79th SESSION

THE AMERICAN LEGION
CALIFORNIA
BOYS STATE

"Laboratory of Political Science"

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
Sacramento, California
June 18 to June 25, 2016
FORWARD

If our republic is to survive and prosper, our youth must have a true concept of the ideals and objectives of government. They must know what constitutes the successful operation of government. These lessons are taught at The American Legion California Boys State.

The individual citizen at The American Legion California Boys State promotes good citizenship through his contribution to the program. The activity is characterized by self-imposed duties and responsibilities, rules and regulations, practices and abilities, which are essential to the maintenance of an orderly society, and government in which the individual participates as an act of worthy citizenship.

OBJECTIVES OF BOYS STATE

The American Legion California Boys State teaches our youth the duties, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.

The strength of a nation lies not alone in the size of its armed forces, but also in the character, loyalty and intelligence of its citizens. Citizenship confers many privileges, but if it also imposes duties and obligations. If these duties and obligations are not understood and not fulfilled, the privileges may be lost. The person who understands his government, recognizes his duties and obligations to it, and fully and intelligently participates in its problems and shares its burdens is truly a good citizen.

In order to prepare the youth of today to become good citizens tomorrow - and to qualify as intelligent citizens, voters and office-holders, they must be trained to understand the structure and the workings of their government.

To encourage and develop a deeper interest in, and study of, those problems of government beyond what our youth receive in high schools today, The American Legion California Boys State Program was founded, and it is today an established part of the Americanism Program of the American Legion.

The American Legion California Boys State is a program of education. It is a course in practical Americanism. It is a course in civics, the purpose of which is to teach the youth of high school age that there is nothing wrong with our form of government, that it has not outworn its usefulness. To insure the well being of all, we need an intelligent and loyal citizenry, and a clean, honest and impartial administration of all the departments of our government.

HOW THE AMERICAN LEGION CALIFORNIA BOYS STATE FUNCTIONS

At The American Legion California Boys State Program, each delegate, as he registers, is assigned to a city, and thereafter he is a resident of that city. He lives in that city area. From 35 to 50 delegates are assigned to each city. All of the cities in one dormitory constitute one county. The five counties constitute the State. The delegates are equally divided, into two political parties, not Democrat and Republican, but Federalist and Whig -- so that the delegates may see how political parties, function under our form of government. The delegates develop their own party platform and make their own controversial issues. All of their Governmental activities, whether City, County, or State, are carried on according to the California State Constitution and the existing laws of the State of California.
The first order of business for the delegates is to set up their city governments and elect their city officials (City Council Members, City Clerk, City Treasurer and Superior Court Judge)...
The City Councils are organized and the mayors make such appointments as are allowed by the General Municipal Corporation Act of California. The City Councils then enact ordinances for the operation of their cities. Each city has its own Police Department, and its own Superior Court.

Once the city governments have been established, the delegates organize their respective County Governments. They elect a Board of Supervisors, County Clerk, County Recorder, Treasurer/Auditor, Tax Collector/Assessor, Justices of the Courts of Appeal, District Attorney, Sheriff, Superintendent of Schools, Coroner/Public Administrator and Member of the State Board of Equalization for each County. The Supervisors and other elective officers then proceed to function in all county matters, as provided by the Constitution and the laws of the State of California.

The final step in establishing a fully functional government at California Boys State is the selection of the state officials. The State Primary Election is the first of two elections to select all of the elected members of the State Government. The Direct Primary Law of California is followed in this election. Candidates for any office can only have their names put on the ballot by fulfilling all requirements of that law. This is the partisan part of our political process.

The names of candidates nominated in the Primary Election go on the ballot for the General Election at which time the Boys State citizens elect the Boys State Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Controller, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, Justices of the Supreme Court; and from the Assembly and Senatorial Districts, they elect the members of the Boys State Assembly and Senate.

A public inaugural ceremony is then held to swear in the Boys State Governor-elect, and other American Legion California Boys State elected officers.

Those American Legion California Boys State citizens, who are elected as Superior Court Judges, Justices of the Courts of Appeal, or as members of the State Supreme Court, are guided in the performance of the duties by counselors who are attorneys. Violations of City and County ordinances and of State laws are tried in the appropriate courts, prosecuted by American Legion California Boys State prosecutors, and tried before American Legion California Boys State judges and juries. Also, civil cases are similarly brought to trial and some criminal and civil cases are presented and argued before the Supreme Court of The American Legion California Boys State.

Counselors, men who by experience, know the structure and function of our City, County and State Government, guide and coach these citizens.

The purpose of The American Legion Boys State is attained, by having them learn by doing. From this practical school of government, the delegates learn the part each one can play under our system of government - that each can run for office, can vote for the candidate of his choice, and can have a voice and be a part of shaping the policies of his government.

The American Legion California Boys State was inaugurated in 1937. Each succeeding year these experimental laboratories in government have been held with outstanding success.
American Legion Posts sponsor the delegates who attend The American Legion California Boys State. Various civic groups, service clubs, and Veterans groups, such as Sons of the American Legion, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Elks, Moose, VFW, PCC, etc may be co-sponsors. If a non-Legion group sponsors a boy, the local Post of the American Legion must make the final selection.

**NOT A RECREATIONAL CAMP**

Although there is ample time for recreation, The American Legion California Boys State is NOT a picnic - NOT an outing - NOT a recreational camp. However, recreation is not forgotten. Athletic activities are scheduled each day from 4:15 to 6:00 p.m.

**VISITORS** - Representatives of sponsoring organizations, parents and Legionnaires are welcome at all times while The American Legion California Boys State is in session. Visitors must check in at the Administrator's Office in Desmond Hall.

**CHURCH SERVICE** – Optional religious services for the delegates are conducted on the campus.

**TIME AND PLACE**

The 79th Session of The American Legion California Boys State will convene at California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819, on Saturday, June 18 and end on Saturday, June 25, 2016.

**INSTRUCTION TO DELEGATES AND PARENTS**

**AUTOMOBILES** – The American Legion California Boys State does not allow any delegate to bring their own vehicle to the Program. Delegates not arriving on campus via bus transportation provided by their sponsoring American Legion District must be brought to California State University, Sacramento by a parent/guardian. Delegates must arrive no later than 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 18 and be picked up by a parent/guardian no earlier than 11:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24, and no later than 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 25, 2016.

**AMERICAN LEGION LIABILITY** - The American Legion will not assume any liability for medical, surgical, nursing, or hospital care which may become necessary for any delegate while he is attending The American Legion California Boys State. However, nurses are in attendance to help safeguard the health of the delegates. Should any serious illness develop, The American Legion may direct that the delegate or delegates concerned be sent to the Emergency Center or to a local hospital in Sacramento. All charges for medical care shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian, who will be promptly notified of the existing condition. The American Legion carries a policy of sickness and accident medical expense insurance, in the event that any delegate is injured while attending The American Legion California Boys State. This policy will provide supplemental coverage that is not provided by parent's insurance.
LOYALTY PLEDGE - No delegate shall be permitted to attend The American Legion California Boys State program that has not signed the loyalty pledge on the Blue Sponsorship Card or Pink Alternate Card and General Rules. A copy of the General Rules is attached.

MEDICAL INFORMATION—The Medical Certificate must be completed and signed by the delegate and his parent or guardian. It requires medical information and history. It also documents your medical insurance. A visit to your doctor prior to attending The American Legion California Boys State is not required. Your parent/guardian must sign both the Waiver of Claim/Consent for Medical Treatment and the Delegate’s Release Form. All signatures must be original and no copies are permitted. These two documents must be turned in when you arrive and register.

No delegate will be admitted to The American Legion California Boys State unless he presents, upon registration, this Medical Certificate, Waiver of Claim/Consent and Delegate Release Form. A male assistant must accompany any delegate who has a physical disability or an infirmity that prevents him from taking care of himself alone. All costs for the assistant shall be the same as for The American Legion California Boys State delegate and shall be borne by the sponsor. The male assistant shall not be eligible to participate in The American Legion California Boys State Program.

MEDICAL TREATMENT - Each delegate must be able to accept medical treatment, if necessary, in the judgment of The American Legion California Boys State Nursing or Senior Staff.

IMPORTANT-Any citizen of Boys State found in possession of liquor, firearms, explosives, dangerous drugs or found guilty of leaving the grounds without the expressed permission of the Chief Counselor, or causing the fire department to respond to false alarms, will be subject to immediate dismissal without refund to the sponsoring Post and barred from further participation in the program. Any associated transportation cost of transportation for a delegate dismissed from the program will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. A delegate sent home for any of these reasons will be deemed to have not completed the program.

If any citizen of Boys State is found in violation of the signed General Rules, the Chief Counselor may dismiss him at any time during the session.

BOYS NATION

The two MOST OUTSTANDING citizens of The American Legion California Boys State will be selected to represent California at Boys Nation. Selection is made by votes of the boys and the counselors on the last day of Boys State.

The American Legion Boys Nation will be held at Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia, commencing on Friday, July 22 and concluding on Saturday, July 30, 2016.

Each delegate is regarded as a Senator from his Home State, and legislation is introduced, considered, debated, and voted upon in the same manner as in the U. S. Senate. Special counselors and government officials give instruction in the operation of the U.S. Government. Field trips are taken to various points of interest in the Nation’s Capitol, such as, the White
House, the Supreme Court, and Arlington National Cemetery. Each delegate has an opportunity to visit his own Congressman/Congresswoman and Senator when the group visits to the Capitol.

The selection of a President and Vice President of The American Legion Boys Nation provides the opportunity for exciting political campaigns. Each delegate will have an equal opportunity to run for these offices. The elected President is usually invited to attend and address the National Convention of the American Legion.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The District Chairman is responsible for coordinating the transportation to and from the University campus for all of the delegates from his/her District.

The Post Chairman is responsible to communicate with each delegate, sponsored by his/her Post, to advise him of the Boys State Program, information about local Orientation Programs and transportation arrangements to and from the California State Univ., Sacramento campus.

Information about The American Legion California Boys State Program can be obtained by going to The American Legion Department of California Web Site: or www.boysstatecalifornia.org or www.calegion.org. Information on Boys Nation or the Boys State programs of various other states can be obtained by going to The American Legion National Headquarters Web Site: www.legion.org or by going to www.boysandgirlsstate.org

All American Legion California Boys State Delegates will be required to sign and abide by the following General Rules:

THE AMERICAN LEGION CALIFORNIA BOYS STATE GENERAL RULES

1. I WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE ENTIRE BOYS STATE SESSION AND WILL NOT REQUEST PERMISSION FOR LATE ARRIVAL OR FOR EARLY DEPARTURE. I WILL REPORT TO THE CAMPUS NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016, AND WILL NOT REQUEST TO LEAVE EARLIER THAN 11:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24, NOR LATER THAN 9:00 A.M. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016.

2. I WILL obey the rules and regulations of The American Legion California Boys State, California State University, Sacramento, and the instructions of the Staff and Counselors.

3. I WILL NOT leave campus without written permission from the Chief Counselor. I will then turn over such written permission to the Boys State Administrator for an official pass and to log in and out.

4. I WILL protect and conserve all property of The American Legion California Boys State and California State University, Sacramento.
5. I WILL NOT enter into, nor trespass upon grounds, buildings, etc., which are designated as "OFF LIMITS".

6. I WILL write to my family and to my sponsor while at The American Legion California Boys State.

7. I WILL NOT bring to or use at The American Legion California Boys State any firearms, fireworks, water pistols, rubber balloons, or other devices which may cause injury or create a distraction.

8. I WILL NOT bring to or use at The American Legion California Boys State any sexually suggestive material, tobacco, alcohol, or unlawful drugs.

9. I WILL NOT engage in profanity, vulgarity, or rowdyism and I will conduct myself as a gentleman at all times.

10. I WILL listen to other speakers with attention and respect, and I will expect them to do the same when I am speaking.

11. I WILL NOT use and have completely turned off all cell phones and/or other electronic devices while attending all scheduled activities.

12. I WILL NOT campaign for any office or prepare any campaign material prior to my arrival at The American Legion California Boys State or prior to my filing for the office.

13. I WILL be quiet after lights are out at night and prior to reveille in the morning.


15. I WILL keep myself clean and well-groomed while attending The American Legion California Boys State.

16. I WILL accept the responsibility for payment of any destruction of University or The American Legion California Boys State property for which I am responsible.

The Delegate must sign their agreement to these rules on the Sponsorship or Alternate Card.

Form-2A Rev. (11/2015)