

2024 POST COORDINATOR GUIDE

The American Legion Colorado Boys State

A Week That Will Shape A Lifetime!

CONTENTS

AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE	4
THE OBJECTIVES OF AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE	5
HOW AND WHY AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE STARTED	5
WHAT AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE IS NOT!	6
THEN WHAT IS AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE?	6
PROMOTING THE AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE PROGRAM	7
TOOLS FOR SELLING THE PROGRAM	8
GETTING EVERYONE INFORMED AND INVOLVED	9
SUMMARY	11
AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE APPLICATION & REGISTRATION	12
SELECTION OF CANDIDATES TO ATTEND COLORADO BOYS STATE	13
SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP	14
AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM	14
CENTER FOR AMERICAN VALUES AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST	15
SAMPLE LETTER TO SPONSORS	16
SAMPLE SCHOOL LETTER	
SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR POST USE WITH LOCAL NEWS MEDIA	
POST SPONSORSHIP SUMMARY FORM	
AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE CONTACTS	
AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE CONTACTS	20

AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE

Welcome and thank you for helping with our Boys State Program. As Boys State Coordinator for your Post, you hold a very important position. Your personal involvement in our program will to a large part determine its success.

The purpose of this Post Coordinator's Guide is to assure you that you are not working alone and to provide you with suggestions and guidance.

The following provides a quick snapshot of the basic responsibilities for the Post Coordinator to ensure a successful program:

- 1. Educate your Post about American Legion Colorado Boys State. Promotional materials are posted on the Boys State website. You may want to ask for volunteers from your Post to assist you.
- 2. You will be the primary interface with the high schools in your area and your local community. Seek out potential boys to attend Boys State. Distribute promotional materials to high schools in your community. Meet with and discuss American Legion Colorado Boys State with school counselors and school administrators.
- 3. Follow-up via email with any boy AND his parent/guardian referred to you from headquarters who applied through our website. IT IS IMPERATIVE YOU MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE YOUNG MAN WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE REFERRAL.
- 4. Meet with the boy and their parent/guardian to confirm your post sponsorship and explain the program. Make sure parents understand The American Legion pays all tuition costs for attending American Legion Colorado Boys State, but it is their responsibility to provide transportation to and from the program.

This book has been prepared for you. It will give you an appreciation of American Legion Colorado Boys State. If you have additional questions, reach out to one of the Colorado Boys State contacts on the back page.

THE OBJECTIVES OF AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE

Boys State is a fundamental program within the Americanism pillar of The American Legion. A program of this scope encompasses many important objectives. Those, which we, The American Legion, feel, are most important and for which we strive the hardest are:

• To Develop Civic Leadership and Pride in American Citizenship:

It is our earnest hope that each young man attending an American Legion Boys State will return to his community a better citizen and that we will have aroused in him a desire to demonstrate this fact by his willingness to make civic contributions that will help make his community a better place in which to live.

• To Arouse a Keen Interest in the Detailed Study of Our Government:

Here we strive to introduce and develop more than just a passive interest in the actual study of government; we strive to create an interest that will be born of the desire for knowledge through hands-on self-government. To understand that rights and liberties are maintained through the exercise of duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

- To Develop an Understanding of American Traditions and Belief in The United States of America: Here we desire to develop in the young men a greater appreciation for our unique American form of government and its role in shaping the history, heritage and destiny of this nation, and a loyalty to its ideals and institutions.
- To Arouse in the Young Citizen a Determination to Maintain Our Form of Government: We strive to impress upon the young men the blessings of liberty and unique privilege of American citizenship! We also try to instill in each young man a sense of Americanism by the patriotic ceremonies we conduct throughout the program week.
- The final two objectives are taken 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..."

HOW AND WHY AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE STARTED

Boys State was born of a desire to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps of the 1930's, where boys of high school age were being taught that democracy had outworn its usefulness and should be replaced by a new form of government, namely Fascism.

The American Legion Boys State program was formulated in the minds of Legionnaires Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, both educators and both members of The American Legion of Illinois. It was their desire to start a counter movement within the ranks of American youth that would develop a better understanding of our system of government, and to instill in our youth a desire to preserve it. The format for the American Legion Boys State was laid out by Harold Card and fashioned from a method employed by him in earlier years to properly police and organize a Boy Scout camp. Shorthanded on staff, he permitted the boys to govern themselves, hold an election and elect a mayor and a city council. Appointments were made to cover positions like police, fire, health and sanitation officials. Harold Card quickly found that the boys became so enthused in carrying out their "city" duties; they almost neglected their Scout assignments. The boys were learning by doing.

The first American Legion Boys State was conducted at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois, in June 1935. Now, over 88 years later, the program is still providing that opportunity to young men...to learn by doing, and through this time well over one million young men have experienced American Legion Boys State. Though Fascism no longer poses a threat in today's world, our way of life is still threatened by forms of government alien to our democratic ideals, and by apathy among our own citizens. The American Legion continues to sponsor and to conduct Boys State in the belief that young citizens who are familiar with the operation of our system of government will be better prepared to uphold its ideals and maintain it for future generations.

WHAT AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE IS NOT!

The American Legion Colorado Boys State is NOT a week's vacation or an opportunity for high school parliamentarians to dominate a government session. Despite what you may have heard, The American Legion Colorado Boys State is NOT a leadership seminar although delegates do have an excellent opportunity to lead during the week. It is NOT a sports camp, but delegates do have the chance to compete athletically with many premier athletes during recreation periods. It is NOT a government course, even though instruction in state and local government is provided. The American Legion Colorado Boys State is NOT military or religious training, but the subjects of patriotism and faith are an important, integral part of the Boys State Experience.

THEN WHAT <u>IS</u> AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE?

The motto of The American Legion, "For God and Country," serves as a backbone which supports our intensive week-long discovery of the essence of civic duty, the responsibilities of citizenship, and understanding of the American way of life from a participatory perspective. The delegate will not only learn how our American system of government and politics works theoretically, but also in a hands-on laboratory setting. He will experience all of this as one of the best and brightest high school seniors to be. Simply stated, it is—A WEEK THAT WILL SHAPE A LIFETIME.

As a program of The American Legion, Boys State evolved from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government; that the individual is an integral part and commensurately responsible for the character and success of his government. As such, it is an activity of high educational value, born out of a need for youth training in practical citizenship.

American Legion Colorado Boys State is easily classified as a leadership action program where qualified male high school juniors take part in a practical government course designed to develop a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon them the fact that government is just what they make it.

Colorado Boys State is staffed by American Legion volunteers from posts across the state, who function as Advisors during the week, working in tandem with the Counselors, who are typically former Boys State graduates. Counselors work directly with the boys, guiding them through each activity, while Advisors function in more of a supervisory role. Each Advisor adds a certain X-factor to the program, bringing their life and military experience to the mission of mentorship and leadership development during the week.

PROMOTING THE AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE PROGRAM

The ideas and tools that the Department of Colorado offers may not sell American Legion Colorado Boys State on their own. They are merely tools to help you generate excitement about the program and "close the sale". The promotional materials (videos, poster and website) help describe the concept of our program and are designed to get students interested in the program, obtain sponsors, educate parents and high school administrators and get them interested in participating in this outstanding government education and citizenship program.

School administrators, guidance counselors, and junior-year social studies teachers are ideally positioned to direct qualified boys to our program!

The goal in providing suggestions and tools is to direct the students, faculty and sponsors to our website www.CoLegionBoysState.org for more information and to apply online to attend Boys State.

Following are suggestions on how you can use the tools like the Boys State poster, and website, along with our Boys State program staff, to support your efforts in promoting our program. We encourage you to be creative and to involve all of your Legion Family members.

TOOLS FOR SELLING THE PROGRAM

Use the Tools Available to You

We have provided you with some helpful tools to assist in selling our program to students, school administrators, sponsors, and your fellow Legion Family members. Our goal is to provide a starting point to validate and describe the program in general terms.

The American Legion Colorado Boys State Website www.CoLegionBoysState.org

As Post Coordinator for Boys State, it is critical that you familiarize yourself with the Colorado Boys State website and fully understand the on-line application process!

The "Post Coordinator" section of the website contains the 2024 Post Coordinator Guide, instructions, sponsorship form, and promotional materials for downloading.

Our Colorado Boys State website has a wealth of information about our program. School counselors can use it to review the Daily Guide and Boys State Manual to see exactly what our program is about.

Boys interested in our program can learn about it on the website. They can see pictures, videos, and letters from former Boys State graduates, a list of prominent former Boys State grads and lots more. Information about scholarships and how to apply for the College Credits they earn by participating in our program can also be found.

***NEW this year - 2024 Application & Registration Process: Colorado Boys State applicants begin their application on-line and will complete their registrations on-line. Once a boy has applied on-line, we will contact the Post representative that is nearest or is working with that particular high school.

All boys are sponsored by a local American Legion Post. The Post representative is responsible for interviewing the boys and meeting with his parents. If you have any questions, please contact the Boys State Director or Chairman for advice.

The Brochure

The American Legion Colorado Boys State brochure is a great promotional tool. It is available in PDF format on the website. They can be distributed to your schools, local business partners and especially to prospective Boys State delegates. The main focus of the brochure is to direct those interested to our website www.Color.egionBoysState.org to learn more about our program and for the boys to apply online to begin the process of registering for Boys State.

The Poster

The poster is designed to direct the students to the website to view the video and apply to Boys State. It is available in PDF format on the "Post Coordinator" tab on the website.

When you meet with school officials, ask them to display the posters through the school or in specific locations such as government or social studies classrooms. They can also be displayed anywhere that potential participants may congregate.

GETTING EVERYONE INFORMED AND INVOLVED

Develop a Plan for Your Individual Program

Each Post should develop a marketing plan for their program in much the same form as any business would use to sell their products and services. Establish specific goals and then decide how you will achieve them. Every Post should also have a plan for their portion of the overall goal. **Decide how you will contact every high school in your district or area of concern and then decide what you do once they are contacted.** Many people feel more comfortable in a sales situation when they have a script outlining what to say and do once they gain access to the guidance counselor or school principal.

The most important step in any sales call is closing the deal. Make sure you get some type of commitment when you leave any sales situation. Confirm with the school administrator, for instance, that they will direct qualified students to the website, or that they will publicize the program in their school newspaper, in morning announcements and place posters within their school building. Try not to leave a sales call with only a vague commitment of support.

Get Your Local Post Support

One of the first steps in selling the Boys State program is to get your membership behind it. The best way to do that is for them to actually attend a session and see what a great program it is. American Legion Colorado Boys State is open for members to visit any time during the week-long program. Please advise the Director of your intentions to visit and he will make appropriate arrangements with our staff.

Make a presentation during a Post meeting and have former delegates visit, talk about their experience and thank your members personally. Then ask your members to help you sell the program in your community. Make them a part of your sales force.

Use a team approach. You can promote both Boys and Girls State programs at the same time. Your Post and unit can work together, and by doing so, will double your sales force. It will also avoid the possibility of sponsors and school administrators withholding support because of concerns about potential equal opportunity or fairness issues. (You may need to provide assurances that both Boys and Girls State are exempted under Title 20 of the U.S. Code prohibiting discrimination based on gender.)

American Legion members are encouraged to host open-houses for high school students, their parents, and educators to introduce the Boys State program. Have refreshments, show videos and provide literature. Members who support the "Veterans in the Classroom" initiative should use that opportunity to promote Boys State when speaking to high school juniors.

Get Support From Your Schools

Early in the school year, make an appointment to meet with your high school's principal, guidance counselor, teacher or all of these individuals to enlist support from them in identifying potential candidates for your program. It is important that your Post makes the final selection so as to avoid the appearance that the program is a school activity and subject to Title IX guidelines. Following are some agenda items for your meeting with school officials:

- Ask for time to meet with Junior classes (particularly U.S. history or Civics).
- Make yourself available for student newscasts and newspaper interviews
- Ask to distribute promotional posters/flyers
- Advertise in student newspapers, newsletters, and school social media

Don't forget the home-schooled students in your community. Contact their associations in your area for access to the students. Ask to be included in their conferences, newsletters, etc. Guide these students to our website to register through our on-line application process.

Seek Sponsors

If you have or need sponsors to donate money to support your delegates, the sales process is very similar to that of gaining support from your schools. Be prepared to tell sponsors how their donation will be used and what they will gain in return. In most cases, sponsors will realize immediately the value of their investment in our program. You can enhance the value of sponsorship by making sure they are properly and publicly recognized for their support.

Recruit Students

As mentioned previously, the poster, brochures and website are all designed to get the students interested in our programs, without going into specifics about each activity. The goal is to direct them from poster to website, and then get them to apply online and working with a Post contact as quickly and effortlessly as possible. It is then up to you to close the sale.

Respond quickly to referrals and be positive about the program. Know what the key aspects of our program are that will lead potential citizens to want to "close the deal." Talk about scholarships, college credits and the value of attendance on resumes and college applications. And be prepared to talk about the intangibles of character building and friendships that also come with participation in our program.

Don't Forget the Parents

Don't underestimate the influence that parents have on the activities of their children. Many parents are not familiar with the program and may need some reassurance that our program is well-managed. Emphasize The American Legion member supervision of the program. Contact your local parents and teacher's organizations and ask to make a presentation to them or invite them to your post for a presentation about the program.

Involve the Entire Boys State Program Staff

Colorado Boys State staff typically conduct monthly meetings at Department Headquarters (typically the first Saturday of each month) during the year to renew and refresh staff relationships, as well as provide local opportunity to brainstorm, implement new ideas, refresh each other with the program tools available and perpetuate excitement and motivation. You are invited and encouraged to attend our meetings (in person or via Zoom) or join our E-mail blast to stay informed about these meeting and up to date status on American Legion Colorado Boys State. Everyone can be actively involved with motivating Post membership and local educators in getting behind the Boys State program, such as assisting with the presentations to Posts, schools and parents by distributing brochures and the customized posters throughout the community, etc. We use the team approach.

SUMMARY

The key to promoting our Boys State program is in creativity and a desire to succeed in enriching the lives of your community's most outstanding young men. The tools and staff available to you provide a good starting point for you to describe our program's objectives and to validate the program for potential citizens, school administrators, sponsors and parents. You need to make the personal contacts, schedule the meetings and do the legwork necessary to recruit the students. Make sure the tools provided are actually seen and used to sell The American Legion Colorado Boys State program.

AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE APPLICATION & REGISTRATION PROCESS

***NEW this year - 2024 Application & Registration Process: All Colorado Boys State delegate applications and registrations will be completed on-line.

- 1. Students will fill out the initial on-line application. This information will go directly to Boys State staff, who will confirm student eligibility and that all required information is provided.
- 2. Boys State staff will then email an on-line registration link to the Student AND Parent, directing them to "Please electronically complete and digitally sign the attached registration document."
- 3. Concurrent with step 2, Boys State Chairman Jay Bowen will match the delegate with the nearest American Legion Post.
- 4. Once the on-line registration is completed and digitally signed, Boys State staff will review to ensure it is complete with all required signatures.
- 5. Chairman Bowen will contact the applicable Post Coordinator, requesting that he/she establish contact with <u>BOTH*</u> the student and parent to coordinate an in-person meeting to answer questions and <u>announce selection to 2024 Boys State</u>.
- *As per American Legion Youth Programs Risk Management policies and youth protection safeguards, when communicating with a delegate via email or text, you must include their parent/guardian. At no time should you have a one-on-one conversation. When conducting in-person meetings with delegates, either have a group meeting in a public place or require that a parent/guardian also attend.
 - 6. At that meeting, the Post Coordinator will <u>confirm post sponsorship</u> and be available to answer any additional questions about 2024 Colorado Boys State, to include the optional Samsung Scholarship and College Credit opportunities.
 - 7. At the end of the application season (May 2024), Post Coordinators will use the *Post Sponsorship Form* to confirm ALL sponsored boys and mail the completed form and sponsorship check to The American Legion Colorado Department Headquarters in Denver.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES TO ATTEND AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE

The American Legion Colorado Boys State Program is a highly specialized and competitive course of instruction and those young men selected will have the outstanding qualities necessary to participate and complete the citizenship course. The selection process for all delegates attending American Legion Colorado Boys State is under the supervision of the Colorado Boys State committee.

Desired Candidate Attributes for Selection

- Good moral character honesty and integrity
- Self-motivation strong work ethic and time management skills
- Academic aptitude scholarship is important but not paramount
- Self-reliance and willingness to compete with peers
- Demonstrate leadership and organizational qualities
- Belief in the ideals of "God and Country" on which The American Legion is founded.
- DESIRE The most important requirement for any boy to attend American Legion Colorado Boys State. He must want to attend and participate in our program.

In the actual selection of young men as citizens of American Legion Colorado Boys State, **DESIRE, MERIT AND ABILITY** should be the basis for selection.

No young man will be permitted nor deprived of the opportunity to participate solely based on poverty, economic status, religion or ethnic backgrounds, or relationship to members of The American Legion, school officials or others involved in the selection of candidates.

Young men with special needs are encouraged to apply to American Legion Colorado Boys State. We will make every effort to accommodate their needs, but each case will be evaluated on its own merits.

It is imperative that selected candidates contact their local American Legion Post if they are unable to attend American Legion Colorado Boys State.

Completed registrations must be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than May 1 to be considered.

SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

Samsung, a worldwide leader in electronics, endowed a scholarship fund of five million dollars to be administered by The American Legion. The endowment was made to show appreciation to U.S. veterans who came to the aid of Korea during its struggle against communist forces during the Korean War. "The Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the \$5,000,000 principal amount. One scholarship will be selectively awarded to an American Legion Colorado Boys State delegate based upon their application.

Eligibility:

High school juniors who participate in and complete either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program and is a direct descendant, i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. or a legally adopted child, of a U.S. wartime veteran who served on active duty.

Scholarship:

The scholarship is for undergraduate study only and may be used for: tuition, books, fees, and room and board. The selection of the scholarship winners will be based, in part, upon the following criteria: academic record; involvement in school activities; involvement in community activities; community service; financial need and additional bonus points in the selection process will be awarded to descendants of U.S. veterans of the Korean War.

Complete Samsung American Legion Scholarship program details are located at www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung. The scholarship application (available in Spring 2024) can be accessed and completed online at the American Legion Colorado Boys State website.

AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM

American Legion Colorado Boys State is now accredited through RTG & Associates, and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Boys State citizens qualify for three semester hours of Political Science elective credits by successfully participating in Colorado Boys State and completing this program.

And former Boys State graduates that return to participate as Junior Counselors can earn additional college credits.

A complete course description and credit requirements is available on the American Legion Colorado Boys State website by following the link to "College Credits".

CENTER FOR AMERICAN VALUES AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Co-founded by Medal of Honor Recipient Drew Dix, the Center's Mission is to honor service and sacrifice, while inspiring future generations to do the same. The Center is also home to the nationally acclaimed Medal of Honor Gallery. **AmericanValuesCenter.org**

We encourage everyone to participate in this contest. Please know all essays become the property of The American Legion Colorado Boys State program.

Writing Prompt:

Using the "Thought Starters" provided (see below), identify and define what being an "American Hero" means to you. Provide examples of actions and behaviors individuals are doing or can do to help the United States be a better country.

CHARACTER - Character is derived from an individual's values and moral qualities and is demonstrated

through their values such as Honor, Integrity, Sacrifice, Courage, and Honesty.

HONOR - A character attribute assigned to those whose actions are grounded in moral values and who demonstrates a sense of what is right.

INTEGRITY - A character attribute identified as consistency in an individual's actions, behavior, values, and incorruptibility.

LEADERSHIP - The ability an individual possesses to influence and enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task.

PATRIOTISM - A love and enduring commitment to supporting and defending the freedoms we enjoy.

RESPECT - An individual who distinguishes themselves as deserving of gratitude and esteem due to the high moral quality of their actions.

SACRIFICE - Giving back to the community and others for the prosperity and freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

Essay Parameters:

300-400 words

Essay must be typed - 12 point font, double-spaced, with ½" margins Must include title page and name

Winners:

The top essays will each receive recognition at our graduation ceremony and a prize determined by the Center for American Values staff.

SAMPLE LETTER TO SPONSORS.

This letter can be modified for Post use in soliciting donations from sponsors. Date ___ Dear (sponsor's name): There are experiences in a young person's life that help define who they will become. Those experiences are often based on opportunities afforded them by others. The initiative to grab that opportunity may be out of the control of the young person. If it is to happen, it is up to others like your organization or business - to make it happen. The American Legion Colorado Boys State program is seeking sponsors for delegates from High School in our community and is offering this opportunity to groups and individuals who share the American Legion commitment to promote the healthy growth and personal development of our nation's young people. American Legion Colorado Boys State is a participatory educational program on the study of state government for young men who have completed their junior year of high school. Participants arrive at the program as citizens of a model 51st state. They organize and participate in government from city level to the office of Governor. They organize into political parties, establish party platforms, run for office, hold elections and operate their government that is intended to mirror our own state government. Your organization or business can help a deserving young man in your school. The fee for American Legion Colorado Boys State is \$200 per boy, which covers associated program costs, to include room and board. Your donation can be made out to American Legion Boys State and sent to_ The American Legion shall be the final authority on who will attend Boys State. We will, however, give every consideration to individuals recommended by your organization or business. Sincerely,

Post Coordinator American Legion Colorado Boys State

SAMPLE SCHOOL LETTER

This letter can be modified for Post use in communicating with schools.

Date

Dear (school contact):

American Legion Colorado Boys State will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year from June 2 through June 8, 2024 at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO. Since 1949 The American Legion in Colorado has offered this outstanding program to young men completing from their junior year in high school. We will soon be selecting qualified candidates for this year's program.

Sponsored by The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans service organization, American Legion Colorado Boys State is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and boys in their junior year of High School from all across our state are eligible to attend. Boys State promotes the fundamental aspects of citizenship, encouraging constructive attitudes toward the American form of government. The objective of Boys State is to provide a week-long hands-on learning lab for exercising the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship. The constitution and statutes of the state of Colorado are the patterns from which the fundamental law of American Legion Colorado Boys State has been developed. Boys State should be thought of as being a model 51st state with a constitution, statutes, and ordinances constructed by its citizens to govern themselves.

In American Legion Colorado Boys State, citizens organize their own political party and form city, county and state governments. They choose their own officials in accordance with regular election procedures. They learn the duties of the various city, county and state officers and they introduce and debate their own bills in a legislature. In Boys State the young citizen has the opportunity to learn for himself that his government is just what he makes it. The entire program is non-partisan.

It is always our endeavor to have as many boys attend American Legion Colorado Boys State as possible. So when our post coordinator calls, your help in finding qualified young men from your school will be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Post Commander

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR POST USE WITH LOCAL NEWS MEDIA. For Immediate Release:

American Legion Seeks Candidates for Boys State

DENVER, January, 2024 - As we begin 2024, The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans service organization, is looking for high school junior boys interested in experiencing a fun and challenging week of creating lasting friendships as they self-govern a model 51st state. The American Legion Colorado Boys State program will be conducted at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO from June 2 through June 8. This premier program allows young men from all across Colorado to earn college credits while they learn-by-doing as they create a complete state beginning with cities, counties and state governments. College scholarship opportunities are also available to Boys State delegates. All program costs, to include room and board for the week, are paid by The American Legion.

American Legion Boys State is fun and unique in its hands-on approach to the study of state government, focusing on individual participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governmental bodies and elected public officials. It mirrors a typical state government in structure.

"We in The American Legion have always believed that our form of government is the best on the planet," said Norm Steen, Boys State Director. "But it cannot survive without an educated population that understands and appreciates our democratic republic and freedoms it guarantees. That's where American Legion Colorado Boys State comes in. In the past 88 years of operation, we've found that this program develops leadership and pride in American citizenship like no other program in existence."

"What we are most proud of is the determination it instills in participants to maintain our form of government for the next generation, and become active civil participants in its future."

Only young men who will successfully complete their junior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining are eligible. They must also display outstanding qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service to their communities and schools. Additional information about the American Legion Colorado Boys State program can be obtained by visiting The American Legion Colorado Boys State website, www.CoLegionBoysState.org.



POST SPONSORSHIP SUMMARY FORM THE AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE

Post Coordinator:			Date:			
Post #	District #	City	:			
Post Coordinator address:						
Phone: ()	Street	Email:	City	Zip		
***Please complete this form in May 2024, after all registrations are complete.						
Please list the name and school for each delegate your post is sponsoring.						
DELEGATE	NAME		DELEGATE SCHOOL			
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.	_			_		
6. 7.						
8.						
9.						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
Total number of delegates x \$200.00 requested.						
Mail: 1. One check payable Colorado Boys State" - on the	ne memo line write	Legion	To: Colorado Boys Star The American Legi Department of Colo 7465 East 1 st Ave., Denver, Colorado 8	ion orado Suite D		
(remember to make a	copy for your post i	records)				

AMERICAN LEGION COLORADO BOYS STATE CONTACTS

The following is a list of individuals, their phone numbers and email addresses that you can contact for information and help with your Post Boys State program.

Boys State Director

Norm Steen 719-331-6756 norm.steen@CoLegionBoysState.org

Boys State Department Chairman

Jay Bowen 901-484-7193 <u>LegionnaireJay@yahoo.com</u>

Boys State Operations Officer

Kurt Skinner 719-963-3517 kurt.skinner@CoLegionBoysState.org