impressed you as a leader and discuss how.

**FINAL CHECK: Make sure you’ve completed all these**

- ✓ this application
- ✓ documentation to verify eligibility (Qualification 1)
- ✓ transcript of high school grades verifying a minimum 2.5 GPA (Qualification 2)
- ✓ an 800-1600 word essay per the instructions above

Complete applications may be e-mailed to [salmeritawardames37@gmail.com](mailto:salmeritawardames37@gmail.com) or may be printed and mailed/delivered to:

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

Completed submissions must be received by **7:00 pm, Thursday, February 29, 2024**. The Sons of the American Legion will NOT be responsible for, nor consider, any late submissions.