

AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE

JUNE 10 – JUNE 16

2018

Dear Adjutant/Children and Youth Officer,

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State is an honors, leadership and citizenship academy which has existed since 1936 to teach “good government through participation” to the outstanding male juniors in the State of West Virginia.

Please take the time to review the enclosed materials and **provide the requested response by March 16, 2018**. You may visit <http://mountaineerboysstate.org> for additional information on the program. ALMBS has long been recognized as one of the most respected educational programs of government instruction for high school students.

It is our goal to have every high school, in the State of West Virginia, represented at the 2018 session; which is the 81st session of the program. We are willing to work with you to assure that your high school(s) are represented at the program.

Please do not hesitate to address any questions, regarding ALMBS, to the point of contact for your area listed in the enclosed materials.

Sincerely,

Director Jim Davis



81ST ANNUAL

RESPONSE REQUESTED BY MARCH 16, 2018



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The purpose of this packet is to provide you with important information related to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS) program and to encourage you to **begin identifying sponsors for the 2018 session**. The program is capable of housing 420 boys at WVU Jackson's Mill. We would like to continue our increase in enrollment over last year's session and max out the camp this year. **We can only do this with your support!**

Please **attempt to identify as many sponsors as you can** for the 2018 ALMBS. The Board of Directors eliminated the quota that each post received based upon the post's membership. Consequently, you are limited only by your ability to secure sponsors, which can be your post, other civic clubs, churches, fraternal organizations, businesses, individuals and other groups. Enclosed is a copy of a sample sponsorship solicitation letter that you can modify and use as necessary. Many posts have already secured sponsors. If you need assistance or have any questions, call and check with the point of contact for your district.

You will find included in this packet a copy of the application for the 81st Annual American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. Make as many copies of this application as needed; however, **all applications sent to Department Headquarters must be accompanied with payment in the amount of \$250.** If you cannot secure sponsorship in your area, contact Jim Davis or Department Headquarters to see if there are any sponsorships in other areas of the state. Another option is to **give the parent the option to sponsor their own child to the program**. This was approved by the ALMBS Board of Directors a few years ago; so long as the boy meets all the qualifications.

An up-to-date DVD is enclosed that provides an overview of the program. You can utilize it to recruit sponsors and boys from your local community and high school(s).

This year at the Mid-Winter Conference there will be an American Legion Mountaineer Boys State workshop that you or a representative from your Post is highly encouraged to attend. The workshop will include information on how to recruit boys, recruit sponsors, and spread the word about ALMBS. This workshop will also permit you and your Post the ability to ask any questions of the ALMBS staff that you may have.

If you or any members of your post are interested in serving on the staff, please let Jim Davis know. We are always looking for good volunteers. The directors of the program sincerely thank you for your efforts and if you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Jim Davis, your District point of contact or other members of the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program administration.

PURPOSE: The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS) has been a program of The American Legion, Department of West Virginia since 1936. ALMBS participants are exposed to the rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county, and state governments operated by the participants elected to the various offices. Activities include executive, legislative, and judicial sessions, law enforcement presentations, assemblies with a variety of guest speakers, and Americanism presentations. Band, chorus, and recreational activities are also parts of the program.

ALMBS was created to teach good government through participation. Participants receive instruction and hands on experience in the governmental, political, and legal processes and participate in a variety of "career paths" that include Political, Legal, Banking, Law Enforcement, Journalism, National Guard, and Emergency Services.



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BENEFITS: Attendees of ALMBS are eligible to apply for the Samsung Scholarship, if they are direct descendants of a US wartime veteran, worth up to \$20,000 towards any higher education institution, including but not limited to, state, private, and technical institutions. All graduates are also eligible for a \$30,000 college scholarship to Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN. ALMBS attendees also receive extra merit points toward admission to all US Military Service Academies. Most importantly, attendees also become a member of an elite group of individuals that have graduated from “A Week That Shapes A Lifetime!”

OBLIGATION OF AMERICAN LEGION POSTS: The Post Commander or his designated representative in charge of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program shall check with the local high school(s), interview boys recommended, ascertain those available, make final selection from the list provided by the high school principal as ALMBS representatives of the post, and **return completed application(s) and fee(s) to Department Headquarters by March 16, 2018.**

Every high school in the state received a letter requesting them to send a list of eligible boys to Department Headquarters and their local American Legion Post by November 16, 2017. Check your Post for the list from your high schools. If you have not received a list at your local Post, please contact Department Headquarters to see if your local high school(s) have responded.

COST: The cost for each boy this year will be \$250.00 (transportation to and from ALMBS shall be arranged by the Citizen’s parent(s) or sponsoring organization). **The boys selected to attend ALMBS are not permitted to drive themselves.**

SPONSORS: The American Legion Posts, civic clubs, churches, fraternal organizations, individuals, and other groups interested in cooperation with this youth program may sponsor a citizen to ALMBS. Local American Legion Posts are responsible for contacting the various organizations in their respective community in regard to having such group act as sponsor or co-sponsor in sending boy(s) to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. All ALMBS applications **must have the sponsor listed, along with the sponsor’s address, and payment attached** in order for the application to be processed. In 2010, the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Board of Directors approved the ability for individuals to sponsor boys to the program. **It is also permissible for a boy’s parent and/or family to sponsor their boy to ALMBS, so long as the boy meets all of the qualifications.**

QUALIFICATIONS: All eligible candidates must:

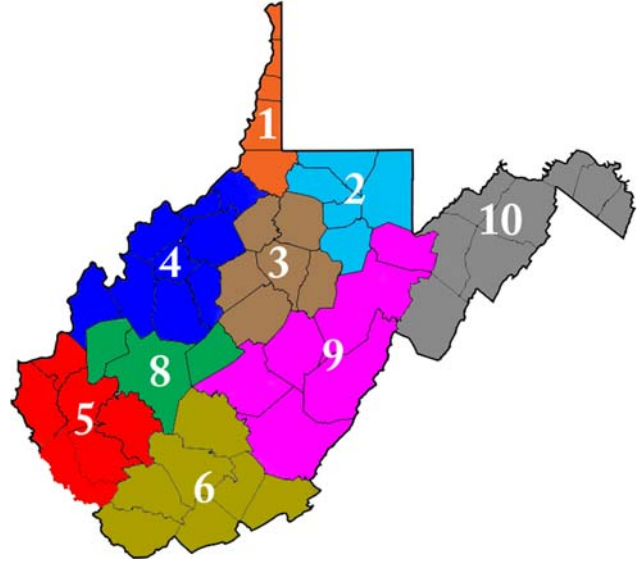
1. Be a member of the male enrollment of the junior class;
2. Have a 2.75 grade point average or higher on a four-point scale or its equivalent (**Note:** schools should use the most current cumulative grade point average as of the time of their response);
3. Have demonstrated outstanding qualities in the areas of school activities, community activities, and character;
4. Have never attended a Boys State program previously and
5. Be a citizen of West Virginia OR attend a high school in West Virginia

ALMBS is open to those meeting the above requirements regardless of race, creed, or national origin.



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ORIENTATION SESSIONS: In order to address and hopefully reduce no-shows and better prepare those selected to attend, an effort is underway to conduct an orientation session in each district of the state. Those selected, alternates, school officials, sponsors, parents, and American Legion Family members are encouraged to attend. The programs will be presented by American Legion representatives and current/past ALMBS Staff Members/Citizens and will involve a video presentation and other information. A schedule of the District Orientation Sessions will be mailed to each selectee and posted on The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State website. **If your Post conducts a separate Orientation, please contact Jim Davis (jim.davis@wvlegion.org) for a copy of the outline being used for the District Orientations so the boys will all receive the same information.** A copy of the Orientation Video is included in the attached DVD.



POINTS OF CONTACT: If you have any questions please contact the individual(s) assigned to your area. The ALMBS website (<http://mountaineerboysstate.org>) may also provide useful information should you have any questions. The American Legion Department of West Virginia website (<http://wvlegion.org>) may also be used as a reference.

- District 1: Jim Davis (304) 481-4021 or Gary Wolfe (304) 233-3338
- District 2: Doug Robinson (304) 365-2080 or Randall Kocsis (304) 672-9991
- District 3: Frank Nicholson (304) 592-5231 or Jacob McCarty (304) 376-2673
- District 4: David Hall (304) 674-6838 or Bob Cunningham (304) 295-4111
- District 5: Betty Ann Williams (304) 542-8523 or George Sinkewitz (304) 429-5235
- District 6: Frank Cooley (304) 887-4381 or Ron Jennings (304) 237-5112
- District 8: Bob Wines (304) 266-8717
- District 9: Charles Reneau (304) 642-0501 or Barbara Burdette (304) 661-4979
- District 10: Robbie Robinson (304) 582-3210 or Mike Immel (304) 283-7579



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DEADLINE DATES: Completed application forms with fee attached, made payable to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, should be mailed by March 16, 2018, to Jim Davis, Director, The American Legion Department of West Virginia, PO BOX 3191 Charleston, WV 25332. **AN APPLICATION IS CONSIDERED COMPLETE AFTER IT HAS BEEN VALIDATED BY THE POST COMMANDER AND SENT TO HEADQUARTERS WITH THE \$250 APPLICATION FEE ATTACHED.**

- November 16** Schools respond to Post and Department Headquarters with Recommendation List.
- February 1** Notify Department Headquarters of how many applicants you foresee sending.
- February 2-4** Mid-Winter Conference ALMBS Workshop.
- March 16** Deadline for Post selections due to Department Headquarters.
- April** Citizen Packets mailed.
- April - June** Orientation sessions held throughout districts.
- June 10** American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Citizens should arrive at WVU Jackson's Mill between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. for registration and assignment of cottage/county.
- June 13** Formal Review at WVU Jackson's Mill beginning at 6:30 p.m. and Veteran's appreciation assembly at WVU Jackson's Mill beginning at 7:00 p.m. All family, friends, guests, sponsors, high school representatives and veterans are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please arrive prior to 6:15 p.m. and assemble on the air strip; immediately following the formal review, all will assemble in the multi-purpose building, also located on the air strip, for the evening assembly. The evening activities usually conclude around 8:30 p.m.
- June 16** Sponsors and parents should arrive at WVU Jackson's Mill by 9:00 a.m. for the closing ceremony, which will conclude by 11:00 a.m.
- July/August** Work with your local newspaper and run an article about the boys from your community who attended ALMBS. Also include a thank you to the sponsors who helped send them to the program.
- July/August** Send a Thank You note or Certificate of Appreciation to your sponsors for supporting ALMBS. This will help you retain sponsors for next year's program.



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE 81ST ANNUAL: JUNE 10 – JUNE 16, 2018 SAMPLE POST COMMUNICATION TO SPONSORS

Dear Sponsor,

American Legion Post <###> is sponsoring qualified high school juniors from the county high schools to attend the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State at WVU Jackson's Mill.

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State is a one-week course in the operations of government and the political process. Each citizen, as they are referred to, can choose one of many career paths. These paths are: Political, Legal, Banking, Law Enforcement, Journalism, National Guard and Emergency Services.

The objective of the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State is to have the young men run the 51st State of the United States. They will elect all positions for state, county, and city government, while learning the valuable life lessons in how government works.

West Virginia has the second oldest Boys State program in the nation. This American Legion program has been held in West Virginia since 1936, and produces fine Americans and patriots.

The cost for each citizen is \$250.00. We would like to send as many young men from our county as possible.

We are asking for your assistance in helping build the future of America by sponsoring a young man from our county. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

<NAME>

American Legion Post <###>

[HTTP://MOUNTAINEERBOYSSTATE.ORG](http://MOUNTAINEERBOYSSTATE.ORG)
[HTTP://WVLEGION.ORG](http://WVLEGION.ORG)
PO BOX 3191 CHARLESTON, WV 25332
PHONE: 304-343-7591 FAX: 304-343-7592



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ALMBS APPLICATION CHECKLIST

PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING

- △ Contact your District point of contact if you have any questions or are in need of assistance.
- △ Notify Department Headquarters by February 1, 2018 of how many applications you are working to fill.
- △ Attend the workshop at Mid-Winter Conference.
- △ If you would like to serve on staff notify Jim Davis.
- △ Make sure all applications are filled out clearly and thoroughly. Please include sponsors name and mailing address.
- △ If you are able to secure more sponsors and cannot secure citizens, please notify Department Headquarters that you are able to sponsor a boy from another are of the state
- △ Deadline for applications and money is March 16, 2018. The \$250 sponsorship check per application must be submitted with the applications; otherwise, the application will not be processed.