

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 hope assure this freedom to our citizens of future generations, To accomplish this purpose, youth must be trained not only in theory of government, but in its actual practice 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

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 Boys State. Fifty young men will comprise a city, three cities will make up a county, and the four counties will make the "Mythical 51st State." The assemblage will function under these political subdivisions for a period of five days, under the basic laws of the State of Tennessee, using the existing constitution and bylaws 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 officers, 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 officers 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 young men will, through the operation of their own government, become acquainted with the functions and the duties of the various offices.

IMPORTANT

The entire program is non-partisan and will not reference 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 affect young people, such as environment, education, family, etc.

ELIGIBILITY

Only young men who are in the 11th grade and in the upper third of their class will be eligible to attend.

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 able to furnish leadership not only in their schools but in their communities during the year.

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 most representative young man available, School officials can aid materially with suggestions as to the outstanding leaders who could represent their school with honor at American Legion Boys State. Consideration should be given to character, conduct, scholarship, etc.

Selections from those eligible should be based on the qualities of honor, courage, leadership, and service. This is a program for all young men and no preference should be given to sons of Legionnaires unless they meet with the above requirements. The program is so active and strenuous that those whose ability to walk or run is limited in any way will not receive the full enjoyment or benefit from Boys State. This program will not discriminate against any individual because of race, religion, creed, color, sex, age, handicap, veteran status, or national origin.

Young men who have heretofore attended American Legion Boys State will not be eligible to attend the 2023 session.

PROGRAM

The program for Boys State has been carefully arranged. Each day will bring its own problems and its own program and its own fun. Included in the political events of the week are: city conventions, city party caucuses, county conventions, city and county elections, and many other activities.

To be fair to all - NO PLANNING OR "POLITICKING" IS ALLOWED BEFORE THE DELEGATES ATTEND BOYS STATE.

Sunday evening will feature a memorial service for the young men with a prominent clergyman bringing the message at a general assembly.

COST OF BOYS STATE

The cost of the 2023 session of American Legion Boys State will be \$425 per young man. THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE AFTER MAY 1, 2023. Checks should be made payable to

"American Legion Boys State, Inc.," and sent to 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville, Tennessee, 37214.

If you have any questions please call the State American Legion offices in Nashville, Tennessee, telephone number 615-391-5088, ask for Debi.

THE TIME AND PLACE

The 83rd American Legion Boys State will be held on the beautiful campus of Tennessee Tech at Cookeville, from Sunday, May 21 to Friday, May 26, 2023. The young men will check in at Memorial Gym on the Tennessee Tech Campus at noon C.D.T., Sunday. Final exercises will be held on Friday morning and all young men will be expected to return to their homes on that date.

We feel that his time belongs to the Legion for the entire five days. IF PARENTS FEEL THE BOYS CANNOT PARTICIPATE FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD, HE SHOULD NOT BE SELECTED AS A DELEGATE. DEADLINE FOR ARRIVAL IS NOON, C.D.T., SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023. Please arrive by noon.

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.

ADVISORY STAFF

Only men with the highest moral and educational character have been chosen as members of the staff and each one has been selected for his individual qualifications for the responsibility he is to assume,

ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

A part of each day will be devoted to the athletic field, where competitive sports will be organized, both in team competition and individual contests.

Each delegate will be expected to participate in one of the following sports activities: softball, basketball, flag football, volleyball, tennis, or table tennis, in inter-city competition.