

MN Boys State Qualifications

To be eligible for nomination or appointment as a MN Boys State Delegate, the Nominee must:

- Be a junior in High School
- Has demonstrated good quality and character in the school and the community
- Enthusiastic and gets along with others
- Be sponsored by a MN Legion Post

For Further Information

For additional information pertaining to the Minnesota American Legion Boys State Program, please visit our website at www.mnboysstate.org, send an email to Jennifer Kelley at jkelly@mnlegion.org, or contact your local MN American Legion Post

Local Post Contact



**Sponsored by The American Legion
Department of Minnesota**

Held each June at St. Johns University



Questions? Contact Us!

jkelly@mnlegion.org

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What is MN Boys State?

MN Boys State is a week long program held on the campus of St. Johns University every year during a week in June. During this week, young men from all over MN, embark on an adventure of a lifetime where they organize and participate in the various levels and branches of a mock government by "doing". Some of the highlights include:

- Guest speakers
- Campaigning for office & elections
- Schools of Instruction
- Mock Trials
- Athletic Period
- Band / Choir / Newspaper

By the end of the week, these young men have developed skills such as: critical thinking, public speaking, problem solving, and discipline, all of which will pay dividends for them throughout the rest of their life. Additionally, they gain an appreciation and respect for veterans and see the importance veterans play in preserving our way of life and Republic for future generations, often, inspiring some to pursue public service. To put it simply, it's a week that shapes a lifetime.



Program Objectives

The American Legion believes our U.S. government can survive only with an educated populace.

Below, please find some of our program objectives:

- Develop leadership and pride in American Citizenship
- Motivate young citizens to maintain our form of government
- To foster a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation
- To safeguard our principles of justice, freedom and democracy



Application Process

There are three main ways to apply to attend MN Boys State. The best way is to reach out to your local American Legion Post and ask to speak with their Boys State Chairman. The second way is by reaching out to your High School guidance counselor. However, if you are unable to reach a local American Legion Post or if your High School guidance counselor is un-familiar with the program, please use the QR code to fill out an interest form and a representative will walk you through the process. Enrollment fees, or tuition, are paid for by the American Legion Posts, leaving no expense to you or your family. Are you ready to be a part of something bigger than yourself? Apply today!



GENERAL

1. Only boys with outstanding qualifications should be considered for selection. SEE Eligibility List.
2. Detailed instructions will be sent to each boy.
3. Every Boys Stater will have an opportunity to serve in some part of the program.
4. Some type of recreation will be available every day.
5. Keys MUST BE surrendered by those who drive after car is properly parked in the college parking lot.
6. A daily paper may be printed by Boys Staters.
7. On Saturday morning, two Senators will be named by Boys State staff. They will attend The American Legion Boys Nation scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C. in July, sponsored and expenses paid by The American Legion. Each boy will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship for post-secondary education.
8. A third boy will be chosen by the staff and named Saturday morning to receive one of two "Director's Awards", which includes a \$1,000 scholarship for post-secondary education.
9. A fourth boy will be chosen to receive the second "Director's Award", which includes a \$1,000 scholarship for post-secondary education.
10. One Boy Stater will be elected Boys State Governor. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for post-secondary education. If he is selected as a Boys Nation Senator, he will only receive one \$1,000 scholarship. See #7.
11. The Boy Stater with the highest test score will receive the "Dorothy A. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship" worth \$75.00.
12. One Boy Stater, a descendant of a wartime veteran, will be eligible for the "Samsung Scholarship". Applications will be judged by a committee of counselors. The winner will advance to National for final selections. Approximately \$300,000 is given out each year.
13. Boys Staters should not bring along valuables, including excess money. Dorm rooms will NOT BE LOCKED. MN American Legion Boys State is not responsible for any items lost or stolen.
14. Dress code on campus must be adhered to. Boys will wear shoes, long pants (jeans or khakis are appropriate) and Boys State T-shirts to programs, and be neat in appearance, casual attire. Dress suits will not be needed.
15. Each Boys Stater may be requested to report his impression of Boys State to his sponsoring Post upon his return home. POSTS, please note.
16. Any boy who violates the rules laid down for the administration of Boys State or who fails to cooperate in accordance with his signed statement shall be subject to dismissal without refund of sponsor's fee.
17. Any violations will be dealt with by Campus Security.

Suggested Minimum List of What Boys Stater Should Bring Along

- Long pants for evening assemblies (jeans or khakis)
- Everyday clothes, t-shirts & shorts are permitted
- Jacket or hooded sweatshirt
- Usual shaving and toiletry articles to include soap & shampoo
- Light athletic clothing suitable for outdoor activities
- Clothing for team sports: in Basketball, Volleyball, Kickball
- Small fan (optional)
- Towels
- Blanket/Sleeping bag, Pillow
- 1" - 3 Ring-binder, black preferred not required
- Pen & Paper

The Higher Education Act Amendments of 1976 (P.L. 94-482, approved October 12, 1976)--specifically exempts Boys/Girls State and Nation from provisions of Title IX's 1972 Education Amendments barring discrimination on the basis of sex.

Boys are expected to remain at Boys State the entire week. In case of an extreme emergency, approval of the Director and the Dean of Boys is necessary in order to leave.

**PLEASE REMEMBER
REGISTRATION PAYMENT
DATE DEADLINE IS
APRIL 15, 2026**

Attention: 2026 Boys State will open at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 14. No noon meal will be served. The first meal served will be dinner at approximately 5:15 p.m. Sunday check-in is 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Address inquires to:
Legion Boys State
The American Legion
20 West 12th Street, Room 300A
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Telephone: 651/291-1800
jkelly@mnlegion.org
mnboysstate.org

77TH ANNUAL

LEGION BOYS STATE

SPONSORED BY

**The American Legion
Department of Minnesota
on the Campus of
SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
Collegeville, Minnesota**



JUNE 14-20, 2026

Committee

**Director:
Kyle Oldre, Luverne**

**Dean:
David Way, Andover**

Linda Dvorak, Dept. Commander

mnboysstate.org

Purpose and Program

Legion Boys State is a practical training program in local and state government in which selected boys participate in actual learning experiences. We attempt to (1) illustrate to the boys the principles of representative form of government, (2) arouse an enduring interest in governmental affairs.

Boys State is a functional practice of democratic activities. Its citizens will apply knowledge already acquired concerning political machinery of commonwealth. They will receive additional instruction from competent men in selected fields. Citizens choose their own officials in accordance with regular election procedures. They organize and operate their own city, county and state governments. Bills are introduced and debated in their legislature. Justice is administered by their own law enforcement agencies and courts. In Boys State, the young citizen has the opportunity to learn that his government is just what he makes it.

Assignment of boys to mythical "Nationalist" and Federalist" parties is for operational purposes, and to illustrate some of the responsibilities they will be called upon to assume when they become adults.

The Constitution and the Statutes of the State of Minnesota are the patterns from which the fundamental laws of Legion Boys State have been developed. Thus, Boys State should be thought of as an imaginary 51st state, constructed by its citizens to govern themselves.

Time and Place

Boys State will be held on Saint John's University Campus June 14-20, 2026.

Boy Staters will report on campus starting at 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, June 14, and will start to organize soon after arrival. The first meal will be served Sunday evening.

The program will close after breakfast on Saturday, June 20 at approximately 9:00 A.M.

Sponsorship

EVERY BOY FOR WHOM APPLICATION IS MADE TO BOYS STATE MUST BE SPONSORED BY AN AMERICAN LEGION POST. A POST MAY SPONSOR AS MANY AS THEY DESIRE FROM ANY HIGH SCHOOL. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE ACCEPTED FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES.

QUALITY is requested and stressed.

The boys sponsored must be selected in accordance with the rules prescribed herein.

Eligibility and Selection

Boys State is open to all boys regardless of race, color or national origin.

Only students who are finishing their junior year of high school, and who will be seniors in the following term of school, are eligible to participate in Boys State. Boys must be chosen from among students who are in the upper one-half of their class scholastically. The following qualifications must be considered in determining eligibility:

1. **A leader.**
2. **Able to get along with others.**
3. **Enthusiastic, with good personality and good character.**
4. **Honest.**
5. **Interested in a citizenship training program.**
6. **Have demonstrated good quality in the classroom and community.**

WE RECOMMEND THAT THE POST REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, A STUDENT COUNSELOR OR THE FACULTY, OR A COMBINATION OF THESE FOUR. CONSULT COMMUNITY LEADERS AND THE CLERGY FOR ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF YOUR CANDIDATES. WE URGE THAT SCHOOLS SUBMIT THE NAMES OF QUALIFIED BOYS TO THE POST BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN or TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, AND THAT THE POST OR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS MAKE THE FINAL SELECTION OF THE BOYS.

It is recommended that alternates to the principal candidates be named at the time of selection to stand by in case the principals are unable to accept the appointment or attend Boys State.

Fees

Registration fee for sponsoring a boy is \$400.00. *****Gambling funds** may be used for registration fee***. Minnesota American Legion Boys State, LLC is a 501c(3) organization. Checks must be made payable to the Minnesota American Legion Foundation (Fund 77) with Boys State Registration written in the memo section of the check.

Fee must be mailed with the application for sponsorship to: Legion Boys State, The American Legion, 20 West 12th Street, Room 300A, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155. The fee is the responsibility of The American Legion Post not the Boys Stater.

DEADLINE FOR MAKING APPLICATION and PAYMENT IS APRIL 15; AND FOR COMPLETING REGISTRATION, MAY 15. REFUNDS BEFORE APRIL WILL BE 50%, AFTER APRIL 15 NO REFUND.

If a Boys Stater is unable to attend, the sponsor should immediately notify Department Headquarters and designate who the alternate is.

There are no additional charges at Boys State, but the Student Union is available for usual items of confectionery and refreshments, so Boys Staters may bring a small amount of spending money with them at their own discretion. **Minnesota American Legion Boys State is not liable for any items lost or stolen, such as money, cell phones, electronics, etc.**

HEALTH and MEDICAL

A medical information form, signed by a parent or guardian, is required of each boy. A copy of a Family Health Insurance Information Card is also needed. Both the form and card (or copy) will be uploaded to the registration page in advance of Boys State.

While at Boys State, competent medical service is available for emergencies that may occur. Every precaution is taken to avoid accidents and prevent illnesses. All state health standards are met or exceeded. Parental permission is required for emergency medical treatment and a signature must be obtained.