

American Legion Youth Award Medals Program

Developing future leaders ... Today

V.2026.07.17

Purpose: The purpose of the American Legion *Youth Award Medals Program* is to develop America's future leaders by motivating and encouraging youth as well as recognizing exceptional performance in the areas of JROTC / ROTC, Citizenship, Americanism, Shooting, Athleticism, Scholarship, Music, Oracle & Essay endeavors. This program cannot be accomplished without at least minimal general guidelines for delineating the level of awards that would be appropriate commensurate with the youth efforts as acknowledged by parents, youth leadership, and school counselors. General guideline suggestions or recommendations are intended to assist the Post, citizens, family members, school counselors and youth leadership on acceptable criteria for awarding these awards from the Post, State, National or Legionnaire. These guidelines will assist the American Legion and the schools by facilitating communications between the American Legion Post(s) and the schools they are affiliated with.

Background: The American Legion does not have paid positions to oversee these programs. Many of the school counselors, coaches and parents cannot understand these programs even though introduced by the Legions, as most do not have a military background to support understanding of the core values, spirit and intent of these programs. Furthermore school counselors are not so inclined to promote these programs due to the previous vagueness of award criteria and the additional workload and time constraints imposed by the schools. All awards, without definitive award criteria, are highly subjective and make a program nearly impossible to understanding. For any program to succeed, the program must be simple – to understand, promote and administer.

Scholastic achievement, superior skills in the arts and athleticism, as well as Americanism and citizenship recognition is critical in the secondary schools, often measured by institutions of higher learning including Military Academies for admission to identify the best qualified high achiever. Notwithstanding, the critical function of motivating the primary school youth to excel is firmly imbedded in recognition for high achievement. This program will bridge the gap.

Areas of Responsibility: Posts are assigned regions that encompass the schools: elementary & middle (primary), high school (secondary) and colleges that exist within their local regional boundary, as dictated by the number of available Posts and reasonable division of the existing schools among the Posts. The responsible adult may submit the award requests to the local area Post, but in the absence of the Post or the inability of the Post to process the award, an alternate Post may be used to submit the award(s). Local / Regional Posts should support these awards as fully as practicable. In the absence or inability of a local Post to process the award(s), the award request may be submitted (digitally or telephonically) to the respective State American Legion office for approval.

The following are suggestions for consideration of recommended awards. Nothing herein should be considered to be absolute. The initial, (or in some cases the final), approval may come from the Legion Post where the award is submitted. Higher awards may need to be approved at the National Headquarters level.

Authority and References:

American Legion:	http://www.legion.org/
Medal Orders:	http://emblem.legion.org/Medals/products/164/
JROTC/ROTC:	http://www.legion.org/rotc & https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/jrotc-rotc/about/
Boys State / Nation:	http://www.legion.org/boysnation
Girls State / Nation:	https://www.legion-aux.org/ala-girls-nation
School Award Medal Program:	http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/schoolaward.pdf
Oratorical Contest:	http://www.legion.org/oratorical
American Legion Baseball:	http://www.legion.org/baseball
Junior Shooting Sports	http://www.legion.org/shooting

Award Criteria Guidelines

The Post Commander will appoint a committee of not more than three Post members to serve as an Award Committee for the Post to contact local school authorities. Through the Award Committee should endeavor to establish friendly cooperation on the part of the faculty and students to promote the YAMP. When successfully achieved, it will be possible to activate a smooth, coordinated program. Elements of a program would necessitate include the following:

A series of talks to the students, and faculty, on the fundamentals which are the basis of the Youth Award Medals Program. These talks should be delivered by Legionnaires, tuned to the students' level of understanding, of good grammatical structure, and short. The customary weekly assembly period would be an excellent opportunity for such presentations.

Arrangements on how the recipients are to be selected should be made well in advance of the end of the school year. Traits underlying the selection of the youth will be commensurate with the respective award criteria. The Post Award Committee upon the recommendation of school faculty members, coaches, youth leadership or parents should make the final selection or recommendation(s) the American Legion Post (or National Office, as appropriate) if required.

Students, patrons and the entire community should know and understand the entire program. Suitable publicity should be arranged to handle this. The sole purpose of the undertaking by The American Legion is the cultivation of high character and wholesome ideals in youth approaching active citizenship. No trace of politics, sectarianism or favoritism should be allowed to attach itself to the Youth Award Medals Program.

At the medal presentation ceremony, it is only fitting and proper that the local American Legion Post take the major role. A member of The American Legion Post should present the awards. The school principal is to be consulted before any speaker is named in order to be certain that the speaker is acceptable to the local school authorities. All speakers should be cautioned not to take up too much time on the commencement program. World War II, Korean, Viet Nam, Gulf War, Iraq or Afghanistan veterans can serve admirably in presenting awards.

Ideally, awards should be made to the outstanding youth of the class in primary & secondary schools and colleges at the end of the year awards ceremony. School recommending awards should normally be limited to the *maximum of one level each* (bronze, silver & gold) for *each type* of medal (Scholastic, Music, Oratory, etc.) requested. Awards should be submitted with enough time to approve, order & deliver the award, *normally 60 days prior to the end of the school year.* Awards out of the school year cycle may be considered with supporting documentation commensurate with the award request.

Thoughtful consideration should be given to matching the type and level (bronze, silver or gold) of the award with respect to the age, grade and accomplishment of the youth. Excessive awarding of medals will serve to cheapen the spirit & intent of the program, as well as the intrinsic value of the awards, particularly at the gold level.

Most of these awards are intended primarily to motivate the youth to excel in primary and secondary schools. Although they may be awarded to youth attending college, the college youth's award / reward for (scholastic) excellence would logically be their Degree conferred. By the time the primary / secondary school youth enters college, these awards should have served to highly motivate and identify the high achiever in various endeavors.

No medal shall be pinned on the chest or breast of a recipient under the age of 18, with the exception of JROTC medals, which may be pinned to the JROTC uniform coat by the Senior Instructor or Principal of the school. Youth award recipients may be handed the award in the case, or have it clipped to a suitable lapel, if appropriate. Attending parent(s) / guardian(s) may pin the medal on their child.

Second through fifth subsequent awards of the same level may be indicated by the attachment of a gold 5/16" star (procured locally at any military uniform shop or online vendors) centered on the suspension ribbon of the medal. The sixth award will be indicated by a silver 5/16" star in lieu of five gold stars. JROTC only: If maximum ribbons is reached or

multiple different American Legion medals awarded preclude the wearing of multiple ribbons. Cadet(s) may wear a single ribbon with the appropriate gold/silver star(s) indicating total number of different American Legion medals awarded.

American Legion JROTC / ROTC Medal Awards Overview

The American Legion JROTC / ROTC (J/ROTC) Medal Awards were established by National Convention mandate as a way in which The American Legion can show its support for JROTC / ROTC programs throughout the nation. It is another way in which the Legion and the schools can work together in the development of our young leaders. The Legion is committed to this worthwhile community service.

After a Post has decided to participate in this program, an Award Committee member will contact the local school(s). In communities where there are two Posts serving a single school, the support program can be a joint venture. Although the emphasis of the J/ROTC Achievement Program is the awarding of medals to the outstanding individuals in the school J/ROTC UNIT, support for the units is by no means limited to this activity. By working closely with school officials and J/ROTC Instructors, Posts will be able to support their local units in other ways. Cooperation between the Post Awards Committee and the high school, community college, or college/university is beneficial to the school, the Post, the J/ROTC Unit, and most importantly, the young JROTC / ROTC cadet.

Medals

The JROTC/ROTC medals and ribbon bars have been approved for wear by the Department of Defense and Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Criteria for these decorations have been officially approved and are published in each of the respective Service regulations.

These medals, recognizing Military and Scholastic Excellence, are available for presentation to Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force JROTC / ROTC cadets at any college, university, or high school. They come in three forms:

Bronze – Normally awarded to the outstanding high school cadets of the JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) that are selected by the Senior Instructor. It may also be awarded to college freshmen who have completed the freshman course (100) and qualified for admission to the sophomore (200) ROTC Course.

Silver - Awarded to the outstanding community college/four year college/university ROTC cadets who have successfully completed the Sophomore ROTC (200) course and qualified for admission to the junior (300) course. It can also be awarded to those outstanding cadets who have completed the JROTC (300) course in a junior/community college.

Gold - Awarded to the outstanding four year college/university ROTC cadets who have successfully completed the Senior ROTC (400) course. It can also be awarded to those outstanding cadets who have completed the junior (300) course and qualified for admission to the Senior (400) course.

RIBAR (Plain)



American Legion Youth / School Award Medals may be represented by the plain Ribar (Ribbon), in order of precedence (Medal of Merit, Boy/Girl State, School Award, Patrick Henry Oratorical, Americanism, Citizenship then all other American Legion Youth Awards). For JROTC members, the JROTC Medals will take precedence on the JROTC uniform, as prescribed by the respective branch regulations.

Item Number: 717.325

Price: \$4.99

References:

Army:	Army Cadet Command Regulation 145-2, pp 126
Air Force:	Air Force ROTC Instruction 36-2020, pp 21 - 23, Items 4.5 & 4.6
Navy/Marine Corps:	CNETINST 1533.9K, Ch. XI, Article 1106, pp 82 – 83, Items f. & g.

1. JROTC/ROTC Military Excellence Medal and Ribar (Bronze, Silver or Gold).

This award is normally recommended by the senior JROTC / ROTC instructor. It is awarded for outstanding cadet performance, demonstrated qualities of dependability and good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership ability; as well as a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of JROTC / ROTC training.

The award level is normally a Bronze Medal and the recipient may be determined by the Senior Instructor at the JROTC Unit level. The Silver Medal may be awarded to those outstanding cadets who have completed the ROTC (300) course; the Gold Medal may be awarded to those outstanding cadets who have completed the ROTC (400) in a junior/community college. Award criteria and medal levels are dictated by the respective military branch instruction(s).

Each cadet must:

1. Be in the upper 25 percent of their class in academic standing, including all JROTC subjects.
2. Demonstrate outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character and citizenship.



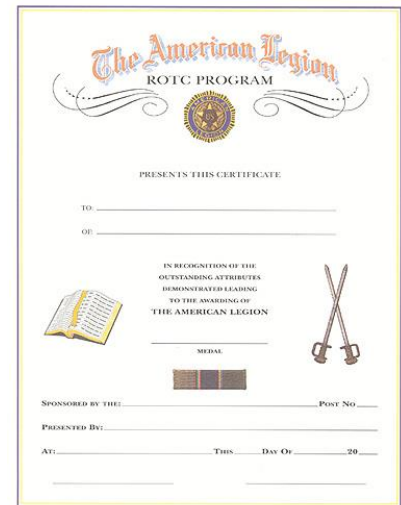
- Approved for wear by Department of Defense
- Features Legion emblem
- Includes presentation box
- **Gold: \$24.99 (Medal only)**
- **Silver: \$22.99 (Medal only)**
- **Bronze: \$20.99 (Medal only)**
- **Item Number: 717.100M**
- **Gold: \$31.99 (Medal/Ribar set with box)**
- **Silver: \$29.99 (Medal/Ribar set with box)**
- **Bronze: \$27.99 (Medal/Ribar set with box)**
- **Item Number: 717.100**



JROTC/ROTC Military Excellence Ribar

Item Number: 717.100R

Bronze/Silver/Gold - \$7.99



Devices awarded as part of an organizational award (Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement, American legion Awards, Reserve Officers Association, Military Order of World Wars, etc.) will be worn centered on the ribbon. No more than one device may be worn, even if the recipient has earned the award more than once. If various levels of the award have been earned denoted by different devices (bronze/silver/gold), only the highest level award device will be worn.

This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate and Ribar (ribbon).

References:

Army: Army Cadet Command Regulation 145-2, pp 126

Air Force: Air Force ROTC Instruction 36-2020, pp 21 - 23, Items 4.5 & 4.6

Navy/Marine Corps: CNETINST 1533.9K, Ch. XI, Article 1106, pp 82 – 83, Items f. & g.

2. JROTC/ROTC Scholastic Excellence Medal with Rebar (Bronze, Silver or Gold).

This award is normally recommended by the senior JROTC / ROTC instructor. It is awarded for superior academic performance and excelling in JROTC course(s), demonstrate outstanding qualities in military leadership, and actively participate in constructive student activities such as student organizations, music/arts programs or sports.

The award level is normally a Bronze Medal and the recipient may be determined by the Senior Instructor at the JROTC Unit level. The Silver Medal may be awarded to those outstanding cadets who have completed the ROTC (300) course; the Gold Medal may be awarded to those outstanding cadets who have completed the ROTC (400) in a junior/community college. Award criteria and medal levels are dictated by the respective military branch instruction(s).

Each cadet must:

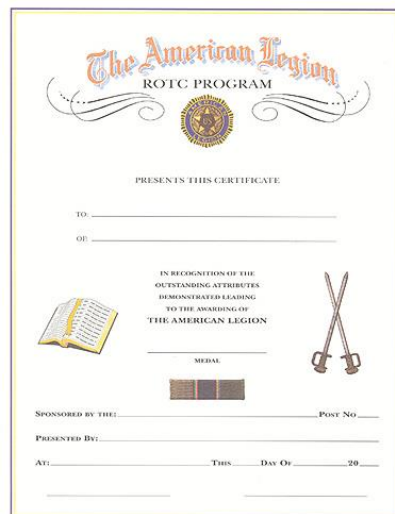
1. Be in the upper 10 percent of the high school class in all courses other than the JROTC/ROTC course(s).
2. Be in the upper 25 percent of all JROTC/ROTC course(s).
3. Demonstrate qualities of leadership.
4. Actively participate in constructive student activities, student organizations, or athletics.



- Includes medal and matching Ribar:
 - Approved for wear by Department of Defense
 - Features Legion emblem
 - Includes presentation box
 - **Gold: \$24.99 (Medal only)**
 - **Silver: \$22.99 (Medal only)**
 - **Bronze: \$20.99 (Medal only)**
 - **Item Number: 717.101M**
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- **Gold: \$31.99 (Medal/Ribar set with box)**
 - **Silver: \$29.99 (Medal/Ribar set with box)**
 - **Bronze: \$27.99 (Medal/Ribar set with box)**
 - **Item Number: 717.101**



ROTC Scholastic Excellence Ribar
Item Number: 717.101R
Bronze/Silver/Gold - \$7.99



Devices awarded as part of an organizational award (Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement, American Legion Awards, Reserve Officers Association, Military Order of World Wars, etc.) will be worn centered on the ribbon. No more than one device may be worn, even if the recipient has earned the award more than once. If various levels of the award have been earned denoted by different devices, only the highest level award device will be worn.

This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate and Ribar (ribbon).

References:

- Army: Army Cadet Command Regulation 145-2, pp 126
- Air Force: Air Force ROTC Instruction 36-2020, pp 21 - 23, Items 4.5 & 4.6
- Navy/Marine Corps: CNETINST 1533.9K, Ch. XI, Article 1106, pp 82 – 83, Items f. & g.

3. Citizenship medal: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



The purpose of this medal is to reinforce the core values that is expected of the good citizen in today's society as reflected by our forefathers. For the youth of today, the ideals of good citizenship are respect for those in authority (elders, parents, teachers, law enforcement, etc.) and respect for other citizens of all races and creed. Citizenship also is helping others in need, sharing what one can afford to share, help and guide those in need. Respect for country is inherent in the good citizen, yet tolerance for those that immigrate and strive to become good Americans through honest effort and sacrifice should be accepted.

Many elementary schools give citizenship awards to youth that follow rules and receive no disciplinary referrals. This is only one element of good citizenship, which goes hand-in-hand with the ideals listed above, but is an excellent indicator of intended behavior.

This may be awarded at the end of the school year, or to a youth that displays exemplary citizenship over the course of a single extraordinary action or sustained actions that reflect great credit on themselves and the American Legion.

Gold Medal: May be awarded for sustained extraordinary activities or singular actions that reflect great credit on the individual, organization or American Legion. *Normally awarded at the high school or college level.*

Silver Medal: May be awarded for extraordinary activities that reflect great credit on the individual, organization or American Legion. *Normally awarded at the middle school level.*

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for activities that reflect great credit on the individual, organization or American Legion. *Normally awarded at the elementary school level.*

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. Recommendations may be from school staff, parents or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.302

Gold: \$35.99

Silver: \$32.99

Bronze: \$26.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.



4. Americanism Medal: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



The American Legion's Service to God and Country program is basic Americanism and is designed to help prevent the spiritual decay of America and to charge our citizens with a spirit of positive Americanism, respect for law, regard for authority and an awareness of our human rights and freedoms. The program's objective is to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and Nation by preparing young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities. It is achieved by teaching them moral and spiritual values, renewed interest in our Country's history, self-discipline, self-reliance, thrift and ideals of loyalty, honesty and physical fitness.

Americanism is the recognition of the truth that the inherent and fundamental rights of man are derived from God, and not from governments, societies, dictators, kings or majorities. This basic principle of Americanism is of Independence, where our immortal forefathers said that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, chief among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The purpose of this medal is to reinforce the core values of Americanism in our children as they mature. The Americanism medal should be awarded for the youth's endeavors to be a patriotic and good citizen. This is normally awarded (at the end of the school year) to the most outstanding youth that displays a combination of all or most of the following traits: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service (depending on age & grade).

The traits of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service will be demonstrated in markedly different ways by youths of different age groups. Care should be taken to understand the age of the youth and demonstrated abilities will differ sharply from a nine year old and a fifteen year old. Courage for a seven year old may be demonstrated by being selected as the school "safety patrol", reporting hallway infractions; whereas courage for a fifteen year old may be demonstrated by resolving a school bullying issue at the high school.

Gold Medal: May be awarded for sustained demonstrated traits of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service that have been clearly documented or observed by youth leadership or school counselors / teachers. The youth may be admired by peers and respected by staff / faculty and/or adults. *Normally awarded at the high school or college level.*

Silver Medal: May be awarded for demonstrated traits of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service that have been clearly documented or observed by youth leadership or school counselors / teachers not deserving of the gold medal. *Normally awarded at the middle school level.*

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for demonstrated traits of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service that have been clearly documented or observed by youth leadership or school counselors / teachers not deserving of the silver medal. *Normally awarded at the elementary school level.*

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. Recommendations may be from school staff, parents or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

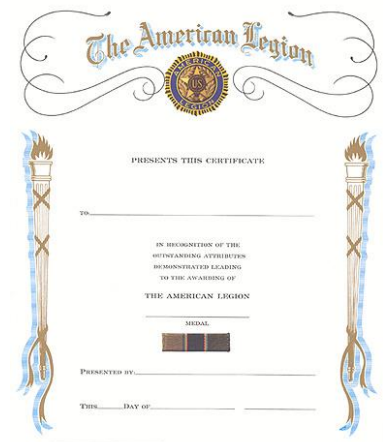
Item Number: 717.301

Gold: \$33.99

Silver: \$31.99

Bronze: \$24.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.



5. Scholastic Medal – Secondary (High) School (Award for Achievement): (Bronze, Silver or Gold).

The purpose of the Scholastic Medal (Award for Achievement) is to motivate students to excel to the highest level of their scholastic abilities as well as to recognize significant achievements attained in secondary school.



This Scholastic Medal should be awarded for significant and measurable areas of excellence in scholastic endeavors that are remarkable. Positions requiring demonstrated leadership, extraordinary event organization, and positions of significant trust limited to top students may be considered for this award. Achievement in attaining the highest score on standardized testing, winning school or school district contests (consistent with the grade level participating), and superlative performances in the arts may also be considered.

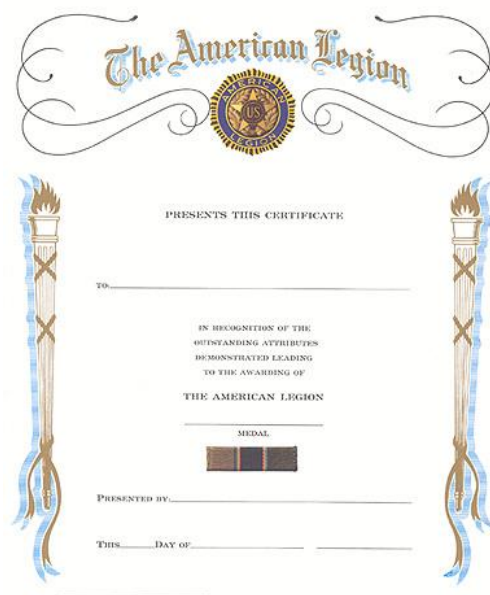
Recommendations may come from either parents, school counselors, teachers or youth leadership associated with schools. *Schools should not award more than one level each (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) per year.*

This award is issued in three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. These three levels should differentiate between the accomplished levels of achievement for the secondary school youth involved.

Gold Medal: May be awarded for the top student in a significant endeavor or contest, or for sustained extraordinary performance.

Silver Medal: May be awarded for a high achieving student not meeting the criteria for the Gold Medal.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for a high achieving student not meeting the criteria for the Silver Medal.



This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. Recommendations may be from school staff, parents or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.312

Gold: \$26.99

Silver: \$25.99

Bronze: \$21.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box

Not to be confused with the School Award Medal Program

6. Scholastic Medal: – Primary (Elementary/Middle) School: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).

The purpose of the Scholastic Medal – Primary School is to motivate students to excel to the highest levels of their scholastic abilities, and recognize the high achievers for scholastic achievements and leadership in their grade, as well as to recognize significant achievements attained in primary school



This medal may be awarded to the top three students of the primary school each year, as selected by the principal, who demonstrate significant and measurable areas of excellence in scholastic endeavors that are remarkable. Positions requiring demonstrated leadership, extraordinary event organization, and positions of significant trust limited to top students may be considered for this award. Achievement in attaining the highest score on standardized testing, winning school or school district contests (consistent with the grade level participating), and superlative performances in the arts may also be considered.

Recommendations may come from either parents, school counselors, teachers or youth leadership associated with schools. *Schools should not award more than one level each (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) per year.*

Gold Medal: May be awarded to the top academic student in the school, the student who excels in a significant endeavor or contest or for sustained extraordinary performance.

Silver Medal: May be awarded to the high achieving student not meeting the criteria for the Gold Medal.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for a high achieving student not meeting the criteria for the Silver Medal.

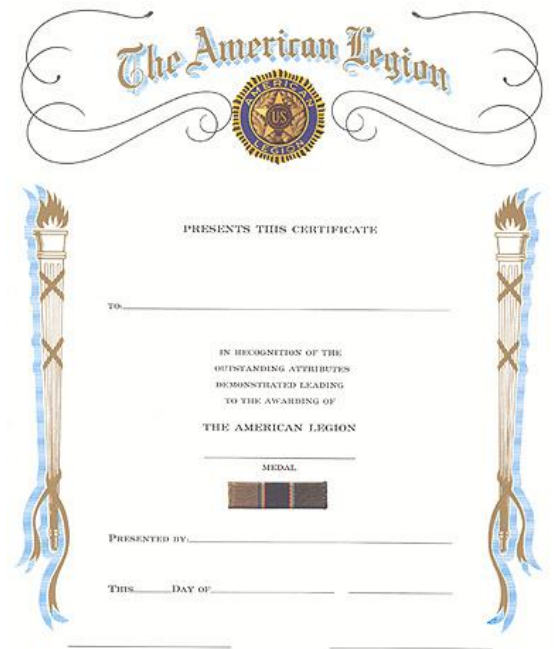
Item Number: 717.320

Gold: \$35.99

Silver: \$32.99

Bronze: \$26.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.



Not to be confused with the School Award Medal Program

7. Scholarship Medal: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



This award would be normally conferred upon a student who earns a scholarship or is awarded a stipend by a scholarship fund as a result either application to the scholarship fund or successfully winning an essay contest or other contest.

This medal may be awarded at three levels (Bronze, Silver or Gold).

Gold Medal: May be awarded for the top student in a significant endeavor or contest that wins a significant endeavor or contest. Normally awarded at the high school or college level.

Silver Medal: May be awarded to the student who is runner-up or second-place than earns a minor scholarship award. Normally awarded at the middle school level.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for noteworthy efforts resulting in a minor award for a scholarship or third place in a contest. Normally awarded at the elementary school level.

Schools should not award more than one level each (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) per year.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. Recommendations may be from school staff, parents or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

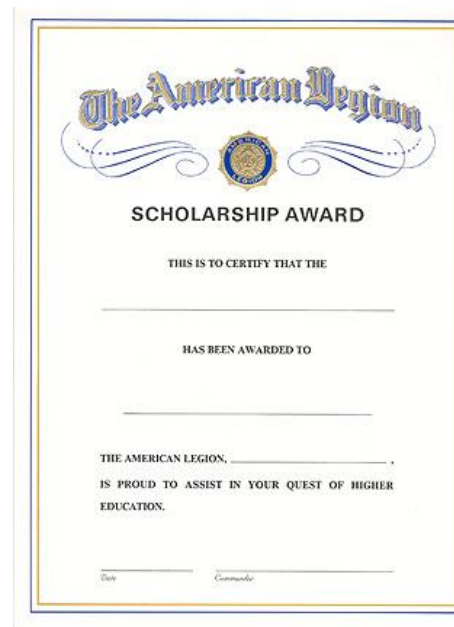
Item Number: 717.314

Gold: \$35.99

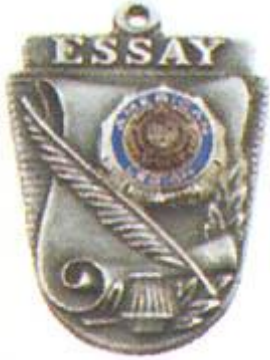
Silver: \$32.99

Bronze: \$26.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box



8. Essay Medal: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



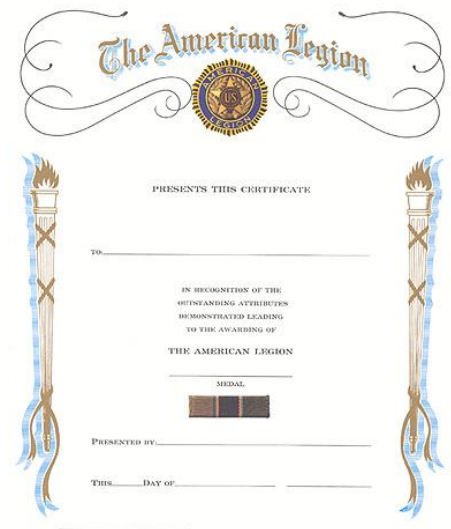
The purpose of the Essay Medal is to recognize and motivate the youth to compete in the higher level of thought process that requires a written essay, which can be demonstrated by and especially well written and thought out essay in the school environment or submission of and/or award in an essay or writing contest.

The Essay Medal should be awarded to recognize a youth's achievement in their cognizant and reasoning abilities, and to recognize the superior thought process that is involved in writing a successful essay that convinces the reader that the writer is sincere in their thought process. While this a highly subjective process in regards to determining the award and level of award, care should be taken to take into consideration the age and education level of the youth recommended for the award; as well as the level thought process required in the essay contest (if applicable).

Gold Medal: May be awarded for the highest level thought processes as demonstrated by the context and substance of the essay. This could also be awarded as recognition for winning a significant essay contest. Normally awarded at the high school or college level.

Silver Medal: May be awarded for a high level of thought process as demonstrated by the context and substance in the essay. This could also be awarded as recognition has runner-up in a significant essay contest. Normally awarded at the middle school level.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for participation in an essay contest with good thought process as demonstrated in the context and substance of the essay. This could also be awarded as recognition for an individual significant effort in participating in an essay contest not resulting in being selected as a winner. Normally awarded at the elementary school level.



This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. Recommendations may be from school staff, parents or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.317

Gold: \$35.99

Silver: \$32.99

Bronze: \$26.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

9. Oratory Medal – Debate Teams & Oratorical Contests: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



The purpose of the Oratory Medal – Debate Teams & Contests is to prepare primary & junior secondary school students for the American Legion high school Oratorical Contest Program in High School.

A Debate Team that participates in contests will present participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly, and will assist in the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The ability to speak publically with and or without notes is a daunting task for youth.

Elements that may determine the level (bronze, silver or gold) of award should include vocal delivery, articulation and clarity; the youth's poise, eye contact, posture and gestures.

Structured debates and contests that require the youth to speak at school or publically may be considered for this award. Examples of endeavors would be the recitation of the pledge of allegiance, or singing of the national anthem at school or public ceremonies.

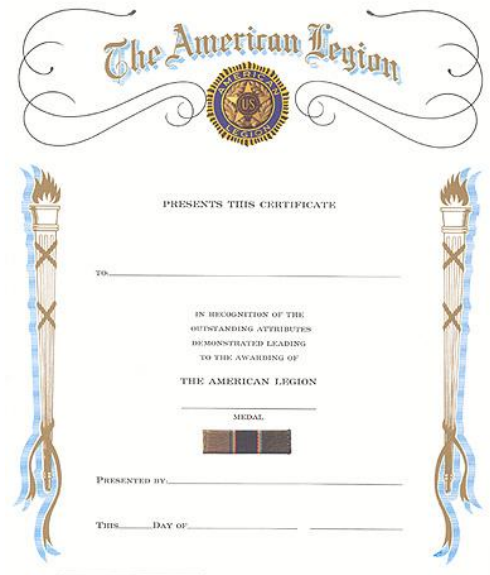
Recommendations may come from either parents, school counselors, youth leadership or teachers / directors. Documented proof of oratorical excellence should be provided.

Gold Medal: May be awarded for the top student in a Debate Team or for excellence in public speaking with documented proof of superior performance. Normally awarded at the high school or college level.

Silver Medal: May be awarded for the high achiever for a level of excellence not deserving of the Gold Medal. Normally awarded at the middle school level.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for the high achiever to lesser degree than that deserving of the Silver Medal. Normally awarded at the elementary school level.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. Recommendations may be from school staff, parents or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.



Not to be confused with the American Legion Oratorical Contest Program or the Pat Henry Oratory Medal

Item Number: 717.319

Gold: \$24.99

Silver: \$22.99

Bronze: \$19.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

10. Oratory Medal – Drama & Speech Clubs: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



The purpose of the Oratory Medal – Drama & Speech Clubs is to prepare primary & junior secondary school students for the American Legion high school Oratorical Contest Program in High School.

A Drama or Speech Clubs that performs or participates in contests will present participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly, and will assist in the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The ability to speak publically with and or without notes is a daunting task for youth.

Elements that may determine the level (bronze, silver or gold) of award should include vocal delivery, articulation and clarity; the youth's poise, eye contact, posture and gestures.

Structured plays, theatrical performances and contests that require the youth to speak at school or publically may be considered for this award. Examples of endeavors would be excellence at acting in school plays or dramas, narration of plays or presentation as a speaker at school or at public ceremonies.

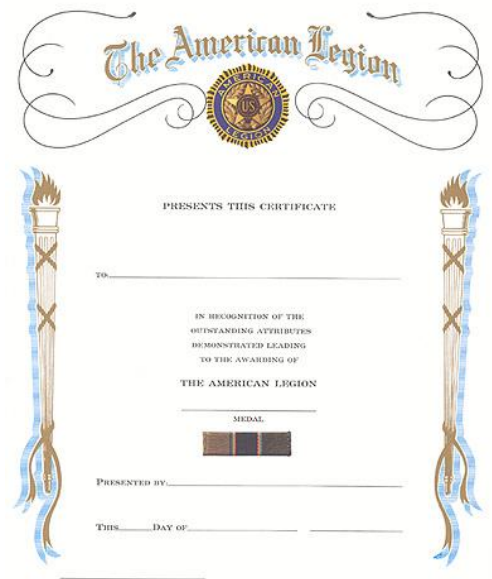
Recommendations may come from either parents, school counselors, youth leadership or drama / speech teachers / directors. Documented proof of oratorical excellence should be provided.

Gold Medal: May be awarded for the top student in a Drama / Speech Club or for excellence in public speaking with documented proof of superior performance. Normally awarded at the high school or college level.

Silver Medal: May be awarded for the high achiever for a level of excellence not deserving of the Gold Medal. Normally awarded at the middle school level.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for the high achiever to lesser degree than that deserving of the Silver Medal. Normally awarded at the elementary school level.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. Recommendations may be from school staff, parents or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.



Not to be confused with the American Legion Oratorical Contest Program or the Pat Henry Oratory Medal

Item Number: 717.311

Gold: \$35.99

Silver: \$32.99

Bronze: \$26.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

11. Athletic Achievement Medal: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



The purpose of the Athletic Achievement Medal is to reinforce the value that not only is scholastic wisdom, artistic ability and citizenship excellent attributes, but also maintaining good health, developing a competitive spirit and building teamwork skills are of optimum concern for youth. This award recognizes a youths endeavors to excel in an athletic sport as recognized by longevity, awards and leadership in the field of chosen sport.

This should be awarded to the youth that endeavors or excels in one or more sports. The different level (bronze, silver or gold) of medals should be conferred with consideration to the age, sport and level effort required to achieve the level of excellence demonstrated and/or documented by coaches/teachers, parents or youth leaders.

Gold Medal: May be awarded for attaining the highest level of proficiency or leadership in a particular sport or multiple sports demonstrating perseverance and determination as well as good sportsmanship. Normally awarded at the high school or college level.

Silver Medal: May be awarded for team leadership, a high level of proficiency and good sportsmanship. Normally awarded at the middle school level.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for outstanding participation in a sport and contributing to a team's success. Normally awarded at the elementary school level.



This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level.

Recommendations may be from school staff, parents, coaches or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.308

Gold: \$35.99

Silver: \$32.99

Bronze: \$26.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

12. Marksmanship Medal: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



This medal may be awarded for participation in an organized competitive sport shooting event(s) on a sanctioned sport shooting range only under responsible adult supervision. This medal may also be awarded for participation in organized competitive events, such as a JROTC/ROTC weapon qualification program or a junior law enforcement weapon qualification program; or demonstrated proficiency with a handgun or rifle upon completion of a firearm safety course with a qualification course of fire. All courses of fire must have minimum qualification criteria, for the bronze level of award, and/or mid to high level distinct measurable qualification criteria for higher levels of this award.

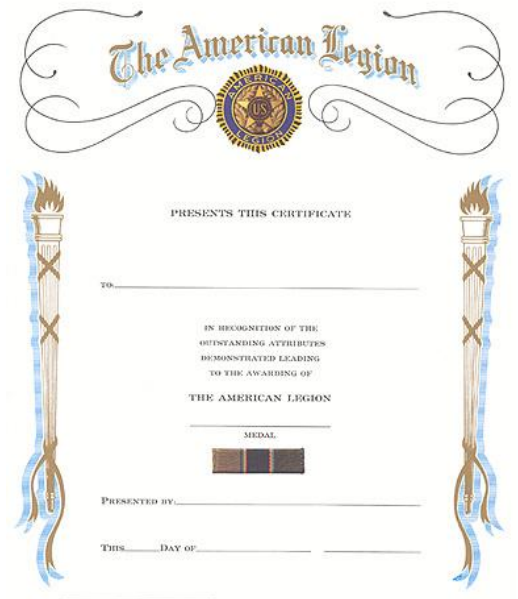
Recommendations/request for this award must have documented certifications of qualification or achievement at the appropriate level for the request of the award. All requests based on a firearm safety course qualification must have a state or nationally certified instructor administering the course on a state or nationally sanctioned weapon range. A sanctioned range

is one that is operated by a licensed business with insurance that meets or exceeds the standard set by the National Rifle Association (NRA), or a range operated by Federal / State / Local Law Enforcement or the U.S. Military.

Gold Medal: May be awarded to the youth that qualifies at the highest (Expert) level or achieves the winning level (first place) of the associated handgun or rifle competition.

Silver Medal: May be awarded to the youth that qualifies at the mid-level (Sharpshooter) or achieves a runners up position (second-place) of the associated handgun or rifle competition.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded to the youth that qualifies at the minimum level (Marksman) or achieves the third place of the associated handgun or rifle competition. This may also be awarded to the youth that that completes a firearms safety course and achieves the minimum qualifying course of fire on a sanctioned range under responsible adult instruction and supervision. Firearm safety courses that do not have a minimum qualifying course of fire will not be considered.



This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. Recommendations may be from school staff, parents or youth organizations. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.307

Gold: \$29.99

Silver: \$25.99

Bronze: \$22.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

13. Medal of Merit: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



The purpose of this medal is to recognize meritorious achievement in various fields of endeavor exemplifying the ideals in which the American Legion holds in high esteem: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. This may be conferred for an extraordinary endeavor or sustained superior performance in a field resulting in great credit to The American Legion.

Gold Medal: May be awarded for exceptionally meritorious achievement or sustained outstanding achievement in fields of endeavor that reflect the ideals of the American Legion in an honorable light.

Silver Medal: May be awarded for meritorious achievement or sustained outstanding achievement in fields of endeavor that reflect the ideals of the American Legion and an honorable light.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded for outstanding achievement in fields of endeavor with that reflect the ideals of the American Legion in an honorable light.



The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be initially determined at the Post level. The gold medal award must be approved by the American Legion headquarters.

This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.304

Gold: \$35.99

Silver: \$32.99

Bronze: \$26.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

14. Silver Legion Valor Medal (Silver Only).



The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life.

The achievement must be of a truly outstanding nature and distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond normal expectations. The heroic act(s) performed must render the individual conspicuous and well above the standard expected. An accumulation of minor acts of heroism normally does not justify the award, but unusual or exceptional cases will be decided on their merits.

This award hinges on the actual level of personal "life threatening" risk experienced by the awardee. For heroic performance to rise to this level, it must be clearly established that the act involved very specific life-threatening risk to the awardee. When there is none, or at best very limited life-threatening risk, the award of the Medal of Merit may be more appropriate.

The number of decorations that may be awarded to a member is not limited; however, only one decoration is awarded for the same act.

Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

Satisfactory evidence of the heroic services performed, in the form of affidavits made by eyewitnesses of good repute and standing, testifying of their own knowledge. The opinion of witnesses that the person for whom an award is sought imperiled his or her own life or made extraordinary efforts is not sufficient. The affidavits must set forth, in detail, all facts and occurrences, clearly showing in what manner and to what extent life was risked or extraordinary efforts were made so the Headquarters may judge the degree of merit involved. The affidavits shall be made before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths.

If individuals who distinguish themselves die before presentation of an award to which entitled, the award shall be processed and the medal presented to the next of kin. Make every effort to present posthumous awards within 90 days after the individual is declared dead. Such awards shall be presented at an appropriate ceremony to the next of kin, if they desire. Whenever possible, awards to personnel killed should be presented at graveside. Decorations shall not be pinned on the clothing of any next of kin; rather, the decoration should be handed to the next of kin in an opened decoration container.

The award may be evaluated at the Post level but must be approved at the National Headquarters. The award may be up-graded (Heroism Medal) or down-graded (Medal of Merit) at the National Headquarters. This medal shall be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.303
Price: \$43.99

Available in silver only

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box



15. Heroism Medal: (Bronze, Silver or Gold).



The Heroism Medal recognizes an individual whom distinguishes him or herself by extraordinary heroism performed a rescue or attempted rescue at the risk of his or her own life, and demonstrates extreme and heroic daring.

Individuals must have performed a worthwhile act or an act that was considered worthwhile at the time. Needless and foolish risking of life, or tempting of fate is not considered worthwhile.

The act must have been performed voluntarily. This requirement should not be applied so strictly that a person would be excluded from consideration, who in carrying out orders, does more on his/her own volition than could ordinarily be expected under the circumstances. Did the individual leave a place of comparative safety to perform the act without direct orders or without being forced into the more dangerous situation by circumstances over which the individual had no control? Had the individual not performed the action cited, would there be cause for censure or blame? A person who failed to perform the duties that are expected of one of his/her rank and experience and for which he/she had been trained might be considered a candidate for censure rather than praise.

The act performed by the individual must not have been motivated by a desire for self-preservation.

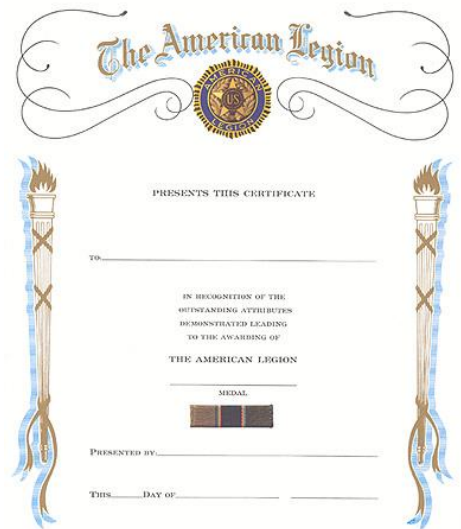
Satisfactory evidence of the heroic services performed, in the form of affidavits made by eyewitnesses of good repute and standing, testifying of their own knowledge. The opinion of witnesses that the person for whom an award is sought imperiled his or her own life or made extraordinary efforts is not sufficient. The affidavits must set forth, in detail, all facts and occurrences, clearly showing in what manner and to what extent life was risked or extraordinary efforts were made so the Headquarters may judge the degree of merit involved. The affidavits shall be made before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths.

Gold Medal: May be awarded to an individual who is performed a rescue or attempted rescue at the risk of his or her own life, and demonstrates extreme and heroic daring.

Silver Medal: May be awarded to an individual who performed a rescue or attempted rescue where the circumstances do not sufficiently distinguish the individual to deserve the medal of gold, but demonstrate such extraordinary effort as to merit recognition.

Bronze Medal: May be awarded to an individual who performed a rescue or attempted rescue where the circumstances do not sufficiently distinguish the individual to deserve the medal of silver, but demonstrate such extraordinary effort as to merit recognition.

The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level and approved at the National Headquarters, but the award may be up or down-graded at the National Headquarters level. This medal shall be awarded with the appropriate certificate.



Item Number: 717.316

Gold: \$27.99

Silver: \$23.99

Bronze: \$20.99

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

16. Grateful appreciation medal



The purpose of this award is to recognize honorable service to the United States of America in a foreign nation, acknowledging the hardships and challenges inherently involved with working overseas, in appreciation of a grateful nation.

Active duty military, reserve units, National Guard service personnel having served overseas as well as Department of Defense civilians and contractors having served overseas in support of any United States Military Branch are eligible for this award.

Veterans and deceased veterans having previously served overseas may be considered. Only honorable service will be considered.

Evidence of deployment in a foreign nation may be required.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.300 (Gold Only)

Gold: \$32599

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box

