

TO: All Upper Peninsula American Legion Posts, American Legion Auxiliary Units and S.A.L Squadrons

FROM: John M. Mella, Past State Commander, Post 50, Iron Mountain

SUBJECT: Transportation for 2025 Boys State and Girls State Attendees

I have again contracted a motor coach to transport the Upper Peninsula students who are attending the 2025 Boys State and Girls State programs. This will be a 56-passenger motor coach from Jag Motorcoach Company, Gladwin, Michigan. I am currently employed part-time by this company as a motor coach operator. To keep costs down, I am volunteering my time to transport the students to and from Michigan Boys State and Girls State. My wife, Diana, is volunteering her time to assist me.

The dates of the 2025 Boys and Girls State programs are June 22 - 28th, 2025. The transportation cost per student is \$175.00.

Please make **checks payable** to: **Jag Motorcoach** and mail them to: John M. Mella, 1571 W Ridge Road, Gladwin, MI 48624, and mail by June 15, 2025. **Be sure to include, with your payment, the name(s) and phone number(s) of the student(s) who you are paying for. Also, indicate the location where they will be picked up, so I can make a roster of who is to be picked up at each scheduled stop.**

**Post/Unit/Squadron: It is your responsibility to see that your Girls State or Boys State attendee receives a copy of this schedule!** Please note that all times are approximate, but we hope to stay very close to the following schedule:

### **BUS SCHEDULE TO PICK UP STUDENTS FOR BOYS/GIRLS STATE**

All times are **EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

#### **June 21, 2025 ~ SATURDAY**

11:00 pm **(EST)** Bus arrives at the Island Casino, US 2, Harris (Bus will park in the back of the casino)  
11:15 pm Bus leaves the parking lot

12:00 am **(MIDNIGHT)** Bus arrives at the Rapid River West Carpool Lot, 7668 US-2  
12:15 am Bus leaves the carpool lot

1:00 am Bus arrives at the BP gas station located at 1038 W Lakeshore Dr, Manistique  
1:15 am Bus leaves the parking lot

2:00 am Arrive at the MI Carpool Lot, located at the junction of M-117 and US-2 (south of Engadine)  
2:15 am Bus leaves the parking lot

3:00 am Arrive at the McDonald's Restaurant parking lot on US-2, St. Ignace  
3:15 am Bus Leaves the parking lot

7:15 am Arrive at Grand Valley State University, Allendale (Boys State Location)  
7:45 am Leave Grand Valley State University

9:15 am Arrive at Wells Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing (Girls State Location)

## BUS SCHEDULE TO RETURN STUDENTS FROM BOYS/GIRLS STATE

All times are **EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

NOTE: Students will be dropped off at the same locations where they were picked up on June 24<sup>th</sup> unless other arrangements are made in advance with John M Mella (906.774.0538).

### June 28, 2025 ~ Saturday

11:00 am Pick up the boys at Grand Valley State University, Allendale  
4:30 pm Pick up the girls at Wells Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing

8:45 pm Arrive at the McDonald's Restaurant parking lot, located at 928 US-2, St Ignace  
9:00 pm Bus leaves parking lot

10:00 pm Arrive at the MI Carpool Lot, at the junction of M-117 and US-2, south of Engadine  
10:15 pm Bus leaves parking lot

11:00 pm Arrive at the BP gas station, located at 1038 W Lakeshore Dr, Manistique  
11:15 pm Bus leaves parking lot

12:00 am **(MIDNIGHT)** Arrive at the Rapid River West Carpool Lot, 7668 US-2  
12:15 am Bus leaves carpool lot

1:00 am **(Eastern Time)** Bus arrives at the Island Casino (bus will park behind the casino)

### **\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*\*\***

Because all times are approximate, please plan to arrive at each pick up location at least 15 minutes early. The same applies for parents who are picking up the students on the return trip. That way, if we are running early, we will have the option to continue without waiting. Also, we will leave each location **exactly** on time. **If you are not at your scheduled pick-up location by the scheduled leave time, we will continue to the next location.** If you arrive too late to be picked up at your scheduled location, you can travel on to the next pick-up location. Anyone who misses their scheduled pick-up is responsible for their own transportation to Boys/Girls State.

**All fees paid for transportation are non-refundable.**

### **CONTACTS:**

John M. Mella (Organizer and driver) 906-774-0538  
Tom Chernetski (U.P. Boys State Representative) 906-792-8598  
Diana Mella (Assistant/Chaperone) 989-640-0109

### **ADDITIONAL STOPS AVAILABLE ALONG LOWER MICHIGAN ROUTE WITH ADVANCE NOTICE**

If you would like to be picked up or dropped off in Lower Michigan along the route, you must make prior arrangements with the driver, John M. Mella. The cost to ride the bus will be determined at that time.

The route downstate from the Upper Peninsula is I-75 south, to M-55 west, to 131 south, to I-96 east to MSU. The return route is from GVSU to I-96 east, to MSU, to 127 north, to I-75 north to US-2 in the Upper Peninsula.