

**WEBSITE:** www.tnboysstate.org

Our 2026 Delegates are encouraged to reach out to his sponsoring Post soon after his return home and report on his positive leadership experiences while attending the Tennessee American Legion Boys State.

**MEDICAL SERVICES**

Each delegate must submit a medical examination completed by his family physician. A physical exam performed within six (6) months prior to reporting to Boys State is acceptable, provided there have been no changes in the delegate’s health since the examination.

The delegate medical form includes a section that must be signed by the delegate’s parent or legal guardian and notarized, authorizing emergency medical treatment if needed. **Delegates must bring their completed medical form to registration on Sunday, May 24, 2026.**

Any delegate who reports to American Legion Boys State without a completed medical examination report will be examined by the attending physician, and the cost of the examination will be billed to the delegate. The University Infirmary will be available during normal hours. Serious medical issues will be referred to Cookeville Regional Medical Center, located two blocks from campus.

**PROGRAM**

The Tennessee American Legion Boys State program has been carefully planned. Each day will offer new challenges, activities, and opportunities for leadership opportunities, learning and FUN!

The week’s political activities include city conventions, city party caucuses, county conventions, city and county elections, and other related events. To ensure fairness to all delegates, **no planning or “politicking” is allowed before delegates arrive on the Tennessee Tech Campus for Boys State.** No printed campaign materials may be brought in by the young men.

To commemorate Memorial Day, a memorial service will be held during the opening general assembly on Sunday evening. Throughout the week, delegates will hear from state and local leaders, the Tennessee Supreme Court, hold local and state elections, and elect a Boys State Governor. At the close of the Boys State Program, delegates will march to the Hooper-Eblen for the 87<sup>th</sup> inaugural ceremony for the inauguration of our newly elected Tennessee American Legion Boys State Governor. Dignitaries, Parents, friends, and Legionnaires are invited

to attend the Inauguration ceremony.

**SPONSORSHIP**

Tennessee American Legion Posts are encouraged to contact local school representatives, guidance counselor and other organizations (i.e. homeschool districts, etc…) as soon as possible to encourage enrollment and emphasize early enrollment.

The TN ALBS enrollment fee remains at **\$425** for 2026 and fees may be paid through May 15, 2026. Please mail checks to:

**American Legion Headquarters  
318 Donelson Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214**

Each Tennessee American Legion Post should promptly contact their local organizations that may be willing to sponsor delegates for the 2026 TNALBS Class.

Please educate local organizations on the benefits associated with the Boys State program and secure sponsorships for deserving young men in your respective areas. Below are examples of **(but not limited to)** organizations that may have interest in sponsoring a delegate:

Legion Posts	Optimists
Sons of the Legion	School P.T.A
Veteran Organizations	Scouts
Jaycees	Sea Scouts
Kiwanis	Sertoma
Lions	High Schools
Rotary	Churches
Elks	Chambers of Commerce
Odd Fellows	Bus. & Prof. Women
Masonic Lodges	Knights Of Pythias
Sons of the Legion Aux	Knights of Columbus
Modern Woodsmen	

**WHY AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE??**

You may be asking yourself: why does The American Legion, along with its coordinating organizations, go to such lengths and expense to bring together 600 young men from across Tennessee? Is it simply for FUN? To give a fortunate boy a good time? Is it a leadership course or training in civics for practical government, or even a political workshop? The answer is YES—it is all these

things, and yet it is infinitely more.

The Tennessee American Legion Boys State is a deliberate effort by The American Legion to instill a deep appreciation for our proud heritage of freedom, liberty, and the American way of life for our young men...our FUTURE.

We eagerly anticipate the arrival of this exceptional group of young men from across Tennessee, whom we warmly congratulate on their selection. We are confident they will serve as worthy representatives of the Volunteer State. Boys State...“Lead with Integrity, Serve with Honor, Inspire Tomorrow.”

**TNALBS Leadership**

**JAMES A. REED**, Chairman, Boys State  
Cookeville, Tennessee

**JOHN J. MADDUX** Vice Chairman, Boys State  
Cookeville, Tennessee

**DR. ROBERT OWENS** Director  
Cookeville, Tennessee

**HARRY INGLE**  
Dean of Counselors  
Cookeville, Tennessee

**MIKE GRIFFIN**  
Department Adjutant, The American Legion  
Nashville, Tennessee



**TODD A. MCKINLEY**  
Department Commander 2025 -2026  
Tennessee American Legion  
Kingsport, Tennessee

**TENNESSEE  
AMERICAN LEGION  
BOYS STATE, INC.**

**The Number One Boys State**



**MAY 24 to MAY 29, 2026**



**TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**  
Cookeville, Tennessee

**www.tnboysstate.org**  
Follow us on Social Media for the latest updates:  
**@TNBoysState**

**TNALBS MISSION:**  
TO INCULCATE A SENSE OF  
INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO  
COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION

## PURPOSE

The Tennessee American Legion Boys State is not a classroom activity, but an interactive program designed to give young men practical leadership experience while actively participating as part of government in the State of Tennessee. Boys State enhances high school courses in civics or government. It provides participants the opportunity to put governmental theories into action through direct participation in city, county, and state governments organized as a “Mythical 51st State.”

*American citizenship is one of our nation’s most valuable privileges.* The United States is a free nation, and the principles of democracy guaranteed by the Constitution have made it strong and prosperous. The American Legion is committed to preserving these freedoms for future generations. To achieve this goal, young people must be educated not only in the theory of government, but also in its practical operation. A well-prepared and informed youth is better equipped to preserve our democratic heritage and to assume the responsibilities that accompany American citizenship. Many individuals are unaware of the obligations they owe to the public. Through the Boys State program, sponsors seek to instill an understanding of civic responsibility, develop leadership skills, and provide young men with a deeper appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of American citizens.

## TNALBS PROGRAM

Up to six hundred (600) young men representing each of our 95 counties in Tennessee will attend American Legion Boys State this year. They will be assigned to mythical cities for the period of Boys State. *Fifty (50) 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 delegates 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 87<sup>th</sup> 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

Eligibility to attend American Legion Boys State is limited to young men currently enrolled in the 11th grade and rank in the upper third of their class. This requirement ensures that participants will return to their respective schools for an additional year, allowing them to apply the leadership skills gained through Boys State in both their schools and communities.

The selection of delegates is the responsibility of the local American Legion Post in collaboration with local schools and home school districts. Selection methods must be fair and equitable, with the goal of choosing the most qualified and representative young men available. School officials and/or representatives have been encouraged to assist in the process by recommending students who demonstrate strong leadership potential and who would represent their schools with distinction at ALBS. Consider factors such as character, conduct, scholarship, and leadership as selections are made.

Final selections should reflect the qualities of honor, courage, leadership, and service. Boys State is open to all young men who meet the eligibility requirements, and no preference is given to sons of Legionnaires unless they meet the same

standards. Due to the physically active and demanding nature of the program, participants should be able to fully engage in all scheduled activities in order to receive the full benefit of the experience. American Legion Boys State does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, sex, age, disability, veteran status, or national origin.

Young men who have previously attended American Legion Boys State are not eligible to participate in the 2026 session.

## DAILY PROGRAM

The daily schedule for Boys State has been thoughtfully planned out to ensure a balanced and engaging experience. Each day presents new challenges, structured programs, and opportunities for building leadership and experiences. Delegates will hear and work with State and Local elected officials, such as State Senators, Representatives, Mayors, and even our Governor, throughout the week to gain real world knowledge and experiences from those currently serving. These scheduled events are designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the governmental processes.

To ensure fairness and equal opportunity for all participants, no planning, campaigning, or “politicking” is permitted prior to delegates’ arrival at Boys State.

At the first General Assembly meeting on Sunday evening, we will begin our session with a Memorial Day Service, commemorating those that paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. The TNALBS Chair and Director will then WELCOME Delegates to the 2026 Tennessee American Legion Boys State. Here we will encourage them to make this a memorable week, to learn and build lasting relationship and they will be taught that “BOYS STATERS – DON’T QUIT”.

## COST OF BOYS STATE

The cost of the 2026 session of American Legion Boys State remains at \$425 per delegate. THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE AFTER MAY 15, 2026. Checks should be made payable and mailed to:

**American Legion Boys State, Inc.  
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.**

## TIME AND PLACE

The 87<sup>th</sup> American Legion Boys State will be held on the remarkable campus of Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, from Sunday, May 24 to Friday, May 29, 2026. Boys State Delegates will check in at Tennessee Tech Campus NLT 12:00pm CST on Sunday. TNALBS delegates will parade to and hold an Inauguration ceremony at the Hooper-Eblen Arena on Friday morning. Delegates will be released to their parents/guardians upon completion of the inauguration at approximately 12:00pm on Friday.

Please note that Tennessee American Legion Boys State requires a full five-day commitment from all delegates. If parents believe a participant will be unable to attend or participate for the entire duration of the program, he should not be selected as a delegate.

## BAND PROGRAM

Young men who are members of musical organizations are requested to bring their instruments, with them to Boys State. A Boys State band will be organized for the Inauguration ceremony.

## 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

Every afternoon for 1.5 hours will be devoted to athletics, 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: basketball, soccer, pickleball, corn hole, ultimate frisbee or table tennis, in inter-city competition.