



American Legion Boys State 2021 Registration Packet

*Educating Mississippi's brightest young leaders today
for a better government tomorrow!*

For God and Country

University of Mississippi

Sunday, May 30th – Saturday, June 5th

Registration will be 1:00pm-3:00pm

www.msboysstate.com



AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

Dear Student,

It is our hope that you will apply to attend the 2021 Session of American Legion Boys State in Mississippi. The 2021 session will take place on the campus of the University of Mississippi during the week of May 30th - June 5th. If accepted, you will join roughly 400 of Mississippi's most outstanding young men, each representing high schools, communities, and local American Legion Posts. You will have the opportunity to become involved in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial operations of state government, as well as governmental activities on the county and municipal levels. You will learn more about the operations of state, county, and municipal government in one week than in an entire year of classroom civics instructions, and you will have fun doing it! Boys State is one of the most rewarding experiences that you will ever have. You will meet other young men who will be the future leaders of this state and country. Mississippi Boys State Alumni include Governors, US Representatives, US Senators, Attorneys General, as well as Chief Justices of the Mississippi Supreme Court while many more are your doctors, attorneys, and other community leaders.

Each day, you will be able to ask questions of elected officials and our states top leaders when they address the Boys State delegation. You will also have the opportunity to participate in mock trials, pass laws in a legislature, serve on a newspaper staff, compete in various sports, and perform in a talent show. Most importantly, you will develop friendships that will last a lifetime. Enclosed in this packet are several documents that you should carefully read. If you have any questions, please feel free to visit our website at www.msboysstate.com. Also, follow us on twitter and like us on Facebook to stay up to date on form deadlines, speaker updates, and much more.

Sincerely,

Boys State Staff, American Legion
Department of Mississippi



AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

WHAT IS BOYS STATE?

The American Legion is dedicated to strengthening America. We believe there is no better way to this end than to work with our nation's youth in order to prepare them for the tasks they will face in the years to come. The American Legion, through its youth activities programs, plays a leading role in the development of tomorrow's informed, responsible citizens. The American Legion's programs of Boys State and Boys Nation are our finest examples of citizenship instruction for youth.

Boys States are quite uniform in program structure through each Department (state) of the American Legion. Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia conduct a Boys State program annually and more than 28,000 young men participate in these civic workshops each year. Through the week-long program, the young citizens learn how city, county and state governments function by actually doing the job themselves. Eligibility for all Boys State citizens requires them to be juniors in high school, with one year remaining before their graduation. This allows the young man the opportunity to apply his "practical experience" in government to his senior year in high school, and at the same time endorse and promote the program among fellow students.

A "LEARN BY DOING" APPROACH

The purpose of American Legion Boys State is to identify young leaders and instill in them constructive attitudes toward the American form of government. The program attempts to show that a democracy needs an intelligent citizenry and a moral, honest and impartial administration responsive to the will of the people. Boys State should be thought of as a mythical 51st State with the Constitution, Statutes and Ordinances constructed by its citizens to govern themselves. Citizens not only will be required to review knowledge already acquired concerning the political machinery of state and local government, but they will find themselves performing exactly the same functions as real office holders in the everyday world. **Every delegate to Boys State will hold elective office.** Delegates learn the duties of various city, county, and state officials and introduce and argue bills in their own legislature. Each citizen will have the opportunity to learn for himself that his government is exactly what he makes it.

The entire program is non-partisan. Problems will be considered without reference to existing political parties and will be free from propaganda. The sole purpose is to enable the delegate to grasp the meaning and responsibilities upon which he will be called to assume when he becomes an adult. It should be distinctly understood that the selection and assignment of citizens to parties is in no way connected to existing political parties in Mississippi. Boys State

“political parties” are called “Nationalist”, “Federalist” and “Independents”. They are purely mythical and none of the principles typifying any of the existing parties will be adopted. In this way, we try to assure a democratic government in its purest sense.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BOYS STATE

Boys State was originated by the Illinois Department of The American Legion in 1934. The plan was adopted by the National Organization in 1945 and has since been put into operation in forty-nine states. Although Hawaii does not operate a program, it does send delegates to attend the program of other states. American Legion Posts in the Panama Canal Zone, the District of Columbia, and Mexico have, in the past, sent delegates to Boys State in Mississippi. The American Legion Department of Mississippi incorporated Magnolia Boys State on May 2, 1939 and the first session was held in Jackson, June 11-17, 1939, and every year thereafter, except for 1943, 1945, 1949, and 1970.

In 1955, the name was changed from Magnolia Boys State, Inc. to The American Legion Boys State, Inc. Since the inception of Boys State in Mississippi, over 20,000 delegates have attended these sessions. Those chosen to attend have just completed their junior year of high school and possess qualities of honor, character, courage, leadership, service, and discipline. Each local American Legion Post is assigned a quota by the Department Headquarters and where this quota more than one, the Post usually offers the opportunity of sponsorship to civic clubs, churches, schools, Boys State alumni, civic leaders, businesses, and other responsible organizations. On occasion, when a young man is deserving but a sponsor cannot be located, he may be sponsored by his own family through his local American Legion Post or State Department. The cost to sponsor a delegate for Boys State is **\$275.00**.

The American Legion Boys State program in Mississippi is recognized as one of the most outstanding and successful Boys State programs in existence. Mississippi’s Boys State is known for its leadership development and motivation, its dynamic and energetic young staff, and for the exceptional support the program receives from Legionaries from across the state. Our Boys State was the first program in the nation to include a “College and Military Service Information Day” where representatives from every state college, university, various branches of the Military, and cadets from the U.S. Military Academies actually come to Mississippi’s Boys State to speak to the young men about post-high school plans. It is not uncommon for delegates to actually discover scholarship opportunities while at Boys State.

Every year, the finest young men Mississippi has to offer attend American Legion Boys State. Through Boys State, these young men have the opportunity to meet, work, and form lifelong friendships with other young leaders from outside their own communities. Delegates not only leave Boys State with a wealth of knowledge and understanding of how government works, they are encouraged to use this knowledge to take on leadership roles in their community, state, and nation. They are encouraged to get involved and to make a difference.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Participants in Boys State are eligible for scholarships from the American Legion Department of Mississippi and Posts totaling over \$5,000.00. One lucky Boys State Delegate will receive the Harold F. Hale Scholarship worth \$2,500.00. The American Legion Department of Mississippi also presents scholarships of \$1,500.00 and \$1,000.00. The Senior Staff will also choose a delegate to be eligible to receive the Samsung Scholarship.

Additionally, multiple scholarships will be offered by Millsaps College, Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi. A Boys State Certificate will be presented during our awards ceremony concluding Boys State to Delegates who complete the entire program. This will serve as proof of completion for Delegates wishing to take advantage of these scholarships.

Millsaps College

- Boys State “Big Eight” Scholarship
 - Award Amount: \$4,000 [\$1,000/year]
 - Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as one of the “Big Eight” elected officials and completion of a short essay, no more than 500 words, reflecting on how Boys State has shaped their educational and career goals.

Mississippi State University

- Boys State Governor and/or Boys Nation representative
 - Award Amount: \$6,000 [\$1,500/year]
 - Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as Governor to their state OR the state delegate to Boys Nation
- Boys State Scholarship
 - Award Amount: \$1,000 [one-year only]
 - Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participate in Mississippi Boys State

University of Mississippi

- Boys State Governor and/or Boys Nation representative
 - Award Amount: \$4,000 [\$1,000/year]
 - Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as Governor to their state OR the state delegate to Boys Nation
- Boys State Scholarship
 - Award Amount: \$1,000 [one-year only]
 - Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participate in Mississippi Boys State

University of Southern Mississippi

- Boys State “Big Eight” Scholarship
 - Award Amount: \$1,000 [one-year only]
 - Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as one of the “Big Eight” elected officials.

Delta State University

- Boys State Delegate Scholarship
 - Award Amount: \$4,000 [\$2,000/year for 2 years]
 - Eligibility: Boys or Girls State Delegate, cumulative high school GPA of 3.00; awarded to current year high school graduates only.

DETAILS

REGISTRATION

DEADLINE: Friday, May 7, 2021

CHECK-IN: 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 30, 2021

ABSENCE: Absence or excusal from Boys State will be permitted **ONLY** with a **WRITTEN** explanation from parents/guardian explaining the **EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES** provided to the Director at registration. Boys State reserves the right to expel delegates from the program rather than grant an excuse for frivolous circumstances.

BOYS NATION PARTICIPANTS:

Two (2) Mississippi Boys Staters will be chosen Saturday to represent Mississippi at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. Upon filling out an application and nomination form, the top 10. **You MUST be present on Saturday to be elected!** Mississippi has had the honor of producing four (4) Boys Nation Presidents in the past 22 years.

DORM, CITY, AND

PARTY ASSIGNMENTS: **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE MADE BY RANDOM DRAW. NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE.**

MEALS: Beginning with dinner on the first night, all meals will be served in the Cafeteria. Meals will be served through breakfast on the final day.

CLOTHING: Each delegate will be issued two (2) Boys State t-shirts at registration. Delegates are required to wear **CLEAN** Boys State t-shirts at all times **EXCEPT** during sports. Additional shirts may be purchased for \$6.00 each. Coin operated washing machines and dryers are available in the dorms. Dress is casual; shorts may be worn to all events with shirts tucked in.

FIRST AID: Medical attention is available 24 hours a day. Report any strains, cuts, illness, pain, etc. to your City Advisor **IMMEDIATELY**.

AUTOMOBILES: Insurance requires that you turn over your car keys to your City Advisor after checking in to your room. Delegates are not permitted to use cars during the session. **BRING YOUR CAR AT YOUR OWN RISK.** The American Legion, Boys State, and the University assumes no responsibility for vandalism, theft or damage to the cars of delegates or staff.

FACILITIES: All facilities and/or property are the possession of either American Legion Boys State or the University and are available for your convenience. Care must be taken to preserve this property. Delegates are responsible for any damage caused in whole or in part by them as well as any damage to their assigned dorm room.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: **IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW FOR ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN TO POSSESS ANY TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**

ANY DELEGATE IN POSSESSION OF NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, ALCOHOL, OR INVOLVED IN ANY TYPE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE LOCAL SHERIFF.
CONTACT THE LOCAL JUSTICE COURT CONCERNING BAIL.

VISITORS: All visitors to Boys State are expected to report to Boys State Headquarters immediately upon arrival. All visitors must be cleared through the Director or Assistant Directors. Due to the extreme intensity of the program and tight time constraints, it is requested that visitations from persons not directly associated with Boys State be kept to an absolute minimum.

TALENT: All delegates wishing to participate in the Boys State Talent Show can do so by contacting the staff member in charge. Talent may consist of any musical ability, singing, comedy acts, satire, etc. A piano will be available. Delegates are encouraged to bring musical instruments. Almost any act is acceptable. However, Boys State reserves the right to censor any act deemed to be in bad taste.

PICTURES: Pictures of each City and the entire Boys State delegation will be taken. The cost of pictures is included in your registration fee.

CAMERAS: Delegates are encouraged to bring cameras. Special care should be taken, and will be available, to avoid loss or theft of these items. See your City Advisor about securing valuables.

SPORTS: Delegates may compete in organized flag football, kickball, volleyball, basketball, and dodgeball. Basic equipment is provided. Delegates ARE permitted to use their own sports equipment.

EXTRA MONEY: Registration fee covers all costs, however, delegates may wish to bring extra money for additional t-shirts (\$6.00 each- delegates get two for free), the Union food court, vending machines, and washing machines. In any event, delegates should NOT bring

excess amounts of cash. Boys State/MSU cannot be responsible for loss or theft.

**JEWELRY,
VALUABLES, ETC.:**

DO NOT BRING THEM. Boys State/Ole Miss cannot be responsible for loss or theft.

After attending Boys State, I realized that our generation is capable of filling the shoes of those before us. It was through the friendships formed and working together to pass legislation for the good of the state of "Magnolia."

**Parker King
2012 Boys State
Speaker of the House
Madison, MS**

WHAT TO BRING

• PUT YOUR NAME ON ALL ITEMS •

BEDDING:

Pillow & Pillow case
Blanket
Sheets for single bed

TOILET ARTICLES

Face Towels
Soap and Shampoo
Bath Towels
Brush/Comb
Deodorant
Razor

CLOTHING:

Dress Shorts
Belt
Gym Shorts & T-Shirts for Sports
Tennis Shoes
Rubber Cleats (optional)
Pants/Slacks (optional)
Sleepwear
Underwear & Socks
Swim Suit (optional)

SPORTS EQUIPMENT:

Softball glove/bat
Running Shoes
Tennis racket and tennis balls
Hat

MISCELLANEOUS:

Camera
Musical Instrument
Notebook, pens, pencils
Drafting tools & supplies
Drawing supplies

Laundry Detergent
Poster Supplies (for campaign signs)
Campaign Materials

EXTRA MONEY:

Registration fee covers all costs except for additional Boys State t-shirts (\$6 each), Boys State Alumni (\$5.00), and/or money to wash & dry shirts nightly. MSU has a snack bar and vending machines available

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE: Boys State Medical Certificate must be filled out and presented at registration. **DO NOT MAIL!**

WAIVER OF CLAIM: Must be filled out, dated and signed by parent/guardian prior to arrival at registration.

STANDARD RULES OF CONDUCT: Must be signed by delegate and parent/guardian prior to arrival at registration.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL REFERENCE FORM: Must be filled out and signed by a school official with access to the potential delegate's disciplinary file.

WHAT NOT TO BRING: Valuables, jewelry, excess amount of extra money, tobacco products, any item without your name on it, pornography, bad attitude, racial prejudice, sexist or racial jokes, alcohol, non-prescription drugs, weapons of any kind, fireworks, ignorance.

REPORT TO: University of Mississippi campus, RH 1 and 2 Dormitories, 47 Northgate Square, University, MS 38677, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., May 30, 2021.

Campaign Seminars are scheduled at 2:00pm and 3:00pm as an extensive orientation for any delegate who wishes to gain more knowledge of the Boys State election process.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, NEWS, SPEAKER INFORMATION, SCHEDULE, CAMPAIGN SUGGESTIONS AND ELECTED OFFICES AVAILABLE TO RUN FOR, CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT:

www.msboysstate.com

Like us on Facebook: **Mississippi American Legion Boys State**

Follow us on twitter: **@MSBoysState #msboysstate**

FORM CHECKLIST

All of the following forms must be returned completed with your registration form, unless otherwise indicated on the form itself.

- **Form #1:** American Legion Boys State Waiver of Claim
- **Form #2:** School Counselor and American Legion Form
- **Form #3:** American Legion Boys State Medical Certificate
(BRING THESE FORMS WITH YOU TO REGISTRATION!)