



The American Legion

The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans organization, with about 2.6 million members. It is chartered by the Congress of the United States of America. Men and women may join if they have served honorably in the U.S. armed forces during times of hostilities, such as World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, and Iraq War.

The Legion's purpose is partly to help veterans continue friendships formed during military service. It also gives members a way to keep serving their country. The American Legion has built parks and playgrounds, donated equipment to hospitals and fire halls, sponsored Boy Scout troops and youth baseball leagues, promoted the study of the Constitution in schools, and much more.

For God and Country is the American Legion motto. It is organized into a hierarchy of posts, districts, departments, and national headquarters. The organization has 14,000 posts worldwide. Your local post is Custer Post #46. It is named for General George A. Custer, USA. And it has been serving Custer City and County continuously for 100 years.

The American Legion was founded in 1919 on four pillars; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America, and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

The program you are applying for, South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy, is part of the Americanism pillar. It is designed to develop you into a good citizen by learning about how law enforcement is conducted in South Dakota. This, in turn, supports the National Security pillar.

Participation in South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy requires selection at the District level. Those selected will then be sponsored by a local Post. They will then attend the Youth Trooper Academy conducted by the Department (state level). Equivalent levels of the South Dakota Highway Patrol are part of this process at every step. The SDHP is a co-sponsor of this program.

Custer Post #46 is proud that you are competing for an appointment to the SD Youth Trooper Academy and wishes you good luck in your interview. More information about the American Legion can be found at; www.custerlegion46.org, www.sdlegion.org, and www.legion.org.