purposes
American Legion Boys State, Inc., is not a school room activity, but a practical experience for young men in the actual problems of government as it operates in Tennessee. Boys State is not meant to take the place of civics or government, as they are taught in the high schools of the state, but is planned so that young men may put into actual practice the theories of government through actual participation in city, county, and state governments organized as a “Mythical 51st State”.

American citizenship is the priceless possession of us all. America is a free land, and believing that, the principles of democracy as guaranteed by our constitution have made us a great and powerful nation. The American Legion hopes to assure this freedom to our citizens of future generations. In order to accomplish this purpose, youth must be trained not only in theoretical politics, but in practical politics and operation. We believe that a prepared and trained youth will more effectively preserve and perpetuate this precious heritage and be ready to assume the trust and responsibilities that go with American Citizenship.

Few realize the obligation they have to the public. Through this program, the sponsors hope to impress on future generations the responsibilities of citizenship, to develop leadership and to bring to the young men a full realization of the duties of the American citizen.

the program
Approximately six hundred young men representing every county in Tennessee will attend American Legion Boys State this year. They will be assigned to mythical cities for the period of seven days, under the basic laws of the State of Tennessee, using the existing constitution and laws as their guide.

eligibility
Only young men who are in the 11th grade and in the upper third of their class will be eligible to attend. No exception will be made on this rule. The purpose of this is that young men in the 11th grade will have one more year in their respective high schools, and will be in a position to furnish leadership not only in their schools but in their communities during the year.

IMPORTANT
The entire program is non-partisan and will not refer to any existing political party. Upon arrival each delegate will be assigned to a mythical political party, the Jacksonians or the Johnsonians. The young men will be encouraged to introduce legislation which will reflect current issues that effect young people, such as environment, education, family, etc.

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The method of selecting the young men is left to the local American Legion Post. The method used must be based on fairness to every eligible young man with the sole idea of selecting the “Mythical 51st State.” The nominees will function under these political subdivisions for a period of seven days, under the basic laws of the State of Tennessee, using the existing constitution and laws as their guide.

Each delegate will be assigned to a mythical “political party,” the “Johnsonians” or the “Jacksonians.” These parties will not adopt nor assume any of the principles of any existing political party in Tennessee, nor will the young men become affiliated with any of the existing parties.

The caucus and convention system of nominations will be used in nominating the candidates for the various offices. A complete election will be held, naming to office all of the city officials, county officers and state elective officials, from the mayor of the cities to the Governor of American Legion Boys State. The three divisions of government, the Judicial, the Legislative and the Executive will be formed under the competent supervision of counselors. The State Legislature will be formed and the young men will pass their own laws. The courts will be established and will function according to the constitution.

The Department of Transportation and the law enforcing officials will be appointed and their relations to the cities and the county governments will be part of the program of this mythical state.

While it is not the primary function of Boys State to train future public officials, the boys will, through the operation of their own government, become acquainted with the functions and the duties of the various offices.

THE TIME AND PLACE
The eighth American Legion Boys State will be held on the beautiful campus of Tennessee Tech at Cookeville, from Sunday, May 19 to Saturday, May 25, 2019. The young men will check in at Memorial Gym on the Tennessee Tech Campus at noon CDT, Sunday. Final exercises will be held on Saturday morning and all young men will be expected to return to their homes on that date.

No young man will be excused to go home for civic functions, ball games, jobs or any reason other than an actual emergency. PERMISSION TO LEAVE WILL BE GRANTED ONLY IN CASE OF extreme EMERGENCY. We feel that his time belongs to the Legion for the entire seven days. IF PARENTS FEEL THE BOYS CANNOT STAY FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD, THEY SHOULD NOT BE CHOSEN AS A DELEGATE.


MUSICAL PROGRAMS
Young men who are members of musical organizations are requested to bring their instruments with them. A band will be organized for marching and concert purposes.