



Virginia Boys State

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 is sponsoring up to 30 boys in 2023 from Thomas Jefferson, Lake Braddock, West Springfield, Lee, and Edison High Schools. Home School students are also sponsored. Our Post Commander Ken Gaddis, has made youth programs such as Boys State, Legion Baseball, Scouts, and Oratorical a key part of what our post does to support youth in the community and develop the leaders of tomorrow today.

We currently have 20 candidates who have provided required nomination packages. Panels will be conducted between May 2d and May 10th for 2023 Boys State.

Interviews for the candidates nominated by the various schools are in the process of being scheduled now. Anyone who would like more information about Post 176's Boys State program please contact:

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Boys State Chairmen