

A Tradition of Leadership

KEYSTONE BOYS STATE

Established 1937, Pennsylvania American Legion *Keystone Boys State* is an educational workshop for high school student leaders. Students selected to attend KBS have the opportunity to gain leadership skills through an intensive week-long summer program. The focus of KBS is its hands-on simulation of municipal, county, and state government.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Participants learn to be a better leader by “learning-by-doing” as part of a group of 20–30 other young men from across Pennsylvania. This active learning is enhanced by guidance from counselors and members of the American Legion.

CIVICS EXPERIENCE

Participants are organized into “cities” in the simulated “51st State of Keystone.” Participants run for state and local office and work together to develop solutions to the challenging political, social, and economic problems facing our state.

KBS is an intensive, in-depth, and hands-on course in leadership.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The core of KBS is an in-depth simulation of state and local government in Pennsylvania, in which participants conduct the operations of city, county, and state government. As part of two mock political parties, participants vie for office and work to pass legislation to overcome political, economic, and social challenges. They also have opportunities to establish and operate businesses, run an active television, and print media enterprise.

At every stage of the week, KBS participants—not KBS staff—take the lead, electing their own leaders and determining as a group what they want to achieve and how they will achieve it.

KEY FACTS

Time & Place: Week of Father’s Day at Messiah University

Eligibility: High school students who have completed their junior year and have at least one semester remaining before graduation.

Cost: The week’s tuition (\$200) is paid by an American Legion

BENEFITS OF KBS

- 1 Highly valued on college applications; opportunity to earn college credit
- 2 20% of first-year students at military academies are Boys or Girls State graduates
- 3 Acquire skills that provide focus and a leadership base for your senior year
- 4 Develop a working understanding of state and local government
- 5 Be part of a talented team of peers working to achieve goals
- 6 Meet state representatives and senators in Harrisburg

SAMPLE KBS SCHEDULE

6:30-7:45am: Wake up & eat breakfast
8:00am: Flag Raising/Announcements
8:15am: City - General Work Time / Businesses
9:15am: County A: Guest Lecturer
County B: Legislative Coordination
10:30am: Party Meetings: Candidate speeches
11:45am: Lunch
12:45pm: Elect leadership in House & Senate caucuses
1:30pm: House and Senate committee meetings
3:30pm: Intramural sports, band, news media, etc.
3:30-5pm: State Primary Elections
5:00pm: Dinner
6:15pm: Flag ceremony/Announcements
6:30pm: House and Senate Sessions
8:00pm: KTV - Evening news
8:45pm: City - General Work Time / Businesses
11:00pm: Lights out



MORE INFO

To learn more about Keystone Boys State, Pennsylvania's premier leadership development program for young men send an email, sharon@pa-legion.com

The week I spent at Boys State was undoubtedly one of the most unique and important experiences of my life. My fellow citizens were all extremely dedicated and passionate about the activities of the week, and still managed to share many laughs and good times.

-Alex O., Radnor H.S., KBS graduate

HOW TO ATTEND

To be nominated to Keystone Boys State, contact your school guidance counselor, coach, GATE or NHS sponsor, your local American Legion Post or the PA American Legion HQ. You must also submit an application through the KBS website (<https://pa-legion.com/programs/student-and-youth/keystone-boys-state-program/>) and have the support of a sponsoring American Legion Post.

Keystone Boys State application: <https://pa-legion.com/programs/student-and-youth/keystone-boys-state-program/keystone-boys-state-registration/>



American Legion Post locator: <https://pa-legion.com/about-the-legion/districts-by-county/>

CONTACT US

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Website: <https://pa-legion.com/programs/student-and-youth/keystone-boys-state-program/>



JUNE 16-22, 2024

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY

A week that shapes a lifetime