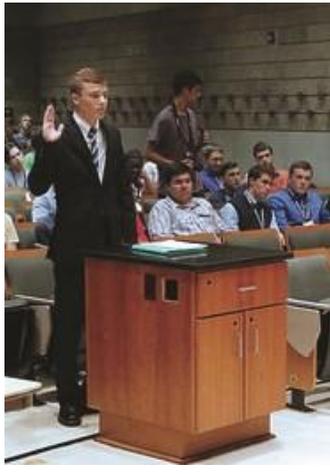




# The American Legion Department of Michigan Boys State program



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

## What is Boys State?

Boys State is a leadership academy sponsored by the American Legion Departments across the country to help young men learn leadership skills and how our government 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.

and dealing, the promises that cannot be kept, the vote trading, and the cajoling, to give a candidate or a party that “extra advantage.”

*“The American Legion has gifted me with more than a week that shapes a lifetime. They have given me life-long friends and helped me sharpen my mind and grow as a leader. I am grateful I was able to attend this program. It has changed my life” - Allan C. class of 2018*

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or State Headquarters  
(517) 220-2754  
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*Participants in Boys State, who are direct descendants 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](http://www.michiganboysstate.org)

## Boys State is LEARNING.

Delegates have the opportunity to learn more about leadership skills and 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 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 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 POLITICS.

The first half of the Boys State experience will expose delegates to the world of politics. Delegates will nominate candidates for partisan and non-partisan offices on the city, county, and state level. They will also, no doubt, be exposed to the “seamy” side of politics...the wheeling

**Application is due by May 26, 2020**

**2020 Boys State is at Grand Valley State  
University - Allendale, Michigan  
June 14 - 20, 2020**

## ZANE O.—CLASS OF 2017

*“I have learned so much about government and life through this program. I would recommend and encourage everyone to go to Boys State. I am truly humbled and so thankful to the American Legion for allowing me to have this experience.”*



## A Boys State participant could become a future U.S. President

### Boys State is INVOLVEMENT.

Come to Boys State determined to become as involved as possible in the many activities that are available to delegates in this mythical 51st state. The more active and involved delegates are, the more they will benefit from the program. Boys State builds strong leaders of the future.

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

### Boys State is FRIENDSHIP.

Delegates 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 friends for life.



In 1963, two influential moments in Clinton's life contributed to his decision to become a public figure. One was his visit to the White House to meet President John F. Kennedy, as a Boys Nation senator. The other was listening to Martin Luther King's 1963 I Have a Dream speech (he memorized Dr. King's words).

### 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 Clubs and Rotary Clubs have sponsored kids as well. Be sure to ask them. A local business is also an excellent source. Cost per participant is \$375.

***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 homeschool program, have at least one semester left as a senior, and have an interest in government.

**Registration is due by May 26, 2020, to register visit:**  
<https://michiganboysstate.org/michigan-boys-state-online-registration>

*Girls State program is offered by The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, information is available at [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org)*



The American Legion Department of Michigan **Boys State program**

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