

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**

November 2023

**TO: COUNTY BOYS STATE CHAIRMEN
POST BOYS STATE CHAIRMEN**

**AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE
JUNE 16-21, 2024 – Our 78th ANNUAL SESSION**

It is hard to believe but it is Boys State time again! The sooner you start raising sponsorship money for your delegates, the easier it will be. After finding sponsorship support, you should focus on contacting your local schools for 2024 delegate nominations. **We are fully back to normal and expect the 2024 session to be bigger and better than ever!**

Our staff is already planning next year's session. Last year's session went very well thanks to many new ideas from you and your hard work in sending us the best delegates in New Jersey. Our hope is that this year, you will make a big effort to include all high schools (public, private, and parochial) and homeschooled students in your sponsorships. With our ever-changing cities and counties, there are new schools opening all the time. Please reach out to them as early as possible!!!

The fee this year is once again \$300.00 per delegate. This was approved at the annual meeting of the ALJBS Board of Trustees in September. **For the first time ever, our (very strong) suggestion/recommendation is for the Post to charge each sponsored delegate \$50.00 of the \$300.00 fee and the Post should contribute the other \$250.00. To be clear, it is the Post's responsibility to collect the \$50.00 from the delegate/parents and the Post should send the \$300.00 payment to Headquarters in Trenton.**

The **deadline** for submitting sponsorship money and cards is **MAY 31, 2024**. By getting the sponsorship money in as soon as possible, we can invest it before we must pay Rider University. This helps us keep the fee low. **Please go to aljbs.org for all the most current information on the Program. We have created a "Standard Operating Procedure" (SOP) for Post and County Boys State Chairman with very helpful information. It can be found here: https://aljbs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ALJBS-PostChairman_SOP_2019.pdf. We encourage you to read and use this.**

The following procedures should be followed concerning sponsorships and sponsorship cards:

1. Arrange for your Post and/or other organization(s) in your town/area to sponsor the delegates. There are many groups and individuals who would gladly sponsor delegates in full or in part to send a delegate to ALJBS. \$300 (or \$250 paid by the Post, \$50 paid by the parent, as suggested) is a bargain for the education that these delegates receive. Many potential sponsors attended ALJBS. All you need to do is ask!!!

2. Complete the 3" x 5" sponsorship card and send it in with the full fee of \$300.00 per delegate to the following address: **American Legion Jersey Boys State, Building #5, 2nd Floor, 171 Jersey Street, Trenton, NJ 08611.** The \$50.00 fee collected by the Post from the delegates should be deposited into your Post account directly and should be used to offset the \$300.00 you are sending to Headquarters. **Do not send Headquarters the \$50.00 fee collected from the delegates. You should send a check for \$300.00 per delegate.**

3. As a guideline, delegates should be high school juniors, be no older than 17 years old, have at least a "B" average, be involved in extracurricular activities, have some interest in politics and current events, and be a resident of New Jersey. **A non-resident of New Jersey is eligible to attend Jersey Boys State if they attend school in New Jersey. A New Jersey resident that attends school out of state is also eligible. Non-U.S. citizens may also attend Boys State if they attend school or live in New Jersey. Call us if you have any questions about eligibility.**

4. After interviewing and selecting the delegates and alternates, have them complete and submit the application on-line through our web portal (supported by "Campsite") as soon as possible after they are selected. All delegates will be required to register on Campsite, and be "approved" by Headquarters before they are able to access their medical forms. **All applications must be into Department no later than JUNE 8, 2024.**

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5. Delegates must complete a medical form, which will be on-line through our web portal. The delegates will receive instructions directly from ALJBS when and how to complete the medical form, which will also be posted on our website at ALJBS.org. The form will be completed based on a doctor's visit within the last 12 months. **NO** applicant will be allowed to attend the Program if he does not have this completed.

6. Applications will not be accepted unless they are completely and properly filled out. **We expect the application for the delegates to be open no later than January 1, 2024.** You and the delegates will be informed when the system opens, and updates will be posted on our website at ALJBS.org. **PLEASE** make sure applications are sent to us via our web portal. Regardless of sponsorship (by The American Legion alone or co-sponsoring Service Club) the application, with the correct address, must be approved by the Boys State Chairman and/or Post Commander of the local Legion Post. **The co-sponsor's name and address, as well as the Legion's, must be on the application when sent to us.** Applications are to be filled out by applicants only. **DO NOT SIGN UNTIL YOU CHECK OVER THE APPLICATION AND HAVE MET THE DELEGATE.**

7. Alternates will also be required to pre-register and complete their medical forms via our online portal ("Campsite") ahead of the session. Alternates who show up at Boys State for registration at the 2024 session without having an application in the Boys State file will not be admitted. Therefore, additional alternate blanks and registration cards will be sent to you when needed and requested. The alternate should know the name of the boy for whom he is an alternate and Post number to register. We will not process an application unless we have the correct information. **This is your responsibility.**

8. Each delegate registering on Sunday, June 16th must have his medical form completed on-line. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND THE MEDICAL FORM TO HQ! REGISTRATION IS FROM 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM on June 16th.** We suggest arriving at 7:00 am at Rider University. The delegates will be told where to go and what to do upon arrival. **PLEASE CHECK THE ABOVE CAREFULLY.** Since you are also responsible for the delegate's transportation home, make sure they know the Program will end at approximately 4:00 PM Friday, June 21st.

9. We will be hosting several on-line information sessions via Zoom in December 2023 to review the delegate application process and answer your questions. Please be on the look-out for those meeting dates/times.

10. The Director reserves the right to send a Delegate home without graduating if he does not meet the qualifications stated and does not obey the rules and regulations of Boys State. The Director will follow this procedure only when necessary. If a Delegate is sent home under such condition, a letter will be sent to his parents, his principal, and the sponsoring organization, notifying them of this action.

11. **Permission to leave the Program during the session may only be granted and approved by the DIRECTOR on a very limited basis.** Delegates are expected to stay at the Program for the entire week. In addition, delegates are expected to stay until the end of the Program 4:00 PM Friday, June 21st. Under no circumstance are delegates to leave the Program early. Any questions, please have the parents email Director David Bagatelle at director@aljbs.org directly. **This is not a decision that can be made by the Post or County Boys State Chairmen. DO NOT ASSUME the authority to say that a Delegate will be permitted to leave the campus for any period while Boys State is in session. That authority rests solely with the Director.**

County orientations are meant to be informative for the delegates, alternates, and their parents. They should not be political or encourage delegates to run for any office. Every delegate and alternate should be required to attend County orientation. Boys State staff members are available to help if you wish. Once again, use **ALJBS.org** as a tool to help you and your applicants/delegates. We will also be conducting virtual orientations in addition to your in-person County Orientations once again in 2024.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Legion Headquarters at (609) 695-5418 and speak with Tammie. Thank you as always for your hard work and support.

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