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## **Student Veterans of America (SVA)**

**Student Veterans of America is the premier organization leading service, research, programs, and advocacy for veterans in higher education.**

### **The Mission**

**The mission is to act as a catalyst for student veteran success by providing resources, network support and advocacy to, through, and beyond higher education.**

### **The Vision**

**The vision is to empower student veterans to lead and live their best lives,**

### **What SVA Do**

**Student Veterans of America (SVA) elevates the academic, professional, and personal development of veterans in higher education through chapter programs and services, outcomes and impacts research, and advocacy at every level. With a mission focused on empowering student veterans, SVA is committed to providing an educational experience that goes through the classroom. Through a dedicated network of 1,600 on-campus chapters in all 50 states and three countries overseas representing more than 750,000 student veterans, SVA inspires yesterday's warriors by connecting student veterans with**

**a community of dedicated chapter leaders. These passionate leaders work to provide the necessary resources, network support, and advocacy to ensure student veterans can effectively connect, expand their skills, and ultimately achieve their greatest potentials.**

### **The VFW's Role**

**The VFW teamed up with Student Veterans of America (SVA), to be there for Veterans while they pursue their education. Together VFW and SVA ensures that our nation's veterans succeed in their education pursuits, community service endeavors, careers and personal lives and help them obtain their goals. The VFW provides opportunities for comraderie, community service and veteran advocacy to those who have honorably served in overseas contracts. VFW has teamed up with Students Veterans of America and Sports Clip Haircuts to provide assistance student veterans may need.**

### **Scholarships**

**The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Student Veterans of America (SVA) both offer scholarships to student veterans. One is VFW Sports Clips, Help a Hero Scholarship. This scholarship provides up to \$5,000 in financial assistance to service members and veterans to help them complete their education without taking on too much student loan debt. Applicants must be US citizens, retired, or honorably discharged, active duty, or members of the National Guard or Reserve and have completed, Basic training and follow- on training. Separated with or currently hold the rank of E5 or below. Must demonstrate a need for financial assistance. Must be currently accepted or enrolled in a VA approved program or school at a post- secondary accredited institution. Applications for fall semester**

**will be accepted Jan. 1 through April 30. Applications for the spring semester will be accepted Aug, 1 through Nov. 1,**

**Another one is the VFW Student Veteran Support Grant. This grant offers much needed assistance to support student veteran needs. This grant will be disbursed to a VFW Post or Department that has submitted an application to support the student veteran at the university or college. Applicants must be VFW members associated with an appropriate entity of the VFW (VFW Post, District, Department, or National).**

**The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship grants exemplary student veterans (Fellows) the chance to join the VFW legislative team on Capital Hill during the VFW Legislative Conference hosted in early spring each year. The fellows will walk the halls of Congress, educating their legislators on the issues facing today's student veterans, and have a chance to meet with policy makers from Federal agencies responsible for implementing veteran policies. Grants may be awarded up to \$500 to support each event and grants can be awarded to a VFW entity twice a year totaling up to \$1,000. Funds must be utilized for events and outreach designed to assist and support veterans currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.**

### **VFW-SVA Student Fellowship**

**Last is the VFW-SVA Legislative Student Fellowship where exemplary student veterans have the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community, VFW-SVA will again host 2024-2025 Legislative Fellowship. Candidates will undergo evaluations based on criteria such as, current VFW membership, or eligible for VFW membership, proof of current enrollment at an accredited college or university during the fellowship program, proof of military service like DD214-member 4 copy, submission of an essay 3-5 pages, explaining the importance of advocacy for veteran issues, submission of a 30 to 60 second video describing why you want to become a VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow. Virtual or Phone interview with the selection committee. Chosen Fellows travel to NATCON2025 in January and the 2025 VFW National Legislative Conference in**

**Washington ,DC In March. Travel expenses will be covered for both trips. The deadline for applications is Sept, 15, 2024.**

**The websites to apply for the VFW Student Legislative Fellowship**

**Google; VFW Student Fellowship/vfwsc.org**

**To apply for the other VFW Student Veteran Scholarships,**

**Google; VFW Student Veteran Support/vfwsc.org**

**For the list of the SVA college Chapters in SC you go to**

**Google; Student Veterans of America Chapters/vfwsc.org**