

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Be a part of the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students.

"A WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME"

Founded in 1935, American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation are a highly respected, hands-on programs where high school juniors learn about local, state, and federal government by running mock governments and participating in civic activities.

Two participants from each Boys State are chosen to attend Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., where they take part in a weeklong deep dive into federal government by acting as U.S. senators. Boys Nation includes mock legislative sessions, political party conventions, and visits to national landmarks, and many alumni have gone on to hold public office or work in politics.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BOYS STATE AND BOYS NATION

PROMINENT ALUMNI

"A week that shapes a lifetime" are the simple, yet powerful, words that illustrate the significant value of The American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation programs. For the past 78 years, these six words have positively affected the lives of more than a million high school boys, including famous alumni Tom Brokaw, Bill Clinton, Neil Armstrong, Michael Jordan and many more.

LEARN MORE

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Boys State and **Boys Nation** are designed for students who show leadership, character, academic excellence, and a commitment to their school and community. High school students who haven't attended the program before are eligible to apply for Boys State, and must participate in Boys State to be eligible for Boys Nation. Selection is based on merit and may vary slightly from state to state.

All programs follow federal disability guidelines, and most require a consent form signed by a parent or guardian and a licensed physician.

In most cases, schools recommend students to their local American Legion post, which then interviews and selects the delegates who will attend.

[CONTACT YOUR STATE TO LEARN MORE](#)

2025 BOYS NATION RESOURCES

The 79th Session of American Legion Boys Nation takes place July 18-26, 2025. The links below will contain information as it becomes available during and after the session takes place.

Agenda & Legislation

Review the Boys Nation agenda and legislation submitted by Boys Nation Senators.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Delegates

View American Legion Boys Nation Senators.

2025 DELEGATES

Staff

Volunteers and national staff help at Boys Nation in Washington.

2025 STAFF

BOYS NATION YEARBOOKS

Browse digital versions of Boys Nation Yearbooks from previous sessions and learn more about the events, party platforms and issues, and voting results for each year.

[VIEW YEARBOOKS](#)

BOYS NATION NEWS

BOYS NATION

Michigan Boys State turns to Ford Museum to showcase political values

Jul 02, 2025

BOYS NATION

Boys Nation staff application form available online

Nov 25, 2024

BOYS NATION

‘Boys State, Boys Nation, have shaped pretty much everything’

Nov 04, 2024 | Andy Proffet

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Aug 05, 20

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Questions? Contact Your State

In order to participate in Boys Nation, your son must participate in your Boys State Program. Please visit your state program for information and contact info.



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The American Legion National Headquarters:

700 N. Pennsylvania St., P.O Box
1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

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☎ 800.433.3318

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