



American Legion Boys' State

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



What Is Boys' State?

American Legion Boys' State is a week-long program that immerses high school youth in citizenship and leadership training. They learn the practical aspects of government as it exists in New York State, and come to recognize that the individual is integral to the character and success of government. They also participate in physical fitness, teamwork and other activities, under the guidance of American Legion counselors and U.S. Marines.

PURPOSE OF BOYS' STATE

The American Legion Boys' State of New York, Inc., which is sponsored by the American Legion Department of New York, is a citizenship training program designed to meet your needs and to give you an insight into our democratic form of government.

Its purpose is to inspire and instill in you a deep sense of responsibility and obligation by educating you in the principles of democracy and by teaching you the duties, privileges and rights of American citizenship.

The Boys' State Program has been founded on the "learn by doing" concept. By actually operating your own government, you will leave Boys' State with a clearer view and a better understanding of the functions of our government agencies.

As often as possible, the government of the American Legion Boys' State of New York, Inc. is patterned after the city, county, and state governments of the State of New York. It is pure democracy in that all the citizens may vote and are eligible to hold office

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 a practical citizenship.

Boys' State is a leadership Action Program where qualified male high school students who have completed their junior year take part in a practical government course. This course is designed to develop in the young citizens a working knowledge of the structure of government, and to impress upon them their government is what THEY make it.

Boys' State is an objective citizenship training program which inculcates individual responsibility to the community, state, and nation. It is operated on the basis of the political government organization existing in New York State, including all levels from municipality to the state.

OBJECTIVES OF BOYS' STATE

- To develop civic leadership and pride in American Citizenship. It is our earnest hope that each young man attending Boys' State will return to his community a better citizen than when he left, and that he will demonstrate this through his willingness to make civic contributions that will help make his community a better place in which to live.
- To develop a keen interest in the detailed study of government. We desire to create more than just a passive interest in the study of the government – we strive to create interest which will encourage the desire for knowledge.
- To develop in the young citizen a determination to maintain our form of government. We attempt to accomplish this in many ways, but primarily through bringing them to full realization of how wonderful it is to be an American!
- To develop in young citizens of Boys' State a full understanding of our American tradition.
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. For more information, please contact your local American Legion Post.

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 (long days, physical/mental strenuous activity). 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. **(The program occurs the summer between a candidates Junior and Senior Year of High School)**
- 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

Contact your local American Legion Post for more information and how to apply.