



# Virginia Boys State

[www.VaBoysState.org](http://www.VaBoysState.org)

of The American Legion

## Springfield Virginia Post 176 Boys State Program



American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.

Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.



High school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization.

American Legion Boys State is currently conducted in 49 Departments of The American Legion. Hawaii does not conduct a program. As separate corporations, Boys States vary in content and method of procedure, but each and every Boys State adheres to

the basic concept of the program – that of teaching government from the township to the state level. For additional on the Department of Virginia Boys State program see: <http://www.vaboysstate.org/>

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young ladies called Girls State. For online details visit: <https://vagirlsstate.org/>

Springfield Post 176 sponsored 17 boys in 2016 from Thomas Jefferson, Lake Braddock, West Springfield, Lee, and Edison High Schools. One home school student was also sponsored. Our Post Commander Edward Amoros, has made youth programs such as Boys State, Legion Baseball, and the Young Marines a key part of what our post does to support youth in the community and develop the leaders of tomorrow today.

Members are needed to participate interviewing the candidates and providing administrative support for the program. Interviews are usually conducted at approximately 7:00 PM at Post 176 during the week. Some interviews may also be conducted on Saturday afternoons as needed to accommodate the busy schedules of the boys interested in Boys State. The time commitment is about two hours or less per interview session. Volunteers on the interview panels will be briefed and complete a score sheet for each boy interviewed. I hope to see all of the volunteers from 2016 as well as some new volunteers in 2017.

Interviews for the candidates nominated by the various schools are in the process of being scheduled now for the middle to the end of March. Anyone who would like to participate in this worthy program please contact:

Marty Pfeifer,  
American Legion Post 176  
Boys State Chairman  
[Martydc1f@aol.com](mailto:Martydc1f@aol.com)  
703-201-4127