



Boys State Leadership Program Fact Sheet

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL DELEGATES, SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES, AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Connecticut Boys State Web-site

For additional information pertaining to The American Legion Boys State, Department of Connecticut, visit our website: www.ctlegion.org or www.ctboysstate.org

Program Site and Date

The American Legion, Department of Connecticut, will sponsor **2026** Boys State on the campus of the University of New Haven in West Haven from **Saturday, June 27 to Thursday, July 2, 2026.**

Program Check-in

Dress is casual for check in. The boys will be told when to dress up. Boys State registration will be between **10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. on Saturday, June 27th** at Celentano Hall, building #30 (see map) on Ruden St. Please Park in the parking area behind Celentano Hall, you may enter there and proceed to the main entrance. You will be registered, given instructions and room assignments. You will be dismissed Thursday afternoon, July 2nd, at approximately 1:30 P.M. You might want to check out the [University of New Haven interactive map](#)



Boys State Leadership Program Objectives

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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Selection of Citizens

Boys are selected based on their leadership ability, academic merit, and interpersonal skills. It is important to note Boys State is not 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 Connecticut. Therefore, the Department Boys State Commission asks for **one or more boy(s) from each accredited high school** (public or private) to be nominated by the school to attend.

Characteristics of the "Ideal" Connecticut Boys Stater

To be selected for nomination or appointment as a Connecticut 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)



Nominating a Delegate 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.

Once you have chosen which students you would like to participate you should notify the local American Legion Post that your school has students who are interested in attending the program. The local Post will then either come to the school to interview the students or have them come to the Post to be interviewed so the Post can make their selections on who will attend the program.

Program Application

Application to the program can now be started online. Go to www.ctboysstate.com or www.ctlegion.org to find the application and checklist. It is quick and simple. Application must be submitted to and approved by the sponsoring American Legion Post. If you have any questions or problems, you may contact Department Headquarters at 860-436-9986.



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BOYS STATE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

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.

Is There a Talent Show?

On Wednesday evening, we will have a Boys State Talent Show....and it is always amazing to see the Talent that exists with this group! Bring your instruments and solo music to help you perform!

Can My Parents/ Family Attend the Commencement?

Yes, parents may attend the Boys State commencement on Thursday at approximately 2:00 P.M. in Bldg. 27 (David A Beckerman Recreation Center), there should be plenty of seating available.

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 posting of colors or flag ceremonies, visiting dignitaries, session speakers, etc.).

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

Generally, we do not allow any Boys State participants to leave the program. 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.

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Who Can I Contact If I Have Specific Questions?

Feel free to contact Dave Greenleaf, Boys State Chairman at DavidGreenleaf@hotmail.com

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.





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Packing for Boys State

Checklist of Items to bring to Boys State:

Dress Code:

- Shorts and T-shirts are the general attire for most of the program. Collared shirts (polo shirt) and non-athletic shorts will be expected when meeting guest speakers. Prepare for several shirt changes in hot weather
- Long pants, belt, jacket and tie, button shirt, dress shoes and socks are required for graduation and opening ceremonies on Saturday evening.
- Sneakers (non-marking soles)
- Light sweater or Jacket
- Boys often prefer to dress up when making campaign speeches (not required)
- Hats are **not** to be worn indoors.

****NOTE:** Under no circumstances will tank tops, clothing with holes or any other inappropriate clothing be allowed during our program. Our goal is to present a positive and proper image to both the students and the University.

Additional Items:

- Towels (2)
- Bath soap and shampoo, shower shoes
- Underwear, socks, sleepwear
- Personal hygiene supplies – Shaving Kit – Toothbrush and Toothpaste – Medications if needed
- Appropriate clothing and shoes if participating in team sports (shorts are allowed)
- Notebooks and pens/pencils for taking notes.
- If participating in the talent show, bring your instrument, or music.
- Water and snacks
- Bedding Required: Twin extra-long sheets, pillowcase, blanket or sleeping bag and a pillow.

Technology

- Personal laptops, school issued laptops or tablets will be useful during the program but are NOT required. Any devices brought are NOT the responsibility of Connecticut Boys State.
- Access to Google Classroom will be useful
- Cell phone - Cell phones may not be used during guest speaker sessions and program presentations.
- Cell phone charger

Items provided:

- One Boys State t-shirt with registration
- All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) during the program