

## WHAT IS BOYS STATE?

In the words of founder Hayes Kennedy, “Boys State has been developed on the fundamental assumption that youth can best “learn to do by doing.”

Illinois Boys State is a unique lifetime experience. It is an opportunity for young men from all across the state to meet in a college campus environment. For most, it is the first time that young men from the city and suburbs meet young men from farms and rural areas of the state. They share a common goal: create a mythical 51st state government, complete with governmental bodies and elected public officials.



The program is designed to mirror the structure of Illinois local, county and state governments, while providing training in citizenship, leadership, and character development.

“Citizens” are assigned to a mythical political party which results in involvement at the city, county, judicial circuit, and legislative district as well as at the state level of government. The government organization provides for elections at all levels and includes party caucuses and conventions, platform development, and the organizing and operation of local government units such as the city council and county board of supervisors.

*“Every attendee of Boys State will assuredly leave with a renewed sense of both individuality and teamwork. Boys State surrounds all of its participants with the best that Illinois has to offer in young, brilliant minds. The knowledge gained here and the connections made here will last a lifetime.”*

Trevor Matusik – 2013 Lt. Governor – Lake Villa, IL

## ELIGIBILITY

All participants must meet the following criteria:

- All boys must have completed their junior year in high school and must have one or more semester in high school to complete after attending Boys State.
- All boys must be sponsored by an American Legion Post, parent, individual adult, church, bank, union, school organization, or other organization.
- All boys must attend all sessions and activities of the week.
- A boy may check in late on Saturday due to ACT or SAT testing with notification of the Boys State Administration.

*“Boys State will help you excel even if you are shy. I have made some great friends in the short period of time I have been here; winning the trust of my fellow citizens by being elected Clerk of the Senate was a tremendous feeling. The values of respect and good work ethic have been instilled in me.”*

Jordan Wood – 2009 Citizen – Quincy, IL



## REGISTRATION AND COSTS

- The cost of \$300 covers all program materials, as well as room and board. All costs of the program are the responsibility of the sponsor or sponsoring organization.
- Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from Eastern Illinois University. Participants may want to contact their local American Legion post for information on group transportation.
- A registration form and EIU liability waiver can be obtained from any local American Legion post, or by visiting [www.IllinoisBoysState.org](http://www.IllinoisBoysState.org) and clicking on the registration link.

Upon receipt of your registration and payment, participants will receive an acceptance letter by US Mail.

*“The Boys State program is masterfully organized to develop your leadership, public speaking, friendships, and knowledge of government. The events are designed to quickly make you a better citizen of Boys State; however, when you leave, you’ve been made into a better American citizen.”*

Steven Harrison – 2013  
Commander’s Scholarship Winner – Naperville, IL



## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Illinois Boys State is proud to award ten college scholarships totaling \$19,000 to its participants each year. During the Boys State session, winners are selected based upon participation in various aspects of the program. Only those participating in Boys State are eligible to receive these scholarships. Visit: [www.IllinoisBoysState.org](http://www.IllinoisBoysState.org) for more information.

*“This experience has made me a better person by enhancing my leadership, cooperation, and communication skills.”*

Kody Cecil – 2010 Citizen - Abingdon, IL

## COLLEGE CREDIT

Three hours of college credit are available for Boys State participants. For information on credit from Clemson University, visit [www.ed190.com](http://www.ed190.com). For information on credit from Adams State University, visit [www.leadershipcredit.info/boysgirls-state-programs](http://www.leadershipcredit.info/boysgirls-state-programs).



## COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Participation in the Boys State program serves as testimony to one's character and leadership skills. This is an experience recognized by employers, service academies, and university admissions boards as an indicator of strong leadership and character traits. Many colleges and universities offer their own scholarships to those who attended the Boys State program.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about Illinois Boys State, please visit our website at:

[www.IllinoisBoysState.org](http://www.IllinoisBoysState.org)

If you have a specific question about Illinois Boys State, feel free to send an email of inquiry to: [info@IllinoisBoysState.org](mailto:info@IllinoisBoysState.org)

If you have a specific question about registration, feel free to send an email of inquiry to: [registration@IllinoisBoysState.org](mailto:registration@IllinoisBoysState.org)

## MAILING ADDRESS

American Legion Department of Illinois  
PO Box 2910, Bloomington, IL 61704

## PHONE NUMBER

1-309-663-0361



*“Boys State is a perfect opportunity to find out who you truly are. The program surrounds you with the best and the brightest that Illinois has to offer, and finding your place within this conglomerate will shape your experience. Some may find that they are well suited to be a leader of their peers. Others may uncover talents that they never knew they had. Ultimately, the week will change the way you look at yourself.”*

T.J. Collins - 2013 Boys State - Gurnee, IL

To learn about the **national** American Legion Boys State program, visit:

[www.BoysAndGirlsState.org](http://www.BoysAndGirlsState.org)



**“A WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME”**

**Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL**



**June 9-15, 2018**

[www.IllinoisBoysState.org](http://www.IllinoisBoysState.org)