



TEXAS BOYS STATE FACT SHEET

Information for potential delegates, school representatives, and parents/guardians



Texas Boys State Website

For additional information pertaining to The American Legion Boys State, Department of Texas, visit our website:

www.texasboysstate.com

Program Site and Date

The American Legion, Department of Texas, will sponsor the 81st session of Texas Boys State on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin from Sunday, June 27 to Friday, July 2, 2021.

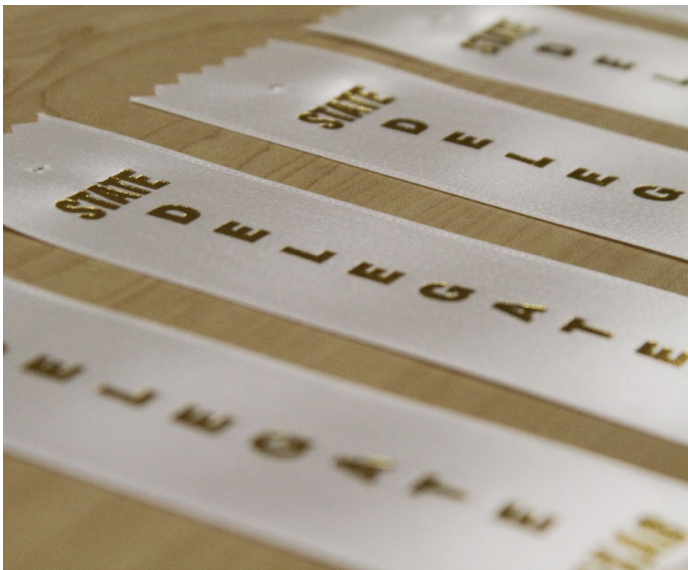
The “Ideal” Boys State Delegate

To be selected for nomination or appointment as a Texas Boys State delegate, the candidate must demonstrate:

- Strong academic performance (e.g., a quick study) to thrive in this fast moving program
- Excellent Interpersonal skills (e.g., gets along very well with others from all backgrounds)
- Exhibited leadership (e.g., a leader of leaders)
- Solid Oratorical skills (e.g., a persuasive speaker and confidence shown in group settings)

In addition, the candidate MUST:

- be a male high school student
- have successfully completed his junior year
- have at least one semester remaining
- have not previously attended Boys State
- be recommended by his school officials
- have parents’/guardians’ permission to attend
- be certified by the sponsoring American Legion post
- sign the Boys State Pledge (see page 3)





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Nominations to the Program

The American Legion believes our American 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.

High school officials (administrators, faculty members, coaches, fine arts teachers, and/or counselors) may nominate qualified students meeting the eligibility requirements and selection criteria.



Program Registration

Registration for the program is conducted in coordination with local American Legion Posts. Candidates should enter their complete information online, print their application form, obtain appropriate signatures and submit their application to the designated American Legion Post. Please see the Apply section at www.texasboysstate.com for further information.

Selection of Citizens

In the actual selection of Boys State citizens, merit and ability alone are the basis for selection. Boys State is not a program for underprivileged boys nor is it a summer camp for recreation. American Legion Posts or other community-minded organizations often pay fees, or "tuition," with little to no expense to the young men.

We wish to secure equal delegate representation from all areas of the State of Texas. Therefore, the Department Boys State Committee asks for one or more boy(s) from each accredited high school (public or private) to be nominated by the school to attend.



Objectives of Boys State

A program of this scope encompasses many important objectives. The American Legion feels the following are the most important:

- To develop civic leadership and pride in American citizenship. The American Legion hopes that each young man attending Boys State will return to his community a better citizen and display his willingness to make greater civic contributions.
- To develop a keen interest in government.
- To develop in the young citizens of Boys State a full understanding of our American traditions and belief in the United States of America. The American Legion Boys State teaches citizens the glorious traditions of this country!
- To develop in the young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government

The final two objectives come from the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion:

- "To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation"
- "To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy"



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Program Dates and Times

Program Start: Sunday, June 27, 2021
Expect to be available for the program start by mid-afternoon

Program End: Friday, July 2, 2021
Expect to be dismissed from the program at or after 1:00 PM



Boys State Pledge

(To be signed by all chosen delegates on Day 1 of the Texas Boys State Program)

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands.

I have never attended The American Legion Boys State.

I sincerely want to attend Texas Boys State, and if accepted, will, to the best of my ability:

- Take a serious and conscientious interest in discharging my duties as a citizen.
- Obey the rules of Boys State.
- Respect the judgment of the Boys State Director, Counselors and Staff; Participate in all activities.
- Seek election or appointment to office, and if elected or appointed, serve that office.
- Keep myself neat and well groomed at all times.
- Avoid the use of profane language and actions.
- Refrain from injurious habits such as the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs
- Upon my return home from Boys State, I will make a formal oral or written report to my sponsor(s) and brief next year's Boys State delegate(s) from my school.



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Boys State FAQs

For a full list of FAQs, check out texasboysstate.com/what-to-expect

Will Boys State be in person in 2021?

In 2020, the Texas Boys State program went virtual – the first virtual Boys State program in the country. Staff are already hard at work planning the 2021 program. Given the ever-changing state of the pandemic and public health, plans are underway for the 2021 session, whether it ends up being in person on the UT-Austin campus, or whether we end up having to hold a second virtual session. Regardless, it will surely be a success and remain true to our 80+ year legacy.

The decision about whether the program will be virtual or in person will be made this spring, and updates will be posted in timely fashion on the website and emailed directly to accepted applicants.

What do I bring to the program?

Please see the section “What to bring” on the website for more information regarding clothes, towels, and toiletries required. As it relates to the political process, all materials that will be needed will be provided.

Can My Parents/ Family Attend the Sessions?

We highly encourage participation of friends and family on Friday for the College Fair and the Closing ceremonies.

Can I Bring My Cell Phone or Other Electronic Devices?

In a word – yes; however, there will be times where we do not allow usage (such as during Flag lowering, visiting dignitaries, plenary session speakers, etc.).





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Boys State FAQs (continued)

I will need to “come and go” from the program due to other priorities – is that allowed?

Boys State is a fast-paced program that requires your full attention and complete involvement for the week. Any unique circumstances requiring time away from the program must be cleared with the Chairman in advance of the program.

What happens if there is an emergency and I have to leave early?

Unfortunately, things happen outside of the program that are beyond your control. That is ok, however you need to contact the Boys State Chairman in advance. He will help arrange the logistics of getting the delegate prepared to leave the program.

How can my family/friends connect to see what is happening during the program?

Thanks to the power of modern technology and social media keeping updated with the program has never been easier. The Boys State Website will be updated daily. Also, you can follow us via Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Below are the links to our pages:

Who can I contact if I have specific questions?

Feel free to contact us at contactus@TexasBoysState.com for more information.



www.facebook.com/TexasBoysState



www.twitter.com/TexasBoysState



www.youtube.com/TexasBoysState

