

Student Veterans & Collegiate Veterans Outreach Program

2025-2026

Purpose: To implement programs at the Post, District and Department levels that will provide outreach and engagement opportunities with our membership, student veterans and community educational and vocational institutions.

Goals: To advocate for, and on behalf of, student veterans in our community by promoting awareness and solutions to the issues challenging educational success.

Methods: The Veterans of Foreign Wars, including the Auxiliary, should display our commitment to the phrase, "No one does more for Veterans."

- Department Chair will attend Student Veterans of America National Convention in order to stay current with issues facing student veterans and opportunities to engage with campus communities.
- Encourage posts to engage and interact with Student Veteran Organizations in their community.
- Conduct campus visits to campus Student Veteran Organizations to promote the mission and goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the services it provides.
- Promote related scholarship and grant information to students in the community.
- Districts and Post Commanders should appoint a Collegiate Veterans Outreach Chairman and Board members, respectively.
- Keep our membership informed on issues and activities affecting our student veterans.
- Support observance of awareness days and holidays, as available, related to veterans and military service members to include:
 - National Suicide Prevention Month (September)
 - Patriot Day (September 11)
 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September)
 - Veterans Day (November 11)
 - National Wreaths Across America (December 14)
 - National Salute to Veteran Patients (Week of February 14)
 - National Military Appreciation Month (May)
 - Loyalty Day (May 1)
 - Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday in May)
 - Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
 - US Flag Day (June 14)
 - PTSD Awareness Day (June 27)
 - Independence Day (July 4)

Reports and Awards: Posts shall report on activities conducted by the Student Veteran Organization and the post, with supporting news reports, photos, etc... to the District Chair. District Chairpersons shall compile a monthly report to submit to the Department Chair. Additionally, there will be a framed citation for Student Veteran of the Year..

Department SVA Liaison/Collegiate Veterans Outreach Chairman

Pat Briggs
1018 S Grand Ave
Lyons, KS 67554
(620) 474-1896
pmbriggs_48@hotmail.com

Student Veteran of the Year

2025-2026

The goal of the Student Veteran of the Year Award Program is to recognize those deserving individuals scholastic and extracurricular outreach to the community distinguishes them from all others. This honor is awarded to an individual that not only excels in their academic studies but embodies the slogans "Service before self" and "Yesterday's Warriors. Today's Scholars. Tomorrow's Leaders" in their efforts to excel academically and engage actively in, and for the betterment of, their community.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Nomination letter of no more than 350 words to include the nominee's name, academic institution name, address, telephone number and the title of the award for which the individual should be considered.
- The nomination letter should include the individual and educational background, field experience and Overall GPA, accomplishments and awards.
- Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the candidate (3x5 or 5x7).

Every community certainly has at least one student veteran deserving recognition. Post Commanders, University/Campus Champions and SVO advisors are urged to canvass their local campus or campus network to find nominees to submit as "Student Veteran of the Year." The Post Chairman is responsible for coordinating the program and selecting the Post's most worthy candidate. This nominee will then be submitted to the District Chairman for district selection and submission to department. The District will submit only ONE winner to the Department Chairman for final selection with the report form completed for all participating posts.

The nominee selected as the department's "Student Veteran of the Year" will receive one plaque for their individual keeping and one to be presented to their institution's Veterans Service Office or where they desire to have the award presented to them. The Department Chair, one of the State Officers, or the District Commander will present the awards. This program can help post and district leadership qualify for All-State honors. Don't forget to have the cover sheets filled out with all information on sheet and photograph to be sent with cover sheet.

Program deadlines:

- Delivered to the Post – April 10, 2026
- Delivered to the District – April 17, 2026
- Delivered to the Department (me) – April 24, 2026

Department SVA/Collegiate Veterans Outreach Co-Chairman

Pat Briggs
1018 S Grand Ave
Lyons, KS 67554
(620) 474-1896
pmbriqgs_48@hotmail.com

NOTE: Nominee packets must be received by April 24, 2026

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

STUDENT VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

NAME AND TITLE OF NOMINEE (Individual) _____

UNIVERSITY OR INSTITUTION NAME _____

TOWN OR CITY NAME _____

CURRENT GPA _____

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

NOMINATION LETTER

PHOTOGRAPH OF NOMINEE

SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM AND PHOTOGRAPH TO:

Patrick Briggs
1018 S Grand Ave
Lyons, KS 67554
(620) 474-1896
Pmbriggs_48@hotmail.com

SUBMITTING POST # and DISTRICT # _____

SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON

OR DISTRICT COMMANDER _____

NOTE: Nominee packets must be received by April 24, 2026