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THE AMERICAN LEGION
MICHIGAN
BOYS STATE



“A National Civics Leadership Program”

Sunday, June 21, 2026

To

Saturday, June 27, 2026

At Hillsdale College - Hillsdale, Michigan



“Learn By Doing”



Important: Read Before Arriving

**MICHIGAN BOYS STATE
LEADERSHIP TEAM
2025-2026**

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

Dear American Legion Boys State Citizen,

Congratulations, and welcome to American Legion Boys State! On behalf of The American Legion, I am honored to welcome you to one of the most respected and selective citizenship programs in the nation. Your decision to participate places you among a distinguished group of young leaders who have chosen to step forward, learn, and lead.

American Legion Boys State is more than a program it is an experience. Here, you will engage in a hands-on approach to government, gaining a deeper understanding of how it functions and, more importantly, how it depends on the involvement of its citizens. This is a leadership action program designed to challenge you, stretch you, and equip you with skills that will serve you for a lifetime

You will quickly discover that government is not something distant or abstract it is shaped by those who participate. This program will show you that leadership, responsibility, and service are not just ideals, but actions. While the experience may be demanding at times, it will also be rewarding, memorable, and impactful in ways you may not fully appreciate until years from now.

Since 1935, American Legion Boys State has developed generations of young men who have gone on to serve their communities and nation with distinction. Among Boys State alumni are leaders in government, business, education, medicine, technology, and beyond. As you begin this journey, understand that the same opportunity lies before you.

Whether your future leads you into public service or another path, the relationships you build here and the lessons you learn will stay with you long after the program concludes.

As National Commander, I extend my very best wishes for a meaningful, engaging, and life-changing 2026 American Legion Boys State experience.

Dan Wiley
National Commander



Dear Michigan Boys State Delegates,

Congratulations and welcome to the 89th Annual American Legion Boys State Program!

Being selected to attend Boys State is an achievement you should be proud of. Out of countless students across Michigan, you were chosen because your school and community recognized leadership potential, character, and the ability to make a difference. That says something important about who you already are and who you are capable of becoming.

This week is unlike anything most of you have experienced before. Over the next several days, you will build governments, run campaigns, debate issues, create laws, and compete for leadership positions at the local, county, and state levels. You may decide to run for office, serve as a judge, work behind the scenes on a campaign team, or even pursue the opportunity to represent Michigan at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C.

No matter which path you choose, one thing is certain: Boys State is what you make of it.

Step outside your comfort zone. Meet new people. Speak up. Ask questions. Challenge yourself. The friendships, lessons, and memories you build here can stay with you long after this week ends.

Many Boys State alumni have gone on to become leaders in government, business, law, education, the military, and their communities. But perhaps more importantly, Boys State helps shape informed citizens — people who understand the importance of service, leadership, and working together to make their communities stronger.

This week will move quickly. Take it all in. Learn from your counselors, instructors, and fellow delegates. Whether this experience confirms your future goals or opens doors you had never considered before, I encourage you to fully invest yourself in every opportunity.

On behalf of The American Legion Department of Michigan, welcome to Boys State 2026.

I hope this truly becomes “A Week That Shapes a Lifetime.”

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Avie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger Avie
State Commander
The American Legion Department of Michigan



2026 Delegates

Welcome to Michigan Boys State 2026. May your time here be memorable. At Boys State, you will meet an amazing team who will guide you through the week in governing the 51st state. You will see Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion. They are here to assist in running the program. Feel free to ask them questions about the American Legion. We also have a top-notch experienced educational staff along with city counselors that will lead you in “A Week That Shapes A Lifetime.”

My challenge to you is this - have fun, put your best effort into the program, and enjoy the process. Expand those leadership and followership skills. Make new friends. Your opportunity to soar is now. *Carpe Diem!* Thank you for choosing us. We're glad you're here. Cheers.

For God and Country,

Mark S. Brejcha

Mark S. Brejcha, Director



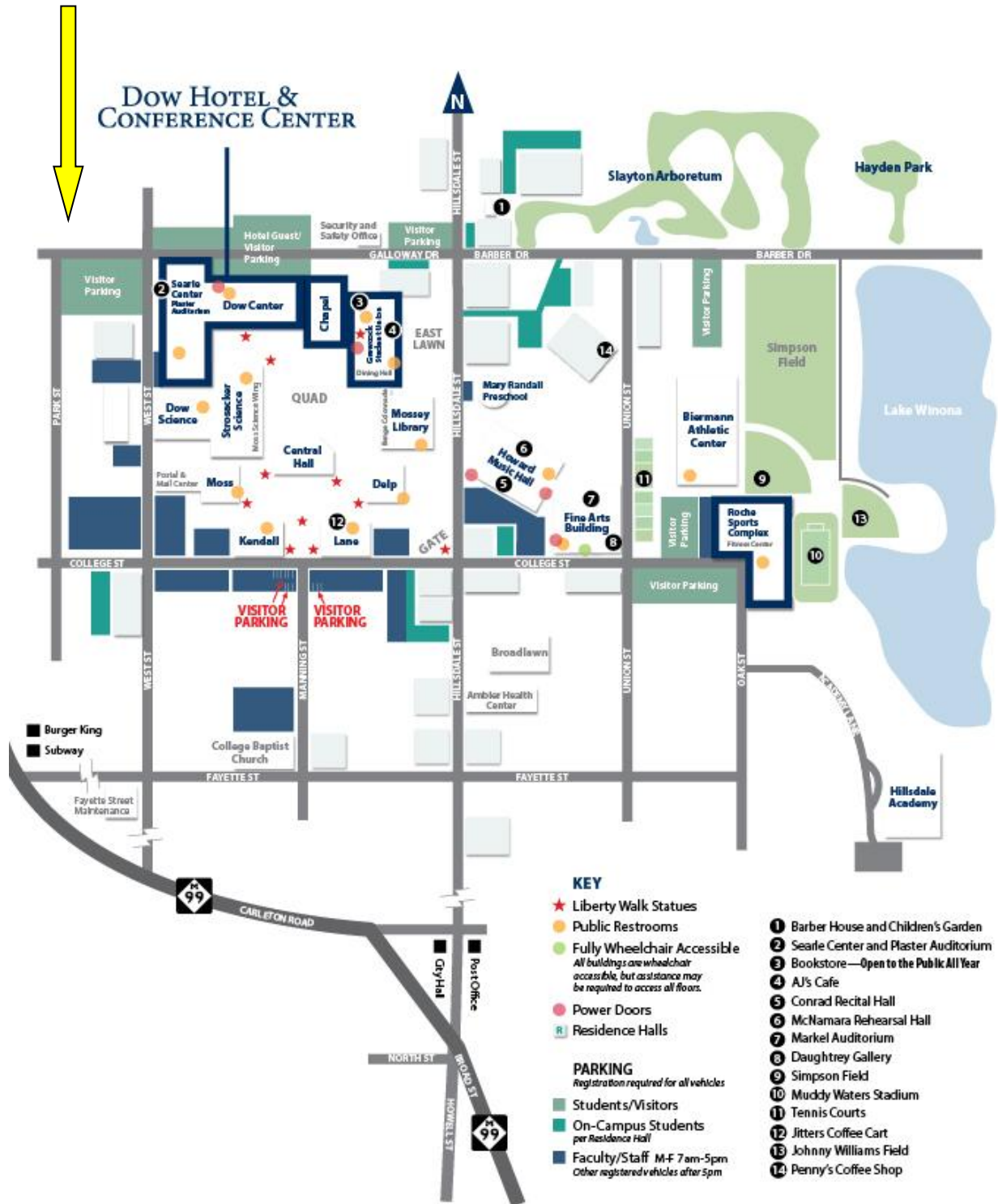
WHERE IS HILLSDALE?



★ Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

WELCOME TO HILLSDALE CAMPUS

Boys State Parking Here



I. WHAT YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE ARRIVING:

Before you arrive on campus June 21st, you should discuss transportation arrangements with your sponsor. The Boys State delegate and/or his sponsor assumes responsibility for transportation to and from Hillsdale College. **Registration check-in will be from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. So, plan your arrival accordingly.**

You should also check with your sponsor or local American Legion Boys State Chairman to find out if there will be an orientation meeting for delegates from your area. If one is scheduled, plan to attend.

SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS: In case of an emergency, a message can be delivered to your son by calling the Boys State Director, Mark Brejcha, 231-527-5441 or the Office Chief of Staff, Kevin Sherman 989-370-6770. The 24 hour Campus Security Office is available for Emergency messages as well, 517-437-7341.

II. WHAT TO BRING:

Apparel - Identify all your personal belongings. All your luggage should have identification tags. Bring clothing and shoes that are comfortable and cool. Boys State is not a dress up-program; you should plan on dressing comfortably. Do not bring business attire for campaigning and possible interviews for Boys Nation. Our program continues to emphasize standardization of apparel throughout. We encourage one nice pair of khakis slacks for our Thursday evening flag ceremony and Saturday's graduation. Don't forget the belt. Dress shoes are recommended but not required.

You will be provided one polo and two T-Shirts upon your arrival. Here's our weekly dress requirements:

Sunday – Apparel you arrived-in.
Monday – Boys State T-Shirt
Tuesday – Boys State T-Shirt. Polo for Pictures.
Wed. – Casual Wed. High School Swag Day.
Thursday – Boys State T-Shirt. Evening – Polo & Slacks.
Friday – Boys State T-Shirt.
Saturday – Polo & Slacks for Graduation

Personal Items - You will need to bring towels, washcloths, and personal hygiene items such as deodorant, soap, shampoo, etc. Bathrooms are shared between two rooms and four people. Bedding is provided by Hillsdale Services, however, delegates can still bring their own bedding if desired (pillow, blanket, etc).

Band Members - Bring your musical instrument if you are going to be in the band. Please contact your high school band director before school gets out for summer break if you need permission to bring a school-owned instrument.

Recreation Time - You will have access to the recreation center each day for indoor/outdoor activities. Boys State T-Shirts WILL NOT be worn at that time. There will also be an organized Quiz Bowl and Chess tournament.

Spending Money - While the amount you bring is up to you, you will have several opportunities to spend money while at Boys State. In the dorms, our evening General Store will be open for drinks and snacks. Both cash and debit cards are accepted. If bringing cash, keep it to smaller bills. Think \$1's, \$5's, and \$10's. If you're wanting to visit the Hillsdale campus bookstore, again, they take both cash and debit/credit cards. Delegates will be solely responsible for the cash/credit or debit cards they bring.

Driving - If you drive your own car to Boys State, you are required to turn-in keys to your city counselor at check-in for safe keeping.

Residence Responsibilities - Residents are responsible for the condition of the living space and all provided furnishings. Residents shall reimburse Hillsdale for all damage to the space or the furnishings, other than ordinary wear and tear. This includes damage to residential units, hallways, lounges, bathrooms, and public areas.

Lost Dorm Keys - Replacement cost for a room key is \$50.00.

III. WHAT TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE ARRIVING:

One of the key parts of the Boys State Program is the nomination and election process. Give some thought as to which office you would have an interest in – **see document section titled “Politics of Boys State”**. You may not know the exact role that is right for you, but start considering what area of government might interest you. If you're really not sure, your counselor can help you find that right role. Set some goals for yourself! Think about any campaign materials you may need. While **no preprinted** campaign materials may be used, campaign supplies will be provided by Boys State and made available through your city counselor.



Simpson Hall, Hillsdale College
Home to Michigan Boys State 2026

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

REGISTRATION Registration will be from 10:00 – 12:00 am. on Sunday. Delegates will check-in at the **Searle Center** across from **Simpson Dorm**. See attached map on the last page for details. Upon registering, you will receive a badge assigning you to one of the Boys State political parties, your room key, and other information. **The Boys State delegate and/or his sponsor assumes responsibility for transportation to and from Hillsdale College.**

MEALS Starting with Sunday lunch, all meals will be served cafeteria style and a wide variety of menu selection is provided. Those delegates having special food needs should contact the Boys State Headquarters in Lansing as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

RECREATION Competition between cities will be conducted in basketball, volleyball, and quiz bowl. Also available is various exercise equipment and a weight room located at the campus gymnasium. Each city will choose an Athletic Director, who will work closely with the counselors in organizing the various teams and seeing that the city teams show up on time for scheduled events.

On Friday night, Boys State Olympics will take place on the football field with competition between the cities.

BOYS STATE OFFICE The Boys State Office is located in Simpson Hall where the delegates and staff reside. This office is the hub of the program and someone is always available if you have need assistance with anything. Contact Boys State Director, Mark Brejcha, 231-527-5441 or the Office Chief of Staff, Kevin Sherman 989-370-6770.

ABSENCES Absence from Boys State will be by written pass only. Passes will be approved only in the case of extreme emergency or by prior written permission from the parent and must be approved by the Director's office. No delegate is to leave the boundaries of Boys State unescorted by staff or without permission.

BOYS STATE CLINIC Medical attention is available at all hours. Report sprains, cuts, scratches, blisters, and sunburn to your counselor immediately. Explain any special needs, including medication, on your Medical Form. The Boys State Clinic is located in the Boys State Office, Simpson Hall. Medication needing refrigeration may be kept at the Boys State Office clinic.

AUTOMOBILES If you bring a car to Boys State, turn the keys in to your city counselor at check-in as you will not be permitted to use the car while in attendance. Cars will be parked in a designated parking lot. Even though the University patrols the parking area, the American Legion and Hillsdale College assume no responsibility for vandalism, theft, or damage to cars of Boys State citizens.

BOYS NATION Two Boys State Delegates will be chosen to represent Michigan at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. in July. Candidates will be nominated by their city counselors. A screening committee will interview the nominees with the winners announced at graduation.

REPORT Each delegate will be expected to give a report to his sponsoring organization upon his return home.

CONDUCT Since all delegates are classified as minors, they will be under the complete supervision of the Boys State Staff from the time of their arrival until the time of their departure home. Any delegate violating the policies of Boys State, laws of the State of Michigan, or any rule of Hillsdale College, shall be subject to dismissal from Boys State.

Specific rules, regulations, and policies will be explained to delegates by our staff shortly after arrival. Needless to say, as a representative of your school, your community, and your sponsoring organization, we expect behavior and conduct that is in keeping with good citizenship at all times.



WHAT IS BOYS 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. Here, each delegate "learns by doing."

Boys State is...POLITICAL DISCOURSE. In simple terms, this refers to the formal and informal exchange of reasoned views, language, and narratives in the political arena, including speeches, debates, and media, aimed at influencing public opinion, policy, and power dynamics. It is essentially how political actors (politicians, media, citizens) use language to construct political reality, debate ideologies, and compete for influence.

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

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BOYS STATE

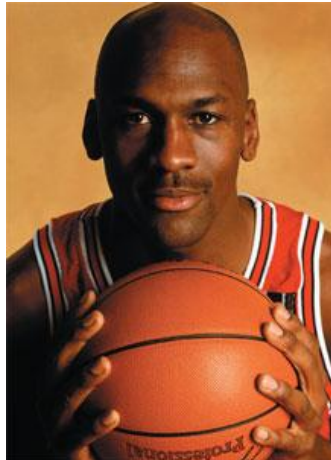
Boys State originated by the Illinois Department of The American Legion in 1934. The plan was adopted by the national organization in 1935 and has since been put into operation in all states except Hawaii.

Boys State began in Michigan in 1937. Almost all of our staff is made up of college students who are former Boys Staters who have had a continuing interest in the program. Senior staff members include educators, counselors, and lawyers.

Our Michigan Boys State Program has been in existence for 89 years, and during that time, we have had four different hosts within the state.

1. Michigan State University in East Lansing: 1938-2007
2. Northwood University in Midland: 2008-2016
3. Grand Valley State University in Allendale: 2017-2025
4. Hillsdale College in Hillsdale: 2026

At the height of the Boys State program, between 1200 and 1400 delegates were registered to participate in the program. The program had to have nine fictional counties with 18 cities and 60 delegates to a city. While our numbers have decreased over the years, the program still adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level. Thousands of alumni come from all 50 states to include: President Bill Clinton - Arkansas, basketball legend Michael Jordan - North Carolina, and the first man to step on the moon - astronaut Neil Armstrong -Ohio.



BOYS NATION INFORMATION

Two outstanding representatives from each of 49 Boys States (minus Hawaii) are called upon to represent their state at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, DC. It is here that the young leaders, who had excelled at their respective Boys States, are introduced to the structure and function of the federal government.

The first American Legion Boys Nation (then called Boys Forum of National Government) was held in August 1946 at American University in Washington, DC. It was officially adopted as a major youth activity by the 1946 National American Legion Convention. Three years later, its name was changed to American Legion Boys Nation.

At American Legion Boys Nation, each delegate represents his Boys State as a Senator. These youthful lawmakers caucus at the beginning of the session, organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by delegates to the program.

The Boys Nation Senators are instructed on the proper method of handling bills according to the rules of the United States Senate. Actual participation in the political process is highlighted throughout the week to include the organization of party conventions and the nomination and election of a Boys Nation President and Vice President.

The week of government training in the Nation's Capitol combines lectures and forums with visitations to federal agencies, institutions, memorials and historical spots in and around Washington. During a visit to Capitol Hill, Boys Nation Senators meet with elected officials from their home states.

Boys Nation visits several historic and governmental sites in and around the Washington, DC area. Included are field trips to Arlington National Cemetery, the monuments and memorials on the National Mall, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Capitol, Ft. McHenry, and the White House.



POLITICS OF BOYS STATE

Upon arriving at Boys State each citizen is assigned to one of two "political parties." The political parties in Boys State are called "Nationalist and Federalists." These parties are purely mythical and none of the principles typifying any of the existing American political parties will be formally adopted by the parties in Boys State. Because of the time element and nature of the program, political party structure at Boys State, in some instances, differs from the realistic situation. The convention system will be utilized for the nomination of city, state, and non-partisan officials at Boys State.

Each Boys State city has approximately 20-25 citizens, and each city is as nearly balanced as possible between the two parties. Two cities comprise one county and are termed "sister-cities". Boys State cities are named after former Presidents of the United States. Boys State counties are named after former Governors of the State of Michigan.

During the nomination phase of the political process, three conventions are held. The first two will be Sunday evening when the **City Partisan** conventions nominate candidates for city offices and **County Partisan** conventions nominate candidates for the legislature. The City Partisan Convention nominates candidates from each party in the city for Mayor **(1)** and City Council **(5)**. The County Partisan Convention nominates candidates from each party in the *county* for State Senator **(6)** and State Representative **(14)**. Elections for these offices will be held Monday morning, with results announced Monday afternoon.

The final convention is the **State Convention** held Monday evening and is devoted to nominating party candidates for state-wide offices. Each party in each city will first select a delegation chairman and vice chairman to speak on behalf of the city during convention. The permanent chairman for each convention will be chosen by the city delegation chairman and vice chairman Sunday evening. Chosen at the state convention will be the party's candidates for the State Supreme Court **(7)**, Attorney General **(1)**, Secretary of State **(1)**, Lieutenant Governor **(1)**, and Governor **(1)**.

Tuesday morning a Campaign Rally will be held where the candidates for state-wide offices will be presented to the Boys State electorate. The state party chairman will organize his party's thirty-minute presentation. Gubernatorial candidates must be given a minimum of five minutes of the allotted time. During this time, gubernatorial candidates should address the issues presented to them. Elections for state offices will be Tuesday morning immediately following the Campaign Rally.

When a citizen has been nominated for any office, he is thereby disqualified from seeking any other office on that ballot. In other words, a person cannot be nominated for both

a city position and a legislative position, nor can they be nominated for two state positions. However, a person elected to a city position may be nominated to a state position at the State Convention. If elected, however, the individual will have to resign the city/county office, and a special election held to fill the vacancy. (Note: It is highly recommended that a citizen elected Mayor does not resign the position to pursue a state level position.)

For all nominations and elections, **NO PRE-PRINTED OR PRE-SOURCED CAMPAIGN MATERIAL MAY BE USED.** Campaign material will be provided to all citizens when they arrive to Boys State.

Should you seek an elective position and not be successful, there are numerous appointed positions also available at Boys State. Those positions are described in the following pages.

Every citizen of Boys State will hold either an elective or appointed position. The success of the program will require citizens to act as much as possible like their real-world counterparts after the elections. This will require some "role-playing" by citizens so the positions in the program are given added substance. Between now and your arrival at Boys State you can prepare by becoming aware of any issues faced by the city and state levels of government across the branches. Start to think about how you would deal with these different problems. You will have a chance to try out your ideas in the position you hold at Boys State. The more imaginative you are in this respect, the more successful and interesting the program will be for you.

Boys State is a mythical state, which attempts to deal with mythical problems in a simulated format. These mythical Boys State problems have their origins in the real problems facing city, county, and state governments daily. Included would be such things as: economic development, mass transit systems, highways, roads, bridges, parks, recreation areas, libraries, museums, cemeteries, police and fire protection, jails and prisons, negotiations with employee groups, unemployment, sources of energy (gas, oil, nuclear, solar), social services, mental health, budgets, waste disposal, zoning, health and safety standards and inspections, property assessment, taxes (sales, income, property), airports, reductions in federal funding for state and local projects, conservation, urban renewal, historic preservation, future planning, civil defense, disasters, affirmative action, education, etc.

Throughout the week, your city will record the government activity that occurs during the **All Governments Functioning** periods to create an "Honors City" Presentation. These presentations will describe actions of the city council, the court, legislature, or executive branch that impacted your city. They may also include diagrams such as maps showing the layout of the city or county with zoning plans for single family residential, industrial, and

agricultural areas; plus, city or county facilities like parks, hospitals, jails, airports, etc. On Friday, your city will present to all citizens, the Education Staff, and American Legion Volunteers. Based on the contents of these presentations, the most successful city will earn the award for “Honors City” at graduation on Saturday. (Note: These presentations will assess the progress you made as city compared to where you started. You will not be able to solve every problem so be sure to call out certain issues that are unresolved to be dealt with by future city and state officials.)



ELECTED OFFICES

(Note: Positions are subject to change and are dependent on our number of participants each year.)

CITY GOVERNMENT

THE MAYOR

The Mayor is the chief administrative officer in city government. Mayors are usually elected by popular vote. Their terms vary from one to four years. The most common term is for two years. Because of the many charters one can only make general statements regarding his powers. Then, too, some have weak powers, while others under the strong mayor government practically control their cities and its policies.

The following are the general powers and duties of mayors:

1. In some cities, he presides over the city council.
2. He sees to it that each department functions properly and efficiently.
3. He cooperates with county and state law enforcement officials.
4. He must maintain peace and order in the city.
5. He must see that the ordinances passed by the council are enforced.
6. He represents the city at all public and ceremonial functions.
7. He acts as the city's agent in dealings with other cities.

THE CITY COUNCIL

The city council is the law making, or legislative, branch of city government. Members of this body are usually called councilmen. Usually, they select their own chairman but sometimes the mayor presides over their meeting. Their meetings are open to the public.

The city council votes to pay all the outstanding bills against the city. It passes city laws which are called ordinances such ordinances regarding health; hours that theaters, dance halls and recreation centers can stay open; the use and control of streets and alleys; setting grade levels for new homes; setting up conditions for granting licenses; regulating cemeteries; regulating lots on which house trailers are placed; etc.

The city mayor can veto ordinances passed by the city council, but the city council also has the right to override the mayor's veto if a large enough vote of council members can be obtained.

Each year it approves the annual budget for the coming fiscal year.

BOYS STATE LEGISLATURE

The Boys State legislature is made up of two chambers: a Senate and a House of Representatives. There are 15 members in the Senate and 36 members of the House of Representatives in Boys State.

It is the duty of the legislature to make general laws for the state. A majority of the members elected to and serving in each house constitutes a quorum for carrying on the business of each house. Absent members can be compelled to attend the meetings.

If any emergency arises, that the governor considers important enough, he can call the legislature into special session. Such special sessions can consider only the issue for which the governor called them into session, or such issues that are submitted by him by special message to the legislature.

Legislative Committees

During each regular session of the legislature, many bills are introduced into each legislative chamber. So large is this number, that it would be impossible for each member to consider them separately. Because of this, the work is divided among the members in the form of committees. The House and Senate committees at Boys State are as follows:

House

- 1. Budget & Management**
- 2. Public Safety**
- 3. Health & Environment**
- 4. Education & Labor**
- 5. Transportation**

Senate

- 1. Finance**
- 2. Health & Human Services**
- 3. Civil Services**

THE SENATE

Senate Officers and Rules

The Lieutenant Governor, by virtue of his office, presides over the meetings of the Senate. He is known as the President of the Senate. When the Lt. Governor is absent, his place is taken by one of the Senators who is known as the President Pro Tempore. The President Pro Tempore is chosen by his fellow Senators. If both are absent, the President Pro Tempore appoints one of the other Senators to preside over the meeting of the Senate. The Senate will also designate a citizen of Boys State to serve as the Secretary of the Senate to keep records. The Senate will also designate a senator to serve as Sergeant at Arms to preserve order in the Senate Chamber. The President of the Senate has the power to decide all questions that arise under the Senate rules and regular parliamentary law unless a majority of Senators, present

and voting, decide otherwise. The President can only vote in the case of a tie among the Senate members.

Special Powers and Duties of the Senate

When the Senate is in session it must approve most of the appointments which the governor makes. It is also the duty of the Senate to try impeachments that have been declared by the House of Representatives. No person can be convicted of impeachment without a two-thirds vote of the elected membership of the Senate.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker of the House

The Speaker of the House is one of the most important, if not the most important, member of the state legislature. He is chosen for this position by the House itself. He must be a member of the majority party in the House. He thus serves as majority party leader as well as chairman of the House. His duties and powers are many:

1. To call the House to order and maintain decorum.
2. To decide question of order.
3. To refer bills to committee.
4. To recognize who shall speak among the members of the House.
5. To control the order in which the bills appear.
6. To settle points of order that arise during meetings and debates.
7. To appoint all committees.
8. To vote on all questions.

When the Speaker is absent, his place is taken by another member of the House who is known as the Speaker Pro Tempore.

The Speaker will also designate the responsibilities of House Clerk to a citizen of Boys State and Sergeant at Arms to a member of the House.

BOYS STATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

THE GOVERNOR

Executive power is vested in the governor. He is responsible for the functioning of state government, and for the setting of policy at the state level.

Duties and Powers of the Governor

The main duty of the governor is to enforce the laws of the state and to maintain peace and order. He is commander-in-chief of the state military forces and may call upon such forces to execute the laws and to suppress insurrection or riots, or to protect property and maintain order following a catastrophe such as a flood, fire, tornado, or earthquake. He can also use the state police if necessary. Further duties of the governor are:

1. Make appointments as noted.
2. Supervise administrative departments.
3. Enforce laws of state.
4. Prepare "State of the State" address delivered at closing ceremonies.
5. May call legislature into special session.
6. Prepare yearly state budget to submit to legislature.
7. May grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The lieutenant governor is the person who takes the governor's place when he is absent from the state.

Duties and Powers of the Lieutenant Governor

The duties and powers of the lieutenant governor are:

1. To preside over the state senate.
2. Vote in state senate in the case of a tie.
3. Perform such duties as assigned by the governor.
4. To become governor in case of illness, resignation or impeachment.

SECRETARY OF STATE

The Secretary of State is the official record keeper for the state. He also serves as secretary for other boards and commissions. After the lieutenant governor, he is next in line to become governor.

Duties and Powers of the Secretary of State

The duties and powers of the Secretary of State are:

1. Design the great seal of the state and use it as directed by law on official papers of the state.

2. Act as custodian for the records and official papers of the state.
3. To compile, publish, and distribute copies of the state laws.
4. Issue warrants, requests for extraditions, and commissions, for the governor.
5. Register automobiles, trucks and trailers.
6. Design and issue drivers' licenses to operate private automobiles, and licenses for chauffeurs and truck drivers.
7. Register boats.
8. Register trademarks.
9. Keep a record of village and city charters, date of incorporation, changes in name etc.
10. Collect taxes such as the gasoline tax and the weight tax for vehicles.
11. Hold all general elections held in state.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Duties and Powers of the Attorney General

The duties and powers of the Attorney General are:

1. Provide legal advice and counsel to members of the state legislature, executive department heads, and to various commissions and boards, and advise them as to their powers and duties.
2. Represent the state in state and federal courts.
3. Start grand jury proceedings.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

THE STATE SUPREME COURT

The State Supreme Court is the state's highest court. It has final jurisdiction over all lower courts. The Supreme Court shall have general control over all courts; power to issue, hear and determine prerogative and remedial writs; and appellate jurisdiction as provided by rules of the Supreme Court. There is only one Supreme Court.

There are seven Supreme Court justices. One of the justices is selected by the others as the chief justice.

Vacancies in any court of record are filled at a general or special election as provided by law. Retired judges can be designated by the Supreme Court to fill a vacancy until the successor is elected and qualified. Such persons cannot be candidates for the office.

Advisory Opinions

In order to expedite judicial decisions, the governor or either chamber of the legislature may request an advisory opinion of the Supreme Court on important questions of law as to the constitutionality of legislation once it becomes law but has not yet become effective.

Some Powers, Duties and Restrictions

1. It has general supervision of all inferior courts.
2. It has both original and appellate jurisdiction.
3. It sets the rules, practices, and general procedures in all courts in the state.
4. It cannot remove a judge from office.
5. It can appoint and remove its staff.
6. It is also given general supervision of its staff.
7. It can control the preparation of its budget recommendations and the expenditure of its fund.
8. The decisions of the Supreme Court must be put in writing.



APPOINTED POSITIONS AT BOYS STATE

The following positions are available for appointment at Boys State. The duties of each position, and the method of appointment, are included. If you are interested in one of these positions, you will need to apply to the appointing authority (Governor, Legislature, Judges, Mayors, etc). If you are interested in a position not found in this list, feel free to speak to someone responsible for the job you are thinking of (again, Governor, Legislature, Judge, Mayor, etc.) or your Counselor to see if an arrangement can be made.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

City Clerk

The City Clerk is responsible for assisting the Mayor and City Council with the organization and administration of city government operations. The City Clerk maintains records of council meetings, ordinances, resolutions, and other official city actions, and helps ensure that city business is conducted in an orderly and efficient manner. The Clerk may also assist with scheduling, communications, documentation, and coordination between city officials throughout the week.

The City Clerk is appointed by the Mayor.

Additional appointed positions may be available throughout the week depending on the needs and priorities of each local government.

STATE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS - EXECUTIVE

Chief of Staff/ Budget Director

Much of the day-to-day responsibility to ensure state agencies are functioning falls to the Governor's Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff must monitor and manage what is going on in the cabinet and the departments. The Chief of Staff directly manages the Governor's office. The Chief of Staff helps the Governor develop and maintain a short and focused policy agenda.

One of the main roles of the Chief of Staff is to ensure the Governor receives the information, analyses, and views necessary to make a decision. The Chief of Staff must keep abreast of major ongoing issues to be aware of when new policy decisions must be made.

The Chief of Staff oversees relations with the press, lobbies the legislature informally, and ensures that every legislator gets his share of attention and response from the Governor. The Chief of Staff is responsible for enforcing rules regarding the scheduling of the Governor's time, and controlling access to the Governor.

Depending on the Governor's wishes, the Chief of Staff may be the person who interviews, hires, and fires the rest of the Governor's staff (but not the Governor's cabinet).

The Budget Director coordinates all aspects of Boys State's budget. Responsibilities of the office include developing the Executive Budget recommendation, presenting budget recommendations to the Legislature, and implementing the budget passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

The Chief of Staff/Budget Director works at the discretion of the Governor, and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Environment / Food and Agriculture Secretary

The Secretary leads the department responsible for promoting agricultural interests in the state and fostering direct trading or marketing between producers and consumers. The department works cooperatively with many state, federal, and local agencies and other organizations including universities, colleges and associations. The department is also responsible for assuring food safety, agricultural, environmental, and economic interests of the people of the state. Other duties include protecting animal and plant health, promoting rural development, consumer protection, and maintaining environmental quality. The Secretary advises the Governor, and the Legislature on all issues related to his department.

The Secretary is appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Secretary of Health and Welfare

The Secretary of Health and Welfare leads the department which directs the operations of public assistance and service programs, through county family independence agencies, in every county in the state. The department administers assistance payment programs available within the state. These programs include temporary assistance for needy families (Family Independence Program); Child Day Care; medical assistance jointly funded by the federal government and the state; state disability assistance and state medical services program, which are funded by the state and State Emergency Relief Program; and food stamps, a federally funded program.

The department is also responsible for the development of state health policy and management of the state's publicly funded health service systems. The Secretary advises the Governor, and the Legislature on all issues related to his department.

The Secretary is appointed by the Governor, and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Secretary of Transportation & Infrastructure

The Transportation Director oversees the department of transportation's budget and is responsible for the construction, maintenance and operation of the state highways and highway bridges. He also oversees administration of a wide range of other transportation programs statewide, such as rapid transit, and light rail lines.

Responsibilities include the development and implementation of comprehensive transportation plans for the entire state, including aeronautics, bus and rail transit, and the administration of state and federal funds allocated for these programs. The Secretary advises the Governor, and the Legislature on all issues related to his department

The Secretary is appointed by the Governor, and must be confirmed by the Senate

Director of State Police / Corrections

The Director of State Police is the head of the state police force, including road patrols, crime investigation, crime labs, and the Capitol Security force (including the Governor's security detail). The State Police provide 24-hour statewide police service for the safety and protection of the people and their property in the state. The Director of State Police has no authority over county, and city law enforcement.

The Director also leads the Department of Corrections, which administers Boys State's adult prison, probation, and parole systems. The department has jurisdiction over all adults convicted of felonies who are sentenced to prison. Probation services for felons are provided by the department for the various felony courts in Boys State's counties. The Director also advises the Governor, and the Legislature on all issues related to his departments.

The Director of State Police and Corrections is appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Secretary of Economic Development & Commerce

The Secretary of Economic Development and Commerce leads the department responsible for promoting economic growth, attracting new businesses, and supporting existing industries within the state. The department works to create jobs, encourage investment, and strengthen the overall economic competitiveness of the state.

Responsibilities include coordinating with local governments and private industry, developing incentive programs, and supporting workforce and industry partnerships. The department plays a key role in responding to economic challenges and opportunities across Boys State's cities.

The Secretary advises the Governor, and the Legislature on all issues related to his department. The Secretary is appointed by the Governor, and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Secretary of Education & Workforce

The Secretary of Education and Workforce leads the department responsible for overseeing public education systems and workforce development programs across the state. The department works to improve educational outcomes, support schools, and prepare residents for employment opportunities.

Responsibilities include coordinating with local school systems, managing workforce training initiatives, and aligning education programs with the needs of the state's economy. The department plays a key role in long-term economic growth and opportunity.

The Secretary advises the Governor, and the Legislature on all issues related to his department. The Secretary is appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Secretary of Housing & Urban Development

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development leads the department responsible for housing policy, community development, and urban planning. The department works to ensure access to safe and affordable housing while supporting the growth and revitalization of cities and communities.

Responsibilities include coordinating housing programs, supporting local development efforts, and addressing issues such as affordability, zoning, and urban infrastructure. The department works closely with local governments to respond to housing and development challenges across the state.

The Secretary advises the Governor, and the Legislature on all issues related to his department. The Secretary is appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Director of Intergovernmental Affairs serves as the primary liaison between the Governor's office, the Legislature, and local governments. The Director works to coordinate policy efforts, build support for the Governor's agenda, and ensure effective communication across all levels of government.

Responsibilities include negotiating with legislative leaders, tracking the progress of legislation, and working with city and county officials to align state and local priorities. The Director plays a key role in advancing the Governor's policy initiatives and resolving conflicts between different branches and levels of government.

The Director of Intergovernmental Affairs advises the Governor, and the Legislature on all issues related to his role. The Director is appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate.

STATE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS - JUDICIAL

Appellate Lawyer

Appellate Lawyers represent opposing sides in cases before the Boys State Supreme Court. Appellate Lawyers are responsible for reviewing case materials, researching legal and

constitutional arguments, preparing written and oral arguments, and responding to questioning from the Justices during oral arguments. Unlike trial courts, appellate proceedings focus on interpretation of the law rather than witness testimony or new evidence.

Appellate Lawyers work in teams and participate in multiple cases throughout the week, culminating in landmark constitutional cases before the Court. Appellate Lawyers are counselor appointed and are not subject to election or Senate confirmation.

Clerk of the Supreme Court

The Clerk of the Supreme Court (also known as the Court Administrator) is appointed by the Supreme Court. The Clerk's Office receives, files, and manages all pleadings relating to the caseload of the Supreme Court, and is responsible for management of records and information relating to administrative activities of the Supreme Court. The Clerk's Office also provides for the recording of Supreme Court proceedings as the Court directs.

The Clerk is appointed by the Supreme Court and is not subject to Senate confirmation.

WHIRLIGIG NEWSPAPER / PODCAST

The Whirligig is the Boys State daily newspaper, founded and continuously published in Boys State since 1937. It has won 60 Boys State Pulitzer Prizes over the many years.

The print version of the paper remains the largest local metropolitan newspaper in Boys State; though its weekday circulation has fallen since 1990 (as have other newspapers' circulations) to fewer than one million copies daily. Nicknamed "the GIG", and long regarded within the industry as a state "newspaper of record", *The Whirligig* is owned by The Whirligig Media Group Company, which also publishes 4 other newspapers including the *International Boys State Times* and *The National Eagle*.

The paper's motto, printed in the upper left-hand corner of the front page, is "All the News All the time." It is organized into sections: Local Government, Judicial Watch, State Government, Legislative Review, and Features.

As of 2026, The Whirligig has expanded into digital media with the launch of its official podcast, bringing daily Boys State coverage to audio platforms. The podcast features interviews, breaking news segments, and behind-the-scenes insights, helping "the GIG" connect with the next generation of news consumers.

Whirligig Editor-in-Chief

The Whirligig Editor will be selected by the Board of Directors of the Whirligig Media Group. The Editor works at the will of the Board of Directors and provides constant communication and direction to the Whirligig staff. The Editor will oversee the daily operations of field staff reporters and the publication of the Whirligig newsprint paper. The Editor is responsible for the assignments and staff workload of the Whirligig. The Whirligig Media Group publishes a newsprint paper daily; this paper covers any newsworthy topics surrounding Boys State. Each branch of government will have a Whirligig news beat reporter responsible for capturing the news assigned to them. The Editor will then organize the news topics and produce a daily Whirligig newsprint paper.

Whirligig Reporter(s)

The Whirligig Reporters are assigned a news beat area by the Editor. The news beat areas to be covered are local government, judicial branch, legislative branch and state government. The Governor is mandated to hold a daily press conference, and the Whirligig Reporters are the only permitted press to ask questions during these press conferences. Reporters are responsible for covering and capturing any newsworthy topics from their assigned beat area. The Reporters will write articles provide pictures and submit them for publication to the Editor's Desk.

Some Legal Terms to Know

Acquittal: a legal decision in which the person that has been accused is declared innocent. Exonerated.

Appellate Jurisdiction: the power to call up a case from a lower court.

Arrest: taking a person into custody by authority of the law.

Arson: the unlawful burning of property.

Bail: to provide security guarantying the return of the prisoner at the time of the trial. It is forfeited if the prisoner does not appear. In this case, he is said to jump bail.

Bailiff: a person working for the court who carries out the demand of the court such as to reclaim an automobile if the payments are not made, or to evict a tenant for non-payment of rent.

Bound Over: to be sent to a higher court with more jurisdiction.

Certiorari: a writ or order of a higher court sent to a lower court demanding that the lower court bring before the upper court the record of a particular case which it wished to review.

Chancery: a court of law or equity.

Crime: a serious offense.

Cross Examine: whence defending lawyer examines the witnesses that have been brought in to support the case.

Defendant: the person against whom the charge is made. The one who is defending himself.

Embezzlement: taking of money or goods entrusted to one by another.

Equity: 1. right of a person to a thing such as an automobile or home. How much he has invested in it

2. a court which tries to administer the natural principles of justice as well as to uphold the law.

EX-Post Facto Law: a law that is passed making a certain illegal after the act has already been committed

Felony: a serious crime against the statutes and punishable by a long imprisonment or death, such as arson, burglary larceny, manslaughter, murder and robbery.

Habeus Corpus (Latin-to have the body): The right of a person not to be held in jail during the time he is waiting for his trial. Only those charged with serious crimes like murder are held pending trial.

Indictment: an accusation made by a grand jury or an officer having legal authority.

Injunction: a written order demanding a person not to do something until the case is settled in court.

Jurisdiction: the right or power to exercise legal authority.

Larceny: taking property of another for the taker's own use.

Mandamus: a written order of a court demanding that something be done until the case is settled in court.

Misdemeanor: a minor offense not as serious as a felony such as: drunk driving, posting bills, excessive speed, spitting on the sidewalk, libel and slander.

Original Jurisdiction: the power to begin the trial of the case.

Perjury: false swearing, or giving false testimony in a matter pertaining to the issue.

Plaintiff: the person or side bringing the complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney: a county-elected official who represents the state in prosecuting cases against society or the state such as murder or embezzlement of state funds.

Quo Warrant: a written order demanding a person to show by what authority he has the office or power to do what he claims.

Sentence: a judgment pronounced by a court. A statement of what the guilty person must do.




Statute: a law passed by a legal body such as the state legislature.

Subpoena: a writ or process compelling or commanding a person to attend court. A subpoena is issued by the court and served by the sheriff or one of his deputies.

Verdict: the statement of an important decision: as, “the jury reached a verdict of guilty”.
Warrant: a written authorization of a court to authorize an arrest by a sheriff or one of his deputies.
Witness: one who gives testimony in a case.
Writ: a written command or order issued by a court with its seal of approval.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT BOYS STATE

Scholarships Offered

<p style="text-align: center;">GERALD R. FORD</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essay on the Declaration’s guiding principles.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$500 First Place \$250 Second Place</p>	 <p>Delegates of US Military Descendants</p> <p>\$1,250 State \$5,000 Regional \$10,000 National</p>	 <p>Hillsdale College Boys State Alum \$20,000 \$5,000 / year 4 years Undergrad</p>
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LINK TO SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

<https://michiganboysstate.org/what-is-the-samsung-scholarship/>

2026 American Legion Michigan Boys State Essay Contest

The American Adventure



First Prize: \$500

Second Prize: \$250

Judging Criteria

- Adherence to theme
- Inspired by Ford
- Original and personal; use of AI is prohibited
- Good grammar

Submissions Due:

June 20, 2026

Awards Presented:

June 27, 2026

Gerald R. Ford served as our nation's 38th president at a time when our nation was in unrest. The Watergate scandal, economic uncertainty caused by high inflation and the oil embargo, and the lingering effects of the Vietnam War left America deeply divided.

He was also president during our nation's bicentennial in 1976. During this celebration, Ford guided Americans in reflecting on our shared history and in renewing our commitment to the principles of the Declaration of Independence: "that all Men are created equal"; that we are endowed with the God-given rights "of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"; and that that government derives its just powers from the people to for the purpose of protecting these rights. At a speech at Independence Hall on July 4, 1976, he reminded of two, important things:

"The American adventure is a continuing process. As one milestone is passed, another is sighted. As we achieve one goal – a longer lifespan, a literate population, a leadership in world affairs – we raise our sights."

"It is good to know that in our own lifetime we have taken part in the growth of freedom and in the expansion of equality which began here so long ago. ... Each generation of Americans, indeed of all humanity, must strive to achieve these aspirations anew. Liberty is a living flame to be fed, not dead ashes to be revered, even in a Bicentennial Year."

President Ford knew that the promises of the Declaration were not immediately extended to all. He also knew that its principles are not self-executing, but instead require a continuing effort that depends on values-based leadership, active citizenship, and a shared sense of purpose.

This year, America will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. Soon, it will be your turn to lead. **In a 500 to 750 word essay, discuss how you will participate in the American adventure. What new goals would you set for our nation? How will the principles of the Declaration guide you to lead?**

**To Enter, Submit Your Essay at
www.devoslearningcenter.org/boysstate**

SEE YOU SOON!



 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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