

About Boys State

Boys State is a unique, one-week, summertime educational program for rising seniors that focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governmental bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of Florida's state government, while providing hands-on training in practical citizenship, leadership and character development through a non-partisan perspective.

The American Legion believes our U.S. government can survive only with an educated populace. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate our democratic republic, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations.

Objectives

- Develop civic leadership and pride in American Citizenship
- Promote a keen interests in the detailed study of Florida's government
- Develop a full understanding of American traditions and a loyalty to the USA
- Motivate young citizens to maintain our form of government
- Inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation
- Safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy

Scholarships

Each Year Boys State awards over \$10,000 in scholarships to deserving Boys State Delegates. Here is a list of scholarships that are available:

- Samsung Scholarship
- Bob & Gail Knight Scholarship
- Lance Cpl. Andrew Aviles Scholarship Billy
- Anderson Memorial Scholarship
- Ryan & Kylee Gay Press Corp Scholarship
- Richard & Gria Davison Scholarship



Other Facts & Information

- All volunteer staff comes from leadership positions in the community, The American Legion, colleges, business and government.
- Our Boys State program is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
- Over 28,000 plus graduates have found the week exciting, educational, inspiring and tiring.
- The counselors turn the mock government sessions over to the citizens early in the program. To accomplish this, discipline is established through rules and a dress code.
- All citizens wear the same uniform: Boy State polos which are issued at registration. To provide equal opportunity for each citizen running for an elected office, our rules prohibit the wearing of any insignia, pins, etc. which may give a candidate an unfair advantage over another.
- Traditions such as advancing the flag of our country, prayer and devotions, singing of patriotic songs, a memorial service honoring those who have served our great country and many more are observed during the week. Boy Staters are expected to take seriously and respect these traditions. ***No one is forced to participate in any religious or patriotic ceremony***

Medical & Physical Requirements

All delegates must be able to actively participate in the program for the full week. A special medical insurance policy covers Delegates at the program, but is an excess coverage policy.

American Legion Boys Nation

Two Delegates will be selected to represent the state of Florida at American Legion Boys Nation. Boys Nation is an extension of the Boys State experience on the national level. The week-long program takes place in Washington, D.C. and combines lectures, forums and visitations to federal agencies, institutions, memorials and historical sites.

At Boys Nation, each Delegate represents his state as a senator and participates in senate sessions. They organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by the senators. Instruction and operation of the Boys Nation Senate is based on the rules of the U.S. Senate.

American Legion Florida Boys State selects our Boys Nation Senators through counselor recommendations and an interview process. Two Delegates and two Alternates will be selected.



Program Highlights

Boys State is an instructional program that consists of some classroom work and general assemblies of instruction. The program is primarily comprised of functional hands-on activities that promote learning by doing. Most program hours are focused on government instruction and practical exercises. **What makes Florida American Legion Boys State different from other states is that we use the State Capitol for the Legislature and Cabinet government bodies to add realism to the program.**

Known as "citizens" at Boys State, each young man becomes an integral part of the program by assuming responsibilities and performing duties either as an elected or appointed official, or otherwise fulfilling an assignment entailing the duties of responsible citizenship.

Political Organization

An effective political organization is created at Boys State to operate from the local through the State level. The government organization provides for such features as city, county and state elections.

The citizens are organized into two non-specific political parties: Nationalists and Federalists. In each Boys State city, half are Nationalists and half are Federalists. Each citizen is pre-assigned to a party, and roommates are from opposite parties. Each political party meets to establish its platform and candidates for state offices.



Program Dates

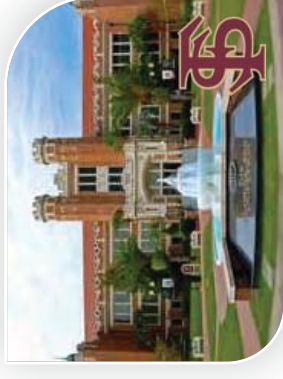
June 20-26, 2021

Check-in: Sunday, June 20
7:00 AM

Check-out: Saturday, June 26
7:00 AM

Program Location

We take pride in the fact that our program is held in Tallahassee, FL where we can utilize The Florida State University dormitories, The Florida State University , Tucker Civic Center, and our state's Capitol building.



Transportation

Transportation to and from the program is the responsibility of the local Post, unless parents make special arrangements to get them to Tallahassee.

Each District Boys State Chairman for The Florida American Legion, arranges charter buses or other means of transportation to and from the program. If a Delegate misses their bus, it is their responsibility to arrive in Tallahassee at the appropriate time. **Delegates are not allowed to drive their cars to Tallahassee as there is no parking available for them.**



Eligibility & Selection

The American Legion's Americanism Commission has established certain qualifications for prospective Boys State Citizens:

- ✔ Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and have at least one year of high school remaining are to be considered.
- ✔ An interest in the governmental process.
- ✔ Outstanding qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service to their schools and community.
- ✔ The young man and his parents must be residents of the state of Florida.
- ✔ Any boy who has previously attended Boys State is **not** eligible to attend a second session.

Enrollment fees are paid by Florida American Legion Posts or other community minded organizations, leaving no expense to a young man or his family to attend the program.

The American Legion Post will conduct interviews for all young men that meet the eligibility requirements and that are interested in attending the session. After the interviews, the Post Boys State Chairman will select the primary "Delegates" to attend the session. Those that are not selected as primary Delegates will become "Alternates". Alternates will be put on a waiting list for a Delegate spot to become available.