

# AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

## THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE

JUNE 7 – JUNE 13

# 2020

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 prior to March 2, 2020**. 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 always our goal to have every high school, in the State of West Virginia, represented. The 2020 session will be the 83rd 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. You may contact me directly at [almbs@wvboysstate.org](mailto:almbs@wvboysstate.org).

Sincerely,

Director Jim Davis



## 83RD ANNUAL

### RESPONSE REQUESTED BY MARCH 2, 2020



# THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE 83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 7 – JUNE 13, 2020 AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

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 2020 session**. The program is capable of housing 420 boys at WVU Jackson's Mill. It remains our goal to have every high school, in the State of West Virginia, represented and maximum enrollment at each annual ALMBS session. **We can only do this with your support!**

Please **attempt to identify as many sponsors as you can** for the 2020 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. 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 83rd 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.

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, Corrections, 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 \$10,000 towards any higher education institution, including but not limited to, state, private, and technical institutions. All graduates are also eligible for numerous leadership scholarships at private and public colleges and universities across the nation. 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 2, 2020 or before.** Earlier submission of completed applications is welcome and encouraged

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 15, 2019. 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, businesses, 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 groups act as sponsors or co-sponsors 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.***

HTTP://MOUNTAINEERBOYSSTATE.ORG  
PO BOX 3191 CHARLESTON, WV 25332  
PHONE: 304-343-7591 FAX: 304-343-7592

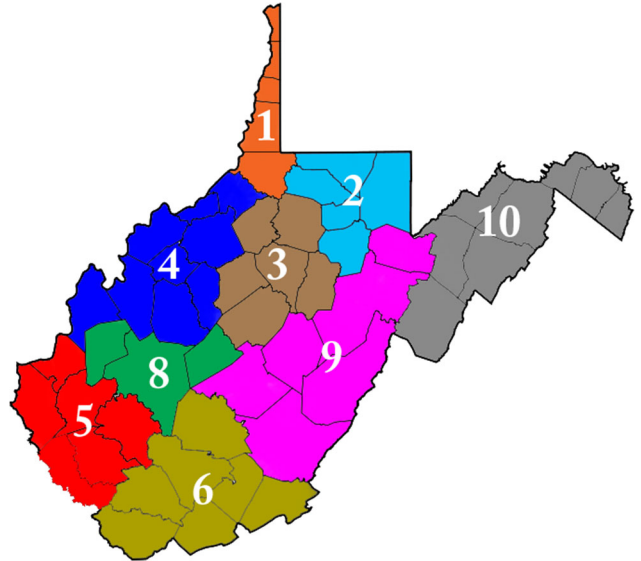


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**ORIENTATION SESSIONS:** In order to address and hopefully reduce no-shows and better prepare those selected to attend, an effort is underway to conduct an orientation session in each district of the state. Those selected, alternates, school officials, 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@wvboysstate.org](mailto:jim.davis@wvboysstate.org)) for a copy of the outline being used for the District Orientations so the boys will all receive the same information.**



**ALMBS WEBSITE:** The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State has a website that can be accessed at <http://wvboysstate.org>. The website will be updated daily with information about the Citizens' activities, including: election results, daily newspaper, pictures, assemblies, speakers, etc. There will also be live video feeds of major events during the camp, check our website daily for a list of scheduled events that can be streamed. ALMBS maintains a web presence through the following mechanism: Twitter (<http://t.wvboysstate.org>), Facebook (<http://f.wvboysstate.org>), YouTube (<http://y.wvboysstate.org>), and Zenfolio (<http://p.wvboysstate.org>). Please check us out and subscribe to the social media system for which you are a member.

Also available on the ALMBS Website is an overview video that the Post can use in recruiting sponsorships and Citizens' to the program.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:** If you have any questions please contact the individual(s) assigned to your area. 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 Bob Speaks (304) 676-6593

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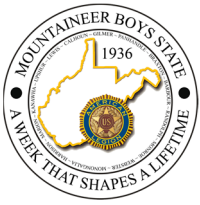
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**DEADLINE DATES:** Completed application forms with fee attached, made payable to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, should be mailed by March 2, 2020, to Jim Davis, Director, The American Legion Department of West Virginia, PO BOX 3191 Charleston, 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.** Earlier submission of completed applications is welcome and encouraged.

- November 15** Schools respond to Post and Department Headquarters with Recommendation List.
- February 3** Notify Department Headquarters of how many applicants you foresee sending.
- March 2** Post selections (Applications) submitted to Department Headquarters.
- April** Citizen Packets mailed.
- April - June** Orientation sessions held throughout districts.
- June 7** 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 10** 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 13** Sponsors and parents should arrive at WVU Jackson's Mill multi-purpose building on the air strip as announced online 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 83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 7 – JUNE 13, 2020 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 (Broadcast & Print), Homeland Security (National Guard), Corrections, 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 <###>

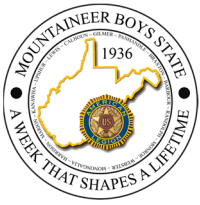
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THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE  
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ALMBS APPLICATION CHECKLIST

## 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 3, 2020 of how many applications you are working to fill.
- △ Talk to ALMBS staff 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 area of the state
- △ Deadline for applications and money is March 2, 2020. The \$250 sponsorship check per application must be submitted with the applications; otherwise, the application will not be processed. Early submissions are welcome and encouraged.



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THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE  
 83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 7 – JUNE 13, 2020  
 ALMBS APPLICATION: APPLICANT # \_\_\_\_\_

Please type or print clearly and provide all information requested.

(Official Use only)

<b>APPLICANT</b>	LAST:	FIRST:	MIDDLE:	
ADDRESS:		CITY:		STATE:
APPLICANT E-MAIL:		APPLICANT PHONE:		
IF IN HIGH SCHOOL BAND, WHAT INSTRUMENT(S):				
LOCAL NEWSPAPER:			LOCAL TV NEWS STATION:	
<p><b>Applicant Acknowledgement:</b> I have not attended any Boys State previously. I am a member of the junior class at the high school listed. If selected, I will abide by the rules and regulations of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State and of the American Legion and will remain for the entire duration of the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program. I pledge that I am not a member of, and do not subscribe to, the principles of any groups opposed to the United States and I will pledge allegiance to the flag of our country during my stay at The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPLICANT SIGNATURE:</b> _____</p>				
<b>PARENT/GUARDIAN</b>	PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:			
PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL:			PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE:	
ADDRESS:		CITY:		STATE:
<p><b>Parent/Guardian Authorization:</b> I authorize my son to participate in The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program, including any travel to off-campus activities under the supervision of adult leaders of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. I authorize any photographs or images of my son taken at The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State to be used on The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State website and on any promotional materials of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:</b> _____</p>				
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>	HIGH SCHOOL NAME:			COUNTY:
REPRESENTATIVE NAME:		REPRESENTATIVE EMAIL:		REPRESENTATIVE PHONE:
<p><b>High School Representative Rating of Applicant:</b> The student recommended above is enrolled in the junior class and meets all of the requirements for acceptance to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:</b> _____</p>				
<b>SPONSOR</b>	SPONSOR NAME:			SPONSOR PHONE:
SPONSOR ADDRESS:		CITY:		STATE:
<b>POST</b>	POST #	POST REPRESENTATIVE NAME:		POST REPRESENTATIVE PHONE:
<p><b>American Legion Post Certification:</b> I hereby certify that this applicant is qualified and has been selected for consideration of admittance to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State and have attached \$250.00 sponsorship to this application.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>POST REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:</b> _____</p>				

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:  
 AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE  
 PO BOX 3191  
 CHARLESTON, WV 25332