

**BOYS STATE PLEDGE**

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS.

I HAVE NEVER ATTENDED THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE.

I SINCERELY WANT TO ATTEND TEXAS BOYS STATE, AND IF ACCEPTED, WILL:

TAKE A SERIOUS AND CONSCIENTIOUS INTEREST IN DISCHARGING MY DUTIES AS A CITIZEN;

OBEY THE RULES OF BOYS STATE;

RESPECT THE JUDGEMENT OF THE BOYS STATE DIRECTOR, COUNSELORS, AND STAFF;

PARTICIPATE IN ALL ACTIVITIES;

SEEK ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE, AND IF ELECTED OR APPOINTED, SERVE THAT OFFICE;

KEEP MYSELF NEAT AND WELL GROOMED AT ALL TIMES;

AVOID THE USE OF PROFANE LANGUAGE AND ACTIONS; AND

REFRAIN FROM POSSESSION, PURCHASE, CONSUMPTION, OR RECEIPT OF CIGARETTES OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ALCOHOL, AND ILLICIT DRUGS.

UPON MY RETURN HOME FROM BOYS STATE, I WILL:

MAKE A FORMAL ORAL OR WRITTEN REPORT TO MY SPONSOR(S), AND

BRIEF NEXT YEAR'S BOYS STATE DELEGATE(S) FROM MY SCHOOL.

**DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS**

C.W. SPARKS.....Commander  
WILLIAM WEST..... Adjutant  
ROBERT SQUYRES...Director of Internal Affairs

**AMERICANISM COMMISSION**

TOM TVRDIK .....Chairman  
MARTHA FOLMAR ..... Vice Chairman  
DURRELL STEVENS .....Member  
JOE FISHER.....Member  
BOB ROBERTS ..... Division Commander

**BOYS STATE COMMITTEE**

ROBERT L. JACKSON .....Chairman  
STAN DOWELL ..... Director  
PAUL BARKER .....Member  
DR. HALSEY SETTLE. ....Member  
DR. W. FIRMAN HAYNIE .....Director Emeritus

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**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
67th ANNIVERSARY**

**BOYS STATE**



**June 2 - June 8, 2007**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
at  
Austin**

**FOREWORD**

The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government.

By teaching youth to understand and appreciate the basic principles involved in the successful management of a democratic society, we can keep America strong and ensure freedom for future generations. These are the distinguished and long standing objectives of American Legion Boys State.

We accomplish them through a unique summertime program complete with its governing bodies and elected public officials. Rather than classroom lectures and textbook learning, we emphasize participation and personal experience in a model state.

Boys State was founded, and its courses of instruction designed, to supplement the information taught in high school civics classes. Boys State teaches that our form of government is good and that its preservation depends on intelligent, informed and loyal citizens.

Young men chosen to be Boys State citizens can look forward to a challenging experience, acquiring a better understanding and deeper regard for our nation's legacy of freedom and democracy.

**AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE**

Boys State developed from two concepts. First, we should offer youth a better perspective of the practical operation of government. Second, the individual is an integral part and commensurately responsible for the character and success of his government.

Boys State, therefore, is an activity of high educational value, born out of a need for youth training in practical citizenship. It is a leadership action program in which qualified male high school juniors develop a working knowledge of the structure of government. It teaches the young citizens that government is just what they make it.

**WEBSITE**

For additional information pertaining to The American Legion Boys State, Department of Texas, visit our website at <http://www.txlegionbstate.org>.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

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

- **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 the detailed study of our government.** The American Legion wants to create more than just a passive interest in the actual study of government by creating a desire for knowledge.
- **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 American Legion attempts to bring the boys into the realization of how wonderful it is to be an American!

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 . . .”**

**PROGRAM SITE AND DATE**

The American Legion, Department of Texas, will sponsor the **2007** Boys State on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin, from **Saturday, June 2, to Friday, June 8, 2007.**

Delegate registration will be from **1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, June 2, 2007** in Jester Center Halls at MLK Blvd. & Speedway St. in Austin, Texas.

## THE OPERATION OF BOYS STATE

The American Legion, Department of Texas, entrusts the responsibility for the Boys State program to the Boys State Chairman and the Boys State Director. Assisting in the operation is a volunteer staff of educators, public servants, and other professionals, many of whom are drawn from the membership of The American Legion.

**The Boys State Chairman** is the Chief Executive Officer of Boys State. He enforces the policies and mandates of the Department Boys State Committee, the Department Americanism Commission, the Department Executive Committee, and the instructions of the Department Commander. He is responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of Boys State and supervises the annual session.

**The Boys State Director** is the executive head of Boys State during the annual session. During the session, he has the full authority to enforce the policies and mandates of the Department Boys State Committee, the Department Americanism Commission, the Department Executive Committee, and the instructions of the Boys State Chairman and the Department Commander. He is responsible for the appointment of all counselor staff members subject to ratification by the Boys State Committee.

**The Administrative Counselors** are responsible for providing administrative services such as the Boys State office, bank, post office, clinic, and store.

**The City Counselors** are responsible for groups of up to forty-four boys that comprise a "city" within Texas Boys State. These Counselors have the physical welfare of the young men as their chief responsibility, with the supervision of city activities and elections also a part of their overall duties. Previous Boys State citizens, American Legionnaires, and U.S. Service Academy cadets or midshipmen fill many counselor positions.

**The Instructional staff** consists of individuals from both the Administrative and the City Counselor staffs. As instructors, they are responsible for the educational and recreational aspects of the overall program. This group usually consists of classroom instructors, the counselors, and advisors for those phases where the Boys State citizens "*learn by doing*." They are selected for expertise in their respective fields of law, education, public service, and the military.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR CITIZENS

The Department Boys State Committee has established certain qualifications for prospective citizens of THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

To be eligible for nomination or appointment as a Boys State delegate, the candidate must:

- be a male high school student,
- have successfully completed his junior year,
- have at least one semester remaining,
- have not previously attended Boys State,
- volunteer to participate in Boys State,
- sign the Boys State Pledge,
- be recommended by his school officials,
- have parents'/guardians' permission to attend, and
- be certified by the sponsoring American Legion post.

## SELECTION OF CITIZENS

In the actual selection of Boys State citizens, merit and ability alone are the basis for selection. We permit no boys to attend because of either poverty or wealth. Boys State is not a program for underprivileged boys, nor a summer camp for recreation. American Legion Posts or other community-minded organizations pay fees, or "tuition," with no expense to the young men.

We wish to secure equal delegate representation from all areas of the State of Texas. Therefore, the Department Boys State Committee assigns a quota of one Boys State delegate from each accredited four-year high school in the state.

To be selected for nomination or appointment as a Texas Boys State delegate, the candidate must demonstrate:

- a sincere desire to attend - 25%
- strong leadership abilities - 15%
- outstanding scholastic achievement - 15%
- good character - 15%
- competitive spirit - 15%
- ability to work with others - 15%

## NOMINATION

High school officials (administrators, faculty members, and counselors) may nominate qualified students meeting the eligibility requirements and selection criteria.

## APPOINTMENT

Each local American Legion post may appoint one delegate for each accredited 4-year high school in its general area. Appointees may be selected from the list of nominees provided by the high school(s). The appointee must meet the eligibility requirements and selection criteria.

**IMPORTANT:** Candidates for appointment **must** agree to participate in the Boys State program **full time**. Delegates must plan arrival **no later** than scheduled registration and departure **no earlier** than scheduled dismissal. Late arrivals, early departures, and excused absences from the program **are not** allowed.

## CERTIFICATION

When submitted to Department Headquarters, the Texas American Legion Boys State Application card **must be completed and signed by:**

- the APPLICANT,
- the PARENT or Legal Guardian,
- the Applicant's PHYSICIAN,
- a SCHOOL Administrator, and
- the LEGION SPONSOR.

The signature of the Legion Sponsor certifies the appointee has been interviewed and meets the eligibility requirements and selection criteria.

## REGISTRATION

To register an appointee as a delegate to Texas American Legion Boys State, the Department Headquarters must receive the **registration fee** and the **completed** application by **March 15, 2007**. The sponsor should remit the **\$275.00** registration fee by check. It should be payable to "THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS."

The registration fee **does not** cover transportation expenses. The sponsoring American Legion post is solely responsible for the round trip transportation arrangements and expenses between a delegate's home and the site of the American Legion Boys State program. The American Legion, Department of Texas, assumes no responsibility for transportation arrangements and expenses of delegates.

## DELEGATE QUOTA

The maximum enrollment for the **2007** Texas American Legion Boys State is **1,008** delegates.

## ALTERNATE DELEGATE

If a registered delegate cannot attend the program, the sponsoring American Legion Post must select an alternate appointee. The post must notify the Department Adjutant of the change immediately; failure to do so will result in automatic forfeiture of the registration fee. We will then offer the delegate appointment to another post. We must receive the completed application card for the alternate appointee in Department Headquarters by **April 30, 2007**. We will accept no applications after this date.

It is the responsibility of the sponsoring post to ensure a registered delegate attends the American Legion Boys State program. We **will not** refund the registration fee for a registered delegate failing to attend. We will refund the registration **only** for an appointee not accepted as a delegate to Texas American Legion Boys State.

## ADDITIONAL DELEGATE

If we have not filled the established quota of **1,008** delegates by the registration deadline of **March 15, 2007**, the Department Adjutant will accept additional delegates. He will continue to do so until such time we have filled the delegate quota or the ADDITIONAL DELEGATE deadline of **April 30, 2007**, whichever occurs first.

The sponsoring American Legion post may appoint an unlimited number of ADDITIONAL DELEGATES. We must receive the completed application card for each additional appointee in Department Headquarters by **April 30, 2007**. We will accept no applications after this date.

The sponsoring American Legion post must agree to pay the registration fee for each appointee accepted as an ADDITIONAL DELEGATE. **Do not** submit the registration fee for an ADDITIONAL DELEGATE with the application card. The Department Adjutant will notify the sponsoring post if we have accepted an Additional Delegate appointee and when to submit the registration fee.

The criteria for accepting an ADDITIONAL DELEGATE from the sponsoring American Legion post will be:

- postmark date of the application,
- size of the high school represented,
- number of delegates sponsored the previous year,
- number of high schools and post membership.