

Louisiana Boys State Salutes



Your Support and Dedication
Will Not Be Forgotten.



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Session
74

June 23 – June 29, 2013



Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana



Welcome

I want to welcome each of you young men to The American Legion Boys State Program at Northwestern State University.

At Louisiana Boys State, you will not receive lessons on how to be a leader. By merit of being invited, you show that you already have the seeds of leadership. What will happen at Louisiana Boys State is the tradition of "learning by doing." You will be tasked with creating the 51st state in all components of government, including local, regional and statewide.

During the program you will be surrounded by similar young men, those who – like you – have distinguished themselves as leaders. You join an organization that has existed in Louisiana for more than 70 years. You are now among an elite group of men who have gone on to become business leaders, doctors, legislators, governors and presidents.

God bless you and we look forward to seeing you on NSU's campus,

Harold Burson

Chairman, Boys State Commission

8430 Wilderness Way

Shreveport, LA 71116

(318) 866-9696

–or–

(318) 458-9760

Assistant

Larry J. Abshire

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Objective

The objective of Boys State is to educate our youth in the duties, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. The program teaches the practical mechanics of government by actually performing the functions of local, parish and state elected officials. Applications of all of the principles of democratic government are used in every possible way. The Constitution and statutes for the State of Louisiana are the basis for the development of the fundamental laws of Louisiana Boys State. Boys State is regarded as a mythical 51st state with statutes and ordinances constructed by the citizens to govern themselves.

Citizens of Boys State will not only be required to use knowledge already acquired concerning the political machinery of a state, but they will also find themselves performing the same duties as real office holders in the everyday world. The citizens organize their own city, parish and state governments. They choose their own officials in accordance with regular election procedures. They learn the duties of offices on the city, parish and state level. They introduce and debate their own bills in the state legislature. Justice is administered through their own law enforcement agencies and courts. They experience the nomination process used by political party conventions and use actual voting machines for the election of state officials.

At Boys State, the citizens have an opportunity to learn that government is only what they make of it. Everything learned is accomplished by a hands-on approach.

"An eye opening experience that motivates the leaders to rise."

— Josh C., former Boys State Governor

General Information

Boys State is a long-standing American Legion Youth Program

We are firm in our conviction that the hope of the free world depends largely upon the integrity and character of the citizens of the United States. To accomplish this end and to cultivate a sense of individual responsibility. The American Legion developed this program to instill in the hearts and minds of our young men a love of justice, freedom and democracy.

The Boys State program exemplifies The American Legion's conviction that only through a better understanding can we hope to maintain, not only law and order, but to ensure for generations to come, the American way of life.

General Regulations

The general regulations governing Boys State are established by The American Legion Boys State Commission and administered through the Chairman. He is assisted by the District Procurement Chairpersons, Boys State Staff, Assistant Chairman, Counselors and The American Legion Staff. Any deviations must be approved by the District Chair and in turn, by the Chairman.

Sponsorships

Boys State is a program of The American Legion, Department of Louisiana. The program receives additional support from many civic groups and businesses. A citizen must be sponsored through an American Legion Post in order to attend the program. For more information, please contact the Procurement Chairperson from your district.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome to visit for the Capital Program, which will be conducted on Friday afternoon. For more information on the Capital Program, visit LABoysState.com

General Information

- 1.** Health and Medical: Carry the signed medical form on your person. Do not place the form in your luggage, you will present it immediately at registration.
- 2.** The program is quite strenuous, involving a great deal of walking in typical Louisiana summer weather, and only those capable should participate.
- 3.** All citizens are expected to enter all phases of the program and participate in the many activities.
- 4.** It is helpful to talk with former citizens from your school. Learn about the program and any other insight they may have to offer.
- 5.** Contact The American Legion Post representative at least two weeks prior to the start of Boys State. Advise the representative that you will definitely be a part of the program. The representative will have information about the location and time to be at the transportation pick-up point.
- 6.** Carefully read all materials sent to you and bring them with you to the program.
- 7.** Upon returning home, please be prepared if asked to attend a meeting at the local American Legion Post and make a report on your experiences at the program.
- 8.** No campaign material — for any office, on any level — are allowed to be prepared in advance and brought to Louisiana Boys State.

General Information

9. Each citizen is expected to remain with the program the entire session.
10. Money: transportation, room and meals are paid for through sponsorships. Other items such as snacks, candy, chips and soft drinks are available regularly from NSU's student organizations. Pizza can be purchased two nights of the program, generally at a cost of \$10/pizza. One shirt is provided, but it is advisable to buy two additional shirts, one of which is exchanged with Louisiana Girls State. Shirts are \$10.
11. If prescription medication is required, refrigeration, accommodations can be made, please inform Legion before and upon arrival to Boys State.
12. DO NOT bring expensive items such as jewelry, cameras, iPods, etc. Cell phones may only be used during free times, of which, there is little. Use of phones will NOT be permitted during the program sessions. This disrupts the session and distracts from the experience of Boys State. Should there be a family emergency, contact information is provided at the end of this brochure.
13. Neither Northwestern State University nor Louisiana Boys State will be responsible for lost or stolen property. Safeguard your items.
14. During the program, each citizen should write to his American Legion sponsor and/or co-sponsor expressing thanks for being able to attend the program. The name of the sponsor will be on the application card. Please bring paper and a stamped envelope for this purpose.

15. All luggage items, including hanging bags and backpacks must be labeled for identification. Please include your name, hometown and district.
16. There will be a Boys and Girls State social attended by the citizens, counselors and staff. Please bring appropriate clothing — a dress shirt and slacks. During the social, the extra Boys State shirt will be presented to the citizens of Girls State.
17. Finally, each citizen who attends the program is a young adult and should represent their school, their sponsor, The American Legion and Louisiana Boys State with the utmost integrity.

MAILING ADDRESSES

The Citizen (while at Boys State):

Citizen's Full Name
Louisiana Boys State
Northwestern State University
Varnado Hall
541 University Parkway
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Boys State Program Information:

The American Legion
Louisiana Boys State
P.O. Box 3749
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Boys State Commission

Harold Burson — Chairman

FIRST DISTRICT

Anthony J. Haywood Jr.
P.O. Box 8380
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New Orleans, LA 70182-8380
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504-283-9300 (Work/Fax)
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Assistant

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larryabshire@netcommander.com

Procurement Chairmen

The Procurement Chairman serves as the liaison between the Posts and the Chairman and is responsible for the transportation and distribution of quotas to posts, and in turn, the schools. Posts and school officials are urged to refer any questions to the respective Chairperson listed below:

FIRST DISTRICT

Anthony J. Haywood Jr.
P.O. Box 8380
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New Orleans, LA 70182-8380
866-966-5499 (Work)
504-283-9300 (Work/Fax)
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SECOND DISTRICT

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The Selection Process

These guidelines should be followed as closely as possible by the Post Commander and the Post Boys State Chairperson to ensure uniform and equitable selection in all areas of the state. It is our intent that only outstanding young men participate as citizens of Boys State ... Leadership, character, scholarship and patriotism are specific characteristics to be considered during the selection process.

THE FINAL SELECTION OF CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POST. TO DO THIS, AN INTERVIEW BY THE POST MEMBERS IS NECESSARY.

There will be areas where two or more schools will nominate citizens to one post. There will also be areas where more than one post will receive nominees from one school. Keep in mind the concept of equitable. Where two or more schools send to one post, the number of students selected shall be the total of both school quotas. Where two or more posts sponsor students from a single school, the post must cooperate to determine how many of the school's quota may be sponsored by each.

“A phenomenal week of growth, leadership, acceptance and camaraderie.”

— Ethan C., Citizen 2012

Inevitably, cancellations and vacancies will occur. Each post is asked to select both citizens and alternates. Commitments for housing, meals, etc. must be made in advance. Post should be prepared to fill last minute vacancies with alternates. To ensure that the District Procurement Chairman has last minute access to alternates, please enter on the back of the Chairman and the District cards, the name, phone number and cell number of an alternate. Then enter on the top, front side of those cards “Alternates on back.” This may reduce “no shows.” Either the Chairman or the District Chairperson

may have some success contacting alternates who want to attend the program. Although citizens are asked to contact the Post Chairperson at least two weeks in advance, many do not because schools are not in session and it had been a school counselor who made the selection.

Hopefully, when that occurs, the Post Chairperson will attempt to make contact to confirm that all citizens will be with us on Day 1 of the program. With a couple of weeks to work with, he may be able to obtain an alternate and avoid the loss of a sponsor's money.

Enrollment Deadline — May 20

It is absolutely necessary for all applications and fees to be filed with the Department Headquarters no later than the close of business on May 20. By June 1, all Day 1 documents must be completed for the university, including dormitory and bed assignments. The university must know where our citizens are located at all times. Each of us who are a part of Boys State will be included in the Northwestern University emergency evacuation plans for the duration of the program. To accomplish all of this, the District Chairperson must establish an earlier date for receipt of the application cards from each post. Three months should be adequate for the selection process to be completed. Keep in mind that final exams begin in early May. Post Chairpersons should be interviewing and selecting citizens and alternates between the beginning of February and the end of April.

The Boys State Chairperson

is responsible for the supervision of all matters pertaining to the program at the local level. The chairperson serves an important role as the liaison between the post and schools as well as assisting in obtaining sponsors, interviewing citizens and maintaining contact with the District Chairperson. Seek cooperation of the schools, requesting that they each submit more names than the school quota in order to have alternates if needed. Explain to the school the reason why extra names are needed for the program.

The quota for the 74th session is based upon allocated space at Northwestern. We will have eight parishes, each consisting of two cities.

Item Checklist

1. Signed Medical Form.
2. If applying – Samsung Scholarship Form fully completed, signed and with proper school seal.
3. Bedding — including a set of twin sheets or sleeping bag, blanket, pillows and pillow cases.
4. Bath Towels and washcloths for the entire week.
5. All medicines — inhalers, insulin and prescription medicine.
6. Toiletries — deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream, mouthwash, etc.
7. Tennis shoes or comfortable walking shoes and socks.
8. Clothing — the Boys State shirt must be worn at all times during the program, one Boys State shirt is provided. It is suggested that citizens purchase two more. Shorts and jeans — keep in mind the hot weather. Pack lightly.
9. Dress shirt and slacks for the Boys State / Girls State social. A new Boys State shirt may be traded for a Girls State shirt at the social.
10. Sports coat and slacks or suit, dress shirt and tie, dress shoes and socks are required for citizens desiring to run for a State Office.
11. Shower shoes or flip-flops for shower and dorms only.

12. Notebook and pen/pencils.
13. Umbrella or poncho.
14. Money for extra shirts — cost is \$10.00 each — plus pizza and snacks; \$50.00 should be ample.
15. A backpack for everyday use.
16. Positive attitude and an open mind!!!

Eligibility

Eligibility to attend Boys State is limited to young men between their junior and senior years of high school who attend an approved Louisiana High School. It is this educational level that best fits the program and will permit the students to return home and use their leadership skills developed through Boys State to enhance their school and community during their senior year. Students who will not return to a Louisiana school may not participate.

The Chairman reserves the right to accept or reject any application.

Students who have chronic or acute medical conditions such as a recent operation or severe illness cannot be accepted.

Students with documented permanent disabilities are eligible to attend. In such cases, a family member or friend of the citizen's may be required to assist him.

Each student must remain with the program for the entire session in order to be considered as having completed the program.

Anyone who fails to abide by the rules will have his citizenship terminated and The American Legion, school and the sponsor will be advised.

Boys State Code of Conduct

The violation of the following code will result in the dismissal of a Boys State Citizen from the program. Any citizen dismissed for violating the CODE OF CONDUCT will not be recognized as having been a delegate to Boys State. In addition, a letter will be sent to the delegate's high school principal and the sponsoring American Legion Post.

1. The use of tobacco products, alcohol and/or illegal drugs is prohibited. If you cannot refrain from using these items during this program, we ask that you decline your invitation to attend the program.
2. In accordance to Louisiana law and Northwestern State University policy, hazing or abuse is unacceptable and could also result in arrest by local authorities.
3. Intentional destruction or vandalism to Boys State or Northwestern State University property will not only result in dismissal from the program, but could require restitution or prosecution for such damages.
4. Disrespect, harassment or repeated lack of cooperation with Boys State staff, counselors, The American Legion staff or Northwestern State University staff, faculty or students will not be tolerated.
5. Intentional or repeated use of abusive language or profanity will not be allowed as any part of the program. This includes, but is not limited to songs, chants, banners, laws, speeches debates, party conventions, etc.

6. Boys State citizens are not to be in any area, dorms, meetings, etc. of Girls State with the exception of the social, joint convocations or any officially designated program conducted by Boys State during the duration of the program.

7. All citizens are expected to be active participants in all aspects of the Boys State program and to cooperate with all Boys State staff, The American Legion and Northwestern State University personnel.

8. No citizen of Boys State shall harass or disrespect another citizen of Boys State because of their beliefs, religious practices, ethnic heritage or race.

9. No citizen of Boys State should be alone on campus at any time during the program. Citizens must be accompanied as a group or individual at all times by a Boys State staff member or counselor, an American Legion staff member or a Northwestern State University official or student worker.

10. Individual candidate speeches that include vulgarity or other derogatory or inappropriate remarks that could be interpreted as racist or sexually explicit will result in termination of that candidate's campaign, by expulsion from Boys State. These rules are in effect throughout the entire program, including the last night.

Northwestern University offers Boys State Citizens an opportunity to obtain college credit for Boys State and receive scholarship money for having been a citizen of Louisiana Boys State.

For more information visit LaBoysState.com
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana