



January, 2026

To: All 8th District Post/County Commanders, & School Scholarship Chairmen
Subject: Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutek
American Legion Scholarship Trust

The Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutek American Legion Scholarship Trust will award two \$1,500 scholarships to students/veterans attending college in 2026.

All applicants for the scholarship MUST be on official applications obtained from the local schools, American Legion Posts, or Erie County Headquarters at City Hall, or our website at eriecountyal.org. County Commanders, please forward to your Posts.

This scholarship is intended to assist 8th District New York State Veterans, their families, and patriotic students who share the ideals of the American Legion. The scholarship will be awarded based on veteran status (including family members), financial need, scholastic ability, realistic goals, extra-curricular activities and community involvement. All students must show proof that they have been accepted at an accredited college or university prior to receiving the scholarship.

All applications MUST be submitted to the Erie County American Legion Headquarters located at 609 City Hall, Buffalo, New York 14202, by Friday May 1, 2026, or postmarked by that date.

The Scholarships will be awarded at the 8th District Convention in Frewsburg, NY on Saturday June 20, 2026.

If any County, Post, or anyone else would like to donate to the Scholarship Trust, it would be greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to: Past National Commander Scholarship Trust and send to 609 City Hall, Buffalo, NY 14202. All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. We thank you in advance for your support.

Legionally yours,

Scholarship Trust Committee

James Bojanowski, Joseph Porempski, Ted Balbierz



Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutek

American Legion Scholarship Trust

Deadline May 1, 2026

Please submit materials in English

This scholarship is intended to assist New York State Veterans, their families, and patriotic students who share the ideals of the American Legion.

Note: Scholarship applications will be judged on their own merit based on the experience and education level of the individual student/veteran.

Application Requirements

High School Students

- A. Submit a copy of your College/University Letter of Acceptance with the scholarship application.
- B. Submit an official transcript from your High School.
- C. Must attend College/University as a full-time student.

Veterans

- Attendance at the College/University as a full-time student is not mandatory.
- Submit all additional information available, even from High School.

All Students

- Submit one completed scholarship application form. The form is available at The Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202. Phone number 716-852-6500. Website eriecountyal.org
- Submit an essay of 500 words or less.
- Include two letters of recommendation.
- No more than 15 pages of application materials will be accepted.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- All application materials must be submitted by Noon (EST) on May 1, 2026 at the office or postmarked by May 1, 2026. There is a drop box on the office door. Materials arriving after the deadline will not be considered.

Personal Information

Last (Family)Name	First (Given) Name	Middle Name (if any)
Mailing Address	City/State	Zip Code
Email	Phone Number	Citizenship

For Official Use Only

App#	Date Rec.	Ref 1 Rec.	Ref 2 Rec.	Other Mtls	Incomplete
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Educational DataYour Current Enrollment: - High School/College/University (*Please include school contact information*)

College/University attending Fall 2026

Start Date

Expected Graduation Date
(month & year)

College/University Major

What degree are you
currently pursuing? (Please
place a check in the
appropriate box)

Associate

Bachelor

Master's

Doctorate

Other?

College/University you may transfer to in the future to complete your education, if different from above.

Reference Letters

Two letters of recommendation are required. At least one of the letters should be from a faculty member who is familiar with your educational program. Faculty recommendations must be on institution letterhead. References should comment on your character and potential for leadership and/or for making a significant contribution to your community. This can be based on specific examples drawn from your course work, projects, or activities. Each letter of recommendation must be included and signed.

Ref 1 Name

Institution Name

Dept Name

Telephone

Email

Ref 2 Name

Institution Name

Dept Name

Telephone

Email

High School/College/University Department Head Endorsement

To the best of my knowledge, I hereby verify that the academic information and summary of school activities as submitted in this application are correct, and the applicant meets the application requirements.

Endorser's Name and Title (Please print)

Signature and Date

Telephone

Email

Institution Name

Mailing Address

Family Income Information					
<input type="radio"/> Under \$50,000	<input type="radio"/> \$60,001-70,000	<input type="radio"/> \$80,001-90,000	<input type="radio"/> \$100,001-120,000	<input type="radio"/> \$130,001-150,000	<input type="radio"/> \$200,001-249,000
<input type="radio"/> \$50,000 - 60,000	<input type="radio"/> \$70,001-80,000	<input type="radio"/> \$90,001-100,000	<input type="radio"/> \$120,001-130,000	<input type="radio"/> \$150,001-200,000	<input type="radio"/> Over \$250,000

1. For financial need purposes, please indicate if there are any special family need considerations. Such as family size, others attending college, etc.

2. How will you use the Past National Commander Michael J. Kogut American Legion Scholarship Trust if one is awarded to you? (Example: tuition, books, related expenses, or as supplement to other assistance.

3. Highlight Educational Record, Extracurricular Activities, Sports and Community Service.

4. Are you a veteran, or related to a veteran? If you are a veteran, please indicate your branch of service, brief military history, and any membership in veteran's organizations. If you are related to a veteran, please indicate relationship and their military information. Please submit DD-214 if available, blot out any confidential information.

5. **Essay Question:** In 500 words or less, describe your proposed course of study. Describe your career objectives and how the award of this American Legion scholarship would help you attain them. Comment on what you have achieved and learned through your studies and activities. Typed attachment preferred.

To be eligible for consideration, all fully completed Scholarship Applications must reach The Erie County American Legion by May 1, 2026, or postmarked by that date.

Submit materials to:
Erie County Committee
Attn: MJK Scholarship Committee
609 City Hall
65 Niagara Square
Buffalo, NY 14202

For More Information contact:
Jim Bojanowski Erie County Adjutant
Telephone: 716-852-6500
veteran14202@verizon.net
eriecountyal.org for additional scholarship forms