



AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

BOYS STATE

2023

*Educating the leaders of today for better
government tomorrow*

For God and Country

Hosted at:

The University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi

Sunday, May 28th – Saturday, June 3rd, 2023

www.msboysstate.com



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Dear Student,

I hope you will apply to attend the 2023 Session of Mississippi American Legion Boys State. **The 2023 session will take place on the campus of the University of Mississippi during the week of May 28th – June 3rd, 2023.** You will join a large class of Mississippi's most outstanding young men, each representing high schools, communities, and local American Legion Posts. Boys State is an intense, action-packed leadership program where you learn about our systems of government and politics by participating in a mock governmental system. You will also sharpen your leadership skills as you hear from some of Mississippi's top elected officials and other notable leaders.

At Boys State you can run for and participate in mock political offices, compete in athletic or academic competitions, participate in mock trial, broadcast journalism, print journalism, and our annual talent show. At the conclusion of the week, you will have learned more about yourself and your capabilities, and ultimately, how to be a strong leader. You will have the time of your life, and you might even walk away with some scholarships.

Boys State is truly one of the most rewarding experiences. I hope that you will join us this summer and be added to the ranks of former Boys Staters who went on to become Governors, Congressmen, Supreme Court Justices, U.S. Presidents, Generals, Pro-Athletes, Doctors, and CEOs.

Enclosed in this packet are all the details that you need to become Delegate to Boys State 2023. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email at info@msboysstate.com.

Sincerely,

Milton Robinson

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Milton Robinson".

Program Director
American Legion Boys State
Department of Mississippi



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Details

The 2023 session of Boys State will take place **May 28th – June 3rd, 2023, on the campus of the University of Mississippi.**

Eligible young men are current high school juniors with one year left before graduation, who demonstrate leadership qualities both in and out of school.

The cost to attend Mississippi American Legion Boys State is \$275. This payment covers the cost of meals, housing, and programming for the week. Payment will not be required to submit an application. **Cost should never prevent you from attending our program. There are many resources available in each community that can help you get to Boys State.** Your first option is to contact a nearby American Legion Post and ask if they have any scholarships available. Should a student need more assistance, please contact us by email at info@msboysstate.com.

Our **online application will be live as of February 1st, 2023. The deadline for a student to apply is May 20th.** The application and more information can be found by scanning the QR code at the conclusion of this document or by visiting our website, www.msboysstate.com.



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What is Boys State?

The American Legion is dedicated to strengthening America. We believe there is no better way to accomplish that than to work with our nation's youth. The American Legion, through its youth activities programs, plays a leading role in the development of tomorrow's informed and responsible citizens. The American Legion's programs of Boys State and Boys Nation are our finest examples of youth leadership instruction.

Boys State is 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 delegates learn how city, county and state governments function by doing the job themselves. Eligibility for all Boys Staters 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 leadership and service to his senior year, 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 democracy needs an intelligent citizenry and a moral, honest, and impartial administration that is responsive to the will of the people. Boys State should be thought of as a mythical 51st state with a 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. 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 what he makes of 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 are in no way connected to existing political parties in Mississippi. Boys State "political parties" are called "Nationalists," "Federalists," 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



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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, 1970, and 2020.

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 25,000 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 scholarship quota by the Department Headquarters. The Boys State program also finds great support from civic clubs, churches, schools, Boys State alumni, civic leaders, businesses, and other responsible organizations. The cost to attend Boys State is \$275.00. Cost should never be a hindrance to a student wanting to be a part of our program. If a financial burden does arise, please reach out to our staff by emailing info@msboysstate.com.

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 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.

American Legion Scholarships

All Boys State participants are eligible for scholarships from the Mississippi American Legion totaling over \$50,000. One lucky Boys State Delegate will receive the Harold F. Hale Scholarship worth \$2,500.00. The American Legion Department of Mississippi also presents multiple scholarships of \$1,500.00, \$1,000.00, and \$500. The program Director and Staff will also select the winner of Mississippi's Samsung Scholarship, who will then go on to compete nationally.



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Institution Scholarships

These scholarships are extended from the listed institutions to eligible participants who go on to attend their school.

Delta State University

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

Millsaps College

- Boys State “Big Eight” Scholarship
 - o Award Amount: \$4,000 [\$1,000/year]
 - o 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 Delegate
 - o Award Amount: \$6,000 [\$1,500/year]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as Governor to their state OR the state delegate to Boys Nation. Must have a scholarship GPA of 3.0.
- Boys State Scholarship
 - o Award Amount: \$1,000 [one-year only]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen or transfer student (with university specified credit hours) who participated in Boys State. Must have a GPA of 3.0.

University of Mississippi

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

University of Southern Mississippi

- Boys Nation Delegate Scholarship
 - o Award Amount: \$4,000 [\$1,000/year]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as one of the state delegates to Boys Nation
- Boys State Scholarship
 - o Award Amount: \$1,000 [one-year only]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participated in Mississippi Boys State



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So, You Want to Become a Delegate?

STEP 1 - Review our Information Packet and speak with you School Counselor or an American Legion member.

STEP 2 - Submit your online application. QR Code found below.

- **Patiently wait for notification of approval.**

STEP 3 - Print and complete the Registration Packet attached to your approval email.

STEP 4 - Submit your completed Registration Packet by Saturday, May 20th, 2023.

STEP 5 - Submit your payment by mailing it to the *Department of Mississippi American Legion Boys State, P.O. Box 688, Jackson, MS 39205*. Payment is due by Saturday, May 20th, 2023.

*If your cost of attendance in being covered by an American Legion Post or another entity, please provide them with the mailing address above.

Should you have any questions or trouble throughout this process, please contact us by emailing info@msboysstate.com.

Scan the QR Code below to begin your application:

