



American Legion Boys State

Boys State and **Girls State** are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. Boys and Girls State programs both began in 1937 and are held in each state usually on a college campus, within that state. In general, male and female programs are held separately, but seven states host Boys and Girls State on the same campus on the same week.

Each state's program varies, but in general program participants are divided into subgroups referred to as cities. The citizens of each of these cities elect municipal officials and representatives to the state legislature. The participants also elect state officials, such as governor, lieutenant governor, and other state-level officials mirroring their actual State. The legislature meets to organize, elect leaders, and to pass bills, in a way that is similar to how their actual state legislature operates.

All programs generally follow a similar pattern but vary by state. Other programs include creative and fun activities such as band, choir, and athletic competition. Boys/Girls State is typically staffed by Legion members, past participants, and/or community leaders who volunteer their time and effort. Administrative costs are covered by their state Legion organizations and local businesses.

The Sons of The American Legion have always played an important role in this program. In addition to Detachments sponsoring delegates, Sons members are encouraged to assist in whatever capacity they are able too such as volunteering as councilors. For more information on how you can be involved in Boys State please write to The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or go to boysstate-nation@legion.org

Ernie Laberge

Member National Americanism Commission 2019-2021



"Honoring the Past....Continuing the Legacy"

2018-19 National Commander, Greg "Doc" Gibbs