



**American Legion Post 170
33 W. Passaic St.
Rochelle Park, New Jersey, 07662
201-843-9683**

To: Potential Boys State Delegate

American Legion Post 170 is looking for juniors in High School who would like to attend the Legion's Boy State program at Ryder University this year from June 17-22th. If you are interested, please complete the information below and enclose a composition of at least 250 words on why you would like to attend and what you hope to learn from attending.

Attached is a description of the program and if you would like more information you can check our Web site www.alpost170.us.

Please return these to no later than January 15th, 2012. If you have any questions you can contact during the evening at 201-368-3453.

For God and Country,

**Bob Salvini
Boys State Chairman**



Rochelle Park American Legion Post 170

33 W Passaic St.
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662
201-843-9683

“The Liveliest Post in Bergen County”

**American Legion
Jersey Boys State**



*A Week
That Shapes
the Future*

Rochelle Park American Legion Post 170 Boys State Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

High School: _____ Grade Average: _____

Organizations you currently belong to, or have belonged to in the past:

References:

If qualified by relationship to a Post 170, Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion member, please include their name:

Boys State Program

Foreword

The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic than to train our young people in the ideal and objectives of American government. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate the basic principles involved in the successful management of a democratic society, we can keep America strong and ensure freedom for future generations. These are the distinguished and long-standing objectives of American Legion Boys States.

They are accomplished through a unique summertime program, one that emphasizes not classroom lectures or textbook learning, but participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with its governing bodies and elected public officials.

Boys State was founded, and its courses of instruction designed, to supplement the information taught in high school civics classes. Boys State teaches that our form of government is good but that its preservation depends on intelligent, informed, and loyal citizens in combination with an honest and impartial administration of government activities.

Young men chosen to be Boys State citizens can look forward to a wonderful and challenging experience. All who attend can acquire a better understanding and deeper regard for our nation's legacy of freedom and democracy.

American Legion Boys State

As a program of The American Legion, Boys State developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government; that the individual is an integral part and commensurately responsible for the character and success of his government. As such, it is an activity of high educational value, born out of a need for youth training in practical citizenship.

Boys State is easily classified as a leadership action program where qualified male high school juniors take part in a practical government course designed to develop in the young citizens a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon them the fact that government is just what they make it.

Goals

A program of this scope encompasses many important objectives. We, The American Legion, feel that these are the most important and the ones for which we strive. As you can see, the final two are taken directly from the Constitution of the United States.

- It is our earnest hope that each young man attending Boys State will return to his community a better citizen and that we will have aroused in him a desire to demonstrate this fact by his willingness to make civic contributions that will help to make his community a better place in which to live.
- We desire to create more than just a passive interest in the actual study of government; we strive to create an interest that will be born of the desire for knowledge.
- We desire to impress upon the young men the glorious traditions which have made this country what it is today.

- We attempt to create a strong support for our government in many ways but primarily by bringing them into the full realization of how wonderful it is to be an American.

Program Objectives

- To develop civic leadership and pride in American citizenship.
- To arouse a keen interest in the detailed study of our government.
- To develop in the young citizens of Boys State a full understanding of our American traditions and belief in the United States of America.
- To arouse in young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government.
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation.
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

General Organization

Boys State is conducted in 49 Departments of The American Legion. Hawaii does not conduct a program. As separate corporations, Boys States vary in content and method of procedure, but each and every Boys State adheres to the basic concept of the program--that of teaching government from the township to the state level.

The New Jersey Boys State program is fashioned after the government structure of the state of New Jersey. Citizens of New Jersey Boys State are assigned to cities and towns and operate local government under either a selectman/town meeting or a mayor/council format. At the state level, a state's legislature and commissions deal with the problems facing the state of New Jersey. Boys Staters are asked to tackle many of the same issues and problems that their local town government officials and state agencies deal with every day.

New Jersey Boys State operates under a two-party system with instruction provided in the organization and operation of political parties at both the local and state levels.

New Jersey Boys state runs for seven days, Sunday through Friday, during the last week in June. The program will accommodate approximately 300 citizens.

Program Site

New Jersey Boys State is held on the campus of Ryder University. Classrooms, and auditoriums and other facilities of the University are used by the citizens of Boys State. Boys Staters dine in the University dining hall and are housed in residence halls on the ECSU campus.

The Staff

The supervision of activities at Boys State and the responsibility for the full program is entrusted to its director. He is assisted by an Administrative and an Instructional staff that usually includes volunteer educators, attorneys, and other professional people, many of whom are drawn from the membership of The American Legion.

The Instructional staff consists of boys state counselors, guest speakers and experts who provide a connection between the government of the state of New Jersey and the Boys State action program. Among the instructors are lawyers, police officers, local and state government

officials. Many also serve as counselors helping to supervise the daily activities of the town and cities.

City Counselors are assigned to the groups of about 30 to 40 boys who comprise a town or city within boys state. These counselors are responsible for the daily supervision of the city activities including political organization, election and daily operation of the city. Counselors are members of the American Legion, cadets or midshipmen from the U.S. Service Academies and former Boys Staters who donate their time to the program.

PROGRAM

Political Organization

Upon arrival at Boys State, the citizens are assigned to one of two political parties, the "Nationalists" or the "Federalists." These labels are in no way reflections of the major political parties in American Government, but are established to allow instruction and participation in the two-party system of government. One of the chief duties of the Boys State delegates is to develop a platform on which the parties will stand for election.

An effective political system is created at Boys State to operate at both the local and state level. The political organization is broken down to its smallest components at the town committee level and graduated to the state level, concluding with a nominating convention.

The government organization provides for many key features.

- city and state elections
- party caucuses and conventions
- speeches, platform committees and organization of component units such as commissions and legislative committees
- local functional government units such as town boards, agencies or courts.

Instructional Program

The Instructional Program is carried out in three phases: limited classroom instruction, functional activities and general assemblies. Its important to note that more than 50% of the program hours at New Jersey Boys State are spent in hands-on, functional learning activities.

Classroom Instruction is held on subjects such as law, civil service, election procedure, and parliamentary procedure. Other special "schools" are held to inform candidates of the duties of the office they seek, and, following election and appointment of officers, to instruct in the operation of the respective offices held by the citizens. Occasionally general assemblies are used to instruct on certain phases of government with individual instruction given for particular Boys State officials.

All citizens of Boys State receive instruction in and are expected to use Parliamentary Procedure and every citizen is expected to participate in one or more special training sessions. Citizens may receive training in law enforcement, judicial operations, legislative procedure, and various phases of municipal government. Classroom instruction includes detailed explanation and instruction on the legislative, judicial and executive procedures of New Jersey state government.

Functional activities start with local town committee planning sessions. Citizens choose their own method of nominating candidates for local offices. The program concludes with the nomination,

election and inauguration of the Governor of Boys State. Along the way citizens participate in functional activities such as elections, caucuses, conventions, operation of courts, legislatures and municipal government, law enforcement and town planning activities. These activities constitute the heart of the Boys State program and its "learn by doing" approach.

Qualifications

Selection of Citizens

In the actual selection of boys as citizens of Boys State, merit and ability alone are the basis for selection. No boys are permitted to attend because of either wealth or poverty. Boys State is not a program for underprivileged boys, nor is it a summer camp for recreation. Fees, or "tuition," are paid by the American Legion Posts or other community-minded organizations, with little or no expense to a young man or his family

American Legion Posts in the State of New Jersey are invited to send as many delegates as they can afford to sponsor. Many local Legion Posts solicit sponsorship funds from other service organizations to help send more boys to the program. Boys interested in attending Boys State should contact their local American Legion post about sponsorship.

The selection process varies within the individual posts in New Jersey, but in general the posts solicit recommendations from high schools within their area. Schools generally recommend several more boys than the sponsor has funding for and the final selection is left to the sponsoring post. Selection procedures within the various schools varies widely, but is generally done through the guidance or activities office. Schools which do not currently send boys to the program are urged to contact the American Legion to find out about sponsorships in their area.

To qualify to attend New Jersey Boys State, a student must be a male high school junior, maintaining a C or better average and a resident of the state of New Jersey. Boys State is a recognized activity and time off from scheduled school activities is generally permitted to boys selected to attend the program. Many citizens frequently are required to take final examinations early in order to attend boys state