



**Everyone says “we need more young people to get involved”
The American Legion teaches them how.**

Boys State Program

Learning through doing.....

Helping to Build the Leaders of Tomorrow Every year The American Legion Boys State program and The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program teach young men and young women in their junior year of high school the function of government, a glimpse of life in a college dorm setting, leadership, management and communication skills. In the course of 7 days they will also develop friendships that will last a lifetime.



“I am so grateful to you for this chance of a lifetime. I did have the time of my life! Boys State is going to go down as the best activity I’ve done in high school. It really sparked my interest in how the government works – at all levels. I can’t wait to start participating in voting and politics.” –Alec F. class of 2010

**2017 Boys State is at Grand Valley State University - Grand Rapids, Michigan
June 18 - 24, 2017**

What is Boys State?

Boys State is an educational program sponsored by the American Legion Departments across the country to help young men learn about government and how it works. Our motto is “Learn by Doing”. The Boys State educational staff’s goal is to facilitate the learning process by giving the citizens of Boys State an opportunity to govern themselves, and to run their own state.

Boys State is...LEARNING.

Delegates have the opportunity to learn more about their city, county, and state government in one week at Boys State than in an entire semester in a formal classroom setting. Boys Staters meet with elected and appointed officials to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of a variety of positions in government from people on the “inside.” Additionally, in Boys State, each citizen has the opportunity to learn for himself that his government is just what he makes it.

Boys State is...POLITICS.

The first half of your Boys State experience will expose you to the world of politics. You will nominate candidates for partisan and non-partisan offices on the city, county, and state level. You will also, no doubt, be exposed to the “seamy” side of politics...the wheeling and dealing, the promises that cannot be kept, the vote trading, and the cajoling, to give a candidate or a party that “extra advantage.”

“This program changed my life. It has allowed me to establish lifelong friendships, learn from some of the best counselors, and allowed me to meet some very honorable American Legion members.” –Ian M. class of 2010

Boys State is...GOVERNMENT.

When the dust has settled from the conventions, campaigns, and elections, Boys State needs to be governed for four days by its elected and appointed officials. Boys Staters will find themselves performing exactly the same functions as real office holders in the everyday world. Education and University Boards must make policies for their areas of responsibility. City councils, county commissions, and the state legislature must make ordinances and laws for their constituencies. Executive departments and other administrators must see that laws and policies are properly interpreted.

Boys State is...INVOLVEMENT.

Come to Boys State determined to become as involved as possible in the many activities that are available to you in this mythical 51st state. The more active and involved you are, the more you will benefit from the program.

Boys State builds strong leaders of the future

- Rush Limbaugh Jr. (radio personality)
- Bill Clinton (Former U.S. President)
- Dale Kildee (U.S. Rep, MI)
- Tom Brokaw (TV news anchor)
- Michael Jordan
- Mark L. Wahlberg (Actor)



Boys State is...FRIENDSHIP.

You may arrive at Boys State knowing no one else. However, one of the fringe benefits of Boys State is how easy it is to get to know people, many of whom may remain your friend for the rest of your life.

Contact Jerry Kelley at (734) 434-8272 / jkelley2136@sbcglobal.net
or Headquarters at (517) 371-4720 ext.23 /
programs@michiganlegion.org

Participants in Boys State, who are direct descendents of a wartime era veteran have the opportunity to win a \$1000 scholarship and up to a \$20,000 scholarship from Samsung

www.michiganboysstate.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What if someone cannot afford to send a young person to Boys/Girls State?

- Check with your Post, Posts provide sponsorship money for this program, but sometimes have a hard time finding an interested person. Kiwanis Club’s and Rotary Club’s have sponsored kids as well. Be sure to ask them. A local business is also an excellent source.

Our Post has set aside money, but we are having trouble finding a young person to attend Boys/Girls State, will department help us find one?

- Yes the teachers on our educational staff have a network of educators throughout the state and can assist in finding someone who is interested.

What is the requirement for the young man or young lady?

- They must be a Junior (11th Grade) in High School or the equivalent of an 11th grade accredited home-school program, must be 15+ years old by June 4th, 2017 and have an interest in government.

Application is due May 26, 2017