





## Why You Should Belong

I guess that is what we all ask when it comes to this or any other organization. With everything that we have to do in our lives, why would anyone want to spend their time, money and energy joining another organization?

Valid questions. Why? I believe when you afford yourself the time to read the following brochure you will see "Why You Should Belong."

Over the last 80+ years since our formation, we have had a major influence on the course of American history. The GI Bill, written and named by Legionnaires, provides education, economic, small business and home ownership assistance to all veterans who qualify.

We also continue to work with our elected officials at all levels of government to restore veteran's benefits and to upgrade those benefits so those who served and their families will be taken care of, just as they were promised.

We also are taking care of our future; our children. We have programs that focus on education, drug awareness child literacy, scouting, baseball and flag education. There is something for everyone.

We are also supporting our deployed troops and their families through our Family Support Network, Temporary Financial Assistance and The American Legacy Scholarship.

An American Legion Post is, basically, Americans taking care of Americans. As a Legion member, you will open an unending catalog of opportunities to expand your life and utilize your unique talents. To more fully understand the scope of American Legion membership, we invite you to take just a few minutes to review the next few pages. We believe you will find an organization that is worthy of your time, talents and energy. And, you will truly know "Why You Should Belong" to The American Legion!



## Troop Support Services

As the war on Terrorism continues, the number of Active, National Guard and Reserve units deployed will continue to rise. Many families unaccustomed to long separations will suddenly find themselves coping with an array of small problems that can become overwhelming.



As Veterans, and family members of Veterans, The American Legion Family has been through it all. We know from experience just how valuable a helping hand can be when it seems there is nowhere to turn.

Through the Troop Support Service (TS2) The American Legion is there to assist. The TS2 program incorporates the Family Support Network, Reconnect and the Welcome Home brochure into one convenient package that serves as a resource guide for the service member being deployed and the family members left at home.

**For more information visit [legion.org/support](http://legion.org/support) or call 317-630-1335.**

## Heroes to Hometowns

"Heroes to Hometowns" is a transition program for severely injured service members returning home from OEF/OIF. The "Heroes to Hometowns" establishes a support network and coordinates resources for severely injured service members returning home.

"Heroes to Hometowns" can provide A welcome home celebration, housing assistance, home and vehicle adaptation, government claims assistance, childcare, counseling, education assistance and family support.

**For more information call 703-692-2054.**



## American Legion Racing

Join in the fun and excitement as The American Legion competes in the NASCAR Busch series. Become a member and the # 76 Freedom Car will be YOUR car. Imagine watching a car that you help to sponsor speeding across the finish line powered by 4,000,000 American Legion Family members.



Through our unique sponsorship with Team Johnson Motorsports, The American Legion's name will be in front of over 75 million race fans with national television, radio and print exposure. Now is the time for every member of The American Legion to stand up and let our great nation know who The American Legion is and to salute our service men and women around the world by cheering on The American Legion's # 76 Freedom Car.



For more information visit [www.legionracing.org](http://www.legionracing.org)  
or e-mail [freedomcar@legion.org](mailto:freedomcar@legion.org)

## The American Legion Riders

Today there are well over 500 American Legion Rider groups, organized by posts, districts, or departments, in support of Americanism and Children and Youth programs in virtually every state in the nation. One of the fastest growing and most highly visible of the many activities offered by our Posts, The American Legion Riders are as diverse as the programs that they support.



What do American Legion Riders do?

Here are a few examples:

- Local American Legion Riders' groups have become some of the most generous and creative supporters of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Average amounts raised each year are approaching \$250,000.
- Riders meet and provide escorts for military convoys returning our servicemen and servicewomen to their home stations all over the country.
- Riders ride to raise money for such organizations as VA Hospitals, Battered Women and Children's Centers, various children and youth programs, Veterans Relief, needy families and many, many others.
- Riders have formed a national movement that honors our fallen comrades and protects the sanctity of military funerals and memorial services across the country. These special motorcycle Honor Guards and ceremonial teams highlight the special bonds formed in military service and the motorcycling community.
- Legion Riders have also begun to teach motorcycle and driver safety in the community and in schools in cooperation with ABATE and other national motorcycling organizations.

The American Legion Riders are composed of members of The American Legion Family, including members of The American Legion, The Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. So if you ride a motorcycle and are a Legion member, an Auxiliary member, or member of the Sons of The American Legion, you are also eligible for membership in the Riders.

Contact a Riders group in your state, or e-mail The American Legion Riders at [legionriders@legion.org](mailto:legionriders@legion.org).





## National Emergency Fund

The National Emergency Fund (NEF), started in 1989 after Hurricane Hugo, is another way that The American Legion is actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual American Legion family members.

Any current year paid member of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion is eligible to apply for temporary financial relief for losses sustained in a declared natural disaster.

Since October 1989, the NEF has provided over \$7,000,000 in direct financial assistance to Legion family members and posts. When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast area in 2005, over \$2,000,000 was granted. The NEF has kept posts from closing and enabled Legion family members to begin to rebuild their homes and their lives.

All contributions made to the NEF are deposited in a special account and are used exclusively to meet out members' most urgent needs. Not one single contribution dollar is used for fund raising, administrative costs or fulfillment.



For more information visit [www.legion.org/nef](http://www.legion.org/nef).

## Americanism

Community and youth-oriented programs of The American Legion further a strong sense of patriotism and loyalty.

**American Legion Baseball.** One of our country's best known and most respected youth athletic programs, American Legion Baseball has been the training ground for many major league stars. Each year, 90,000 athletes experience the benefits of good sportsmanship and team play.

**Boys State/Boys Nation.** American Legion Posts select outstanding high school students for Boys State/Boys Nation every year. During the week long program participants receive instruction in citizenship and experience first-hand how their state and federal governments function.

**High School Oratorical Competitions.** High school students vie for college scholarships awarded by The American Legion by demonstrating their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution in public speaking contests at local, state and national levels.

**Scouting Sponsorship.** Seventy thousand young people are served each year through more than 2,700 Post-sponsored Boy Scouts of America units. Four recipients are selected annually for The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year college scholarship.



**Flag Education.** Through this program, our youth are taught flag etiquette and appreciation for the United States Flag.

**Scholarship Information.** "Need a Lift?" is The American Legion's annual publication for high school students on the "hows and wheres" of obtaining college financial aid. The booklet is distributed nationally to public and private high schools. In addition, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship helps students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship assists the children of America's military, to include the Guard and Reserve, who have died on active duty since September 11, 2001.

**Junior Shooting Sports.** The American Legion recognizes that guns are a part of sports and recreation in our society and strives to teach youngsters the proper use of firearms before accidents occur. Many local Posts sponsor Junior Shooting Clubs, which provide training in gun safety and marksmanship for junior shooters through the use of air rifles. The American Legion hosts an annual national air rifle tournament that draws more than 1,400 contestants annually.

**Patriotic Holiday Observances.** Since 1919, The American Legion has been our country's leader in the observance of patriotic holidays, sponsoring marching bands, color guards and drill teams.



## Children & Youth

The American Legion has been a strong advocate for the children and youth of our nation since our founding in 1919. To date there exists no area of child welfare that has gone untouched by the collective hand of The American Legion.



**Children's Miracle Network.** Children's Miracle Network raises critically needed funds for 170 children's hospitals, which treat 17 million children annually in the United States and Canada. These hospitals treat children with all types of afflictions and injuries, rendering service based on need, not the ability to pay.



### Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program, adopted by The American Legion, generates funds to help offset the costs associated with a family's stay while their child is receiving specialized treatment.

### Youth Suicide Prevention.

The American Legion actively supports programs of prevention and awareness and has published a brochure, entitled "Warning Signs of Youth Suicide."



**Halloween Safety.** As long as Halloween activities are sponsored and promoted in our various communities by duly appointed and elected officials,

The American Legion believes children and parents should know how to make this observance as safe as possible. To assist with this effort, The American Legion publishes a brochure, entitled "Make Halloween a Fun and Safe Night," to educate children and parents about trick-or-treat safety.



**Family Support Network.** In support of the War on Terror, National Guard and Reserve units have been activated in record numbers. Their families often find themselves unable to meet normal monthly household obligations. The American Legion maintains a nationwide toll-free telephone number, 1-800-504-4098, for service personnel and their families to call for assistance, or they may e-mail a request to [familysupport@legion.org](mailto:familysupport@legion.org).

**Operation Military Kids.** When Guard and Reserve parents are mobilized, their children suddenly have unique needs and lack the community support systems associated with active military installations. The American Legion, in cooperation with State and County Cooperative Extension offices, seek to reach out to military youth before, during, and after their parents deploy to create a support network for these military kids.



**Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA).** Through Temporary Financial Assistance, a Post may call upon the National Headquarters for cash assistance to help meet the basic needs (shelter, food, utilities, medical) of veterans' children when the parents are unable to do so. Funds can be granted over a temporary period to eligible children when it has been determined that the child is in need and that sources are either unavailable, or inadequate. *See also*, Troop Support Services (TS2), described earlier in this brochure.



## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

The American Legion is an organization of veterans serving other veterans, their widows and widowers, and their orphans. To this end, The American Legion was instrumental in the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs (formerly the Veterans Administration), and is universally recognized as the originator of the G.I. Bill of Rights, and is constantly working to protect and preserve the rights and benefits to veterans through service to their country.

**Board of Veterans Appeals.** The American Legion operates an Appeals Unit at the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, DC, who specialize in affording representation to veterans and claimants seeking satisfactory resolution of benefit claim determinations made by local VA regional offices or VA medical centers.

**National Field Services.** To insure that veterans receive the quality of medical care they deserve and expect, The American Legion's National Field Services conducts on-site field visits to individual VA medical centers and to network offices. The information and data received is used to support VA&R activities in both congressional testimony and personal contacts with Members of Congress.

### **Military/Naval Discharge Review and Correction Boards.**

A team of Legion representatives provide assistance to former service members who seek upgrade of their less than honorable discharge or dismissals from the Armed Services. The Unit also assists veterans in obtaining decorations and medals through the various Armed Forces.

**Persian Gulf Task Force.** The American Legion's Persian Gulf War Task Force was created out of concern for America's newest generation of wartime veterans, providing service to these veterans, their families and their advocates. The Task Force has undertaken rigorous clinical studies, Freedom of Information Act Requests, site visits to VA and DoD Medical Centers, and VA Regional Offices and the creation of an Internet site for Gulf War veterans in need of assistance. All this work is geared to help Gulf War veterans, in particular those who suffer from Gulf War illnesses.

## Legislative

The American Legion is among those organizations that wield the greatest influence on the nation's legislative system. Through strong grass-roots lobbying and a dedicated professional staff, The American Legion's "official voice" in the Halls of Congress continues to advance the legislative mandates for veterans and their families.



## National Security

The American Legion has National Security policies in the areas of Aerospace, Energy, Merchant Marine, Defense Civil Preparedness, Law and Order and Military and Naval Affairs. Implementation of these policies is accomplished through legislative action and coordination with the Department of Defense, Military Services and other agencies.

**Junior Law Cadet Program.** Many Legion Posts, working in conjunction with law enforcement agencies, have established programs to introduce high school students to law enforcement and to establish cadet camps.

**ROTC Recognition Programs.** Posts award American Legion ROTC Military Excellence and Scholastic Excellence Medals to outstanding high school and college ROTC students.

### **Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award Programs.**

Presented annually at American Legion Post, State, Regional and National levels to recognize law enforcement officers for extraordinary performance to include superior community service.



**Blood Donor Awards.** Donating more blood than any other organization, The American Legion recognizes States for their efforts in donating this "gift of life."

## Employment and Economics

The American Legion has always been involved in issues that affect veterans economically. These issues include employment, job training, veterans preference, housing, small business and vocational rehabilitation. The National Economic Commission is responsible for ensuring that America's veterans have an opportunity to provide, with dignity and honor, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families. The Commission lobbies Congress and works closely with many federal agencies. It also works very closely with private sector organizations such as the National Organization on Disability, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and the Veterans Organizations Homeless Council, and the Senior Corps of Retired Executives.



## The American Legion Magazine

As a Legion member you receive a yearly subscription to *The American Legion Magazine* at no additional cost. This colorful monthly issue is packed full of general-interest features and updates on veterans' benefits to keep you informed of changes that affect you as a veteran.

**The Dispatch.** A monthly, tabloid-style publication issued to all 14,500 Posts and the organization's leaders. *The American Legion Dispatch* focuses on current issues that are important to all veterans and their families. Subscriptions can be had for \$15 a year.



For more information call 317-630-1352.

## Member Benefits

Membership in The American Legion brings with it special benefits that not only provide protection for your family but substantial money-saving discounts.



## Healthcare Benefits

**Discount Prescription Drug Program** for The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary members and dependents. Save as much as 20% or more on prescription drugs in participating pharmacies, and even greater savings through mail service. For questions from the pharmacy or to find the nearest participating pharmacy use our convenient toll-free number 1-866-792-6534. For questions or to place a refill order through RxAmerica's mail service, please call Precision Rx, at 1-866-792-6534.

**Your Eye Health** is important to us. That's why EyeMed Vision Care and The American Legion have teamed up to offer you discounts on your eye exams and eye wear. Simply visit [www.eyemedvisioncare.com](http://www.eyemedvisioncare.com) and enter your plan number 9233016 or call 1-800-793-8626.

**United Health Rx.** Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage is designed to give people with Medicare affordable insurance to help with the high cost of prescription drugs. The American Legion has partnered with United Healthcare to offer the United Health Rx prescription drug plans.

To learn more about the United Health Rx plans call 1-800-811-5376, Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CT, (TTY users should call 1-800-730-9550). Or visit [www.UnitedHealthRx.com/Legion](http://www.UnitedHealthRx.com/Legion).

## The Group Insurance Program approved by The American Legion National Organization

The American Legion offers a variety of programs to meet the life and health insurance needs of Legion and SAL members. Please see below to read more about endorsed insurance plans or visit [www.legioninsure.com](http://www.legioninsure.com).

### Life Insurance

**Term Life.** This life product is available to members age 18 - 60 at benefit levels ranging from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Call today to find out more! Call 1-800-542-5547.

**Modern Vets.** Available for members under age 40 at benefit levels from \$50,000 to \$200,000. Call 1-800-542-5547.

**Senior Term Life.** The newest Legion benefit is available to members 50 - 74 (members' spouses 45 - 74) with coverage amounts of \$10,000 to \$50,000. Call 1-800-542-5547.

**Senior Whole Life.** Offered to Legion members ages 45 - 85 (55 - 85 in MD, 45 - 75 in MO). Eligible to apply for up to \$20,000 in affordable coverage with no health questions and no medical exam required. Call 1-800-715-1239

### Health Insurance

**Short Term Recovery.** Provides up to \$4,000 each year in cash benefits for hospitalization and recovery afterwards to members and spouses 65 and over. Call 1-800-542-5547

**Dental Insurance.** Covers routine and more extensive dental work. Call 1-800-542-5547

**TRICARE.** A Supplement plan designed for members under age 65, this plan teams with TRICARE to cover any additional uncovered medical expenses.

**Health Insurance Mart.** 3 basic types of insurance are available for you and your family: Major Medical (Traditional), Preferred Provider Option (PPO) and Medical Savings Account (MSA). Call 1-877-866-0110.

**Small Employer Plan.** Provides employee benefits to businesses with 2 to 50 employees, including Posts and Departments. Call 1-877-866-0110. *May not be available in all states.*

### Financial Benefits

**First National Bank Omaha** is proud to offer a variety of financial services to American Legion members. Members can choose from a variety of competitive products that are backed by First National Bank Omaha's outstanding customer service from the American Legion Visa Card to Certificates of Deposit and Money Market Accounts.



American Legion members can also take pride knowing that each relationship with First National Bank Omaha will help support programs like American Legion Baseball, Boys Nation and the National Oratorical Contest.

**American Legion Certificates of Deposit** offer a wide variety of terms combined with outstanding rates and FDIC insurance. For current rates or to open an American Legion CD, call toll free 1-877-709-FNBO (3626).

**The American Legion Money Market Savings Account** gives investors the flexibility of check writing and competitive rates. First National's FDIC-insured accounts offer tiered interest rates perfect for any investor. Plus, you can use your account to deposit interest from your American Legion CD. For current rates, or to open an account, call toll free 1-877-709-FNBO (3626).

The American Legion Visa Card offers a low introductory APR for the first six billing cycles on new purchases and balance transfers and has no annual fee. For more information, or to apply, call toll free 1-866-LGN-VISA (1-866-546-8472) and mention American Legion offer 48019.

**NOTE:** These discount offers are valid only at participating locations and are not valid with any other discounts or special prices.  
The American Legion does not guarantee any discount.