

WHAT IS BOYS' STATE?

Boys' State is a program of the American Legion developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government; that the individual is an integral part, and commensurately responsible, for the character and success of his government. As such, it is an activity of high educational value, born of a need for youth training in practical citizenship.

To elaborate – Boys' State is easily classified as a Leadership Action Program wherein qualified male high school juniors participate in a practical government course designed to develop in the young citizens a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon them the fact that their government is just what **THEY** MAKE IT.

To summarize – Boys' State is an objective citizenship training program, which inculcates individual responsibility to the community, state and nation. It is operated on a two-party system on the basis of the political government organization as it exists in New York State at all levels from local municipalities to the State.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF BOYS' STATE?

Naturally, a program of this scope and magnitude encompasses many objectives, all of which are important, however, the objectives we feel are the most important and those for which we strive the hardest to attain are as follows:

- A. To develop civic leadership and pride in American Citizenship. It is our earnest hope that each young man who attends Boys' State will return to his community a better citizen than when he left and that he will have a desire to demonstrate this fact by his willingness to make civic contributions which will help make his community a better place in which to live.
- B. To stimulate a keen interest in the detailed study of our government.
- C. To incite in these young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government.
- D. To develop in these young men a full understanding of our American traditions and a belief in the United States of America.

The American Legion aims to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to their community, state, and nation in these young men and to charge them with the safeguarding of the principles of America – Democracy, Justice, and Freedom – the legacy of their forefathers.

WHERE AND WHEN WILL BOYS' STATE BE HELD?

Boys' State is scheduled to be held virtually from June 27 through July 1, 2021. The schedule will be developed and posted to the Boys' State website.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND BOYS' STATE?

Leadership, character, scholarship and service are the necessary qualifications a young man must possess in order to be admitted to Boys' State. Participants should be able to tolerate the demanding physical aspects of this program. Physical incapacity can be a deterrent to participation in this program.

Candidates for Boys' State must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be at least 15 years of age at the time of application.**
- B. Have completed their junior year with at least an 80% or "B" average.**
- C. Have at least one semester of high school remaining.**
- D. Be a resident of New York State, or reside in another state but attend school in New York State**

Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- A. Leadership
- B. Ability to get along with others
- C. Mental alertness
- D. Physical cleanliness and neatness
- E. Honesty
- F. Good personality
- G. Vigorous attitude
- H. Enthusiasm
- I. Good Citizenship

Applications for the selected candidates/alternates will be available online December 2020.

The Board of Directors of Boys' State reserves the right to accept or reject any application for admittance.

HOW DO WE SELECT QUALIFIED CANDIDATES?

- A. Local American Legion posts consult with area high school principals/guidance counselors and ask them to recommend a group of boys as possible candidates.

- B. American Legion Post Committees interview each candidate and select those best qualified.

- C. Candidates should be chosen with regard to the following:
 1. Seriousness of purpose
 2. Industriousness
 3. Initiative
 4. Influence
 5. Concern of others
 6. Responsibility
 7. Emotional Stability
 8. Interest in Government

The New York Boys' State Program does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, disability or handicap, gender identity/expression, religious, creed, or individual political opinions.

WHO ARE BOYS' STATE COUNSELORS?

The Boys' State Counseling staff is comprised of American Legion members, Sons of the American Legion, government officials, college professors, high school teachers and former Boys' State members, many of whom have been with the program for a number of years. Their services have contributed much to the success of this program as they are experienced in parliamentary procedure.

Ten (10) counties will be formed at Boys' State. Each county will contain three (3) cities and each city will consist of approximately thirty-six (36) boys. A counselor will be assigned to each city. It will be his duty to assist the boys and guide them in their daily activities. There will also be a United States Marine assigned to each county. His job is to teach the Boys' Staters how to keep their rooms in order, teamwork, morning PT, etc. He will also teach them how to march in formation to get to and from events and for the final ceremony. ROTC and US Military Academy cadets also assist with daily duties.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPANTS?

In addition to their government work, participants may attend informational assemblies with guest speakers such as elected officials and a public speaking expert to name a few. Examinations may be given to those boys who wish to be admitted to the Bar of Boys' State. A program on Sustainability and Economic Development will help create awareness of the alternative energy sources and recycling opportunities in community sources and recycling opportunities in communities.