

AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE

JUNE 12 – JUNE 18

2022

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS) has long been recognized as one of the most respected educational programs of government and leadership instruction for high school students. We have accomplished this over eight decades by adjusting our program to keep pace with the times. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to think creatively about how we can safely deliver a meaningful and engaging program and we are proud to return to this mission in 2022.

TIMELINE

ALMBS sets forth the following timeline to achieve success. We greatly appreciate your assistance!

By January 17, 2022

- Coordinate with local High School(s) Representative(s)
- Receive Eligible Candidate List from High School(s)
- Provide ALMBS Application to interested eligible candidates and collect upon completion

February 14-18, 2022 – Pick up completed applications from High School(s)

February 28, 2022 – Completed applications and sponsorships sent to Department Headquarters

June 12, 2022 – ALMBS Opening Session



83RD ANNUAL

RESPONSE REQUESTED BY FEBRUARY 28, 2022



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE

83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 12 – JUNE 18, 2022

AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

OVERVIEW: This packet provides you with important information related to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS) program and to encourage you to **begin identifying sponsors for the 2022** 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 2022 ALMBS. You are limited only by your ability to secure sponsors, which can be your American Legion Post, Sons of The American Legion Squadron, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, American Legion Riders Chapter, 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, reach out to the point of contact for your district.

You will find included in this packet a copy of the application for the 83rd 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 Robbie Robinson or Department Headquarters to see if there are any sponsorships in other areas of the state. Another option is to **give the parent or guardian the option to sponsor their own child to the program**, 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 meeting that you or a representative from your American Legion Post is highly encouraged to attend. The ALMBS meeting will include information on how to recruit boys, recruit sponsors, and spread the word about ALMBS. This meeting will also permit you and your American Legion Post the ability to ask any questions of the ALMBS staff that you may have. It will be held directly after the ALMBS Board of Directors meeting on Friday evening or as announced.

If you or any members of your American Legion Post are interested in serving on the staff, please let Robbie Robinson 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 Robbie Robinson, Matt Sampson, your District point of contact, or other members of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program administration.

PURPOSE: ALMBS, which has existed since 1936, is a youth development program offering young students better insight into the practical operation of state government and to demonstrate that citizens are responsible for the character and success of their government. As such, ALMBS is an activity of high educational value, born out of the need for youth development and practical citizenship.

ALMBS is a *leadership action program* where qualified high school students take part in a practical government exercise. It is designed to develop a working knowledge of the structure of state government and to impress upon the citizen the fact that our government is just what we make it.

The goal of ALMBS is to teach good government through participation by becoming a mythical state government and operating it as such. It is an objective citizenship training program which strives to inculcate individual responsibility to the community, state, and nation.

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



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE 83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 12 – JUNE 18, 2022 AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

Please take the time to review the enclosed materials and provide the requested response by February 28, 2022. You may visit <http://wvboysstate.org> for additional information on the program.

It remains our goal to have every high school and home school community in the State of West Virginia represented at each ALMBS session. We are willing to work with you to assure that your high school is 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 direct questions and concerns to the director at almbs@wvboysstate.org. **Due to the cancellation of the 2020 & 2021 sessions, each high school senior class will be permitted at least one attendee to the 2022 session along with the junior class attendees.**

BENEFITS: ALMBS graduates become members of an elite group of individuals who have completed “*A Week That Shapes A Lifetime!*” and return as better citizens and leaders to their local schools and communities. ALMBS attendees who are current high school juniors are eligible to apply for the Samsung Scholarship if they are direct descendants of a US wartime veteran. This scholarship opportunity is worth up to \$10,000 towards any higher education institution, including but not limited to state, private, and technical institutions. All ALMBS 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.

Note: All applicants of the Samsung Scholarship will submit an online application. During the application process, the applicant is required to provide their high school official’s contact information for confirmation of GPA, class ranking, etc. Please ensure your high school point of contact is prepared to respond to these requests so that your applicants can successfully be considered for potentially \$10,000 in scholarship funds.

OBBLIGATION OF AMERICAN LEGION POSTS: The American Legion 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 American Legion Post, and **return completed application(s) and fee(s) to Department Headquarters by February 28, 2022, 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 January 17, 2022; a copy of the West Virginia High School Packet is enclosed as a reference. Check your American Legion Post for the list from your high school(s). If you have not received a list at your local American Legion 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.**

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



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE 83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 12 – JUNE 18, 2022 AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

SPONSORS: The American Legion Posts, Sons of The American Legion Squadrons, American Legion Auxiliary Units, American Legion Riders Chapters, 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 regarding 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** 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 the qualifications.**

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, Inc. is a non-profit 501(C)(3) tax-exempt organization and any donation to ALMBS is tax deductible as allowed by applicable law.

QUALIFICATIONS: Individuals who meet the below qualifications are eligible to apply for admission to ALMBS. **Due to the cancellation of the 2020 & 2021 sessions, each high school senior class will be permitted at least one attendee to the 2022 session along with the junior class attendees.**

1. Be a member of the male enrollment of the current 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 an American Legion Boys State program previously.
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, color, religion, disability, socioeconomic status, or national origin.

ORIENTATION SESSIONS: 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 ALMBS website. **If your American Legion Post conducts a separate Orientation, please contact Robbie Robinson (almbs@wvboysstate.org) for a copy of the outline being used for the District Orientations so the boys will all receive the same information.**

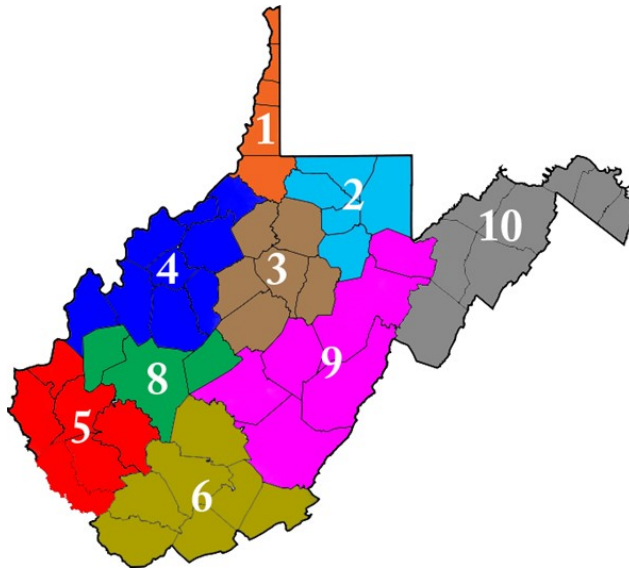
ALMBS WEBSITE: ALMBS has a website that can be accessed at <http://wvboysstate.org>. The website will be updated daily with information about the Citizens' activities, including election results, daily newspaper, pictures, assemblies, and speakers. There will also be live video feeds of major events during the camp, check our website daily for a list of scheduled events that can be streamed. 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 American Legion Post can use in recruiting sponsorships and Citizens to the program.



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE 83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 12 – JUNE 18, 2022 AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

POINTS OF CONTACT: If you have any questions, please contact an individual assigned to your area. The ALMBS website (<http://wvboysstate.org>) may also provide useful information. 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 Roger Hayes (304) 670-4654
- District 2: Doug Robinson (304) 641-4993 or Randall Kocsis (304) 672-9991
- District 3: Jacob McCarty (304) 376-2673 or Bob Wines (304) 266-8717
- District 4: Jim Davis (304) 481-4021 or Robbie Robinson (304) 582-3210
- District 5: Frank Cooley (304) 887-4381 or Donnie Lambert (304) 621-0483
- District 6: Frank Cooley (304) 887-4381 or Donnie Lambert (304) 621-0483
- District 8: Bob Wines (304) 266-8717 or Jim Davis (304) 481-4021
- District 9: Donnie Lambert (304) 621-0483 or Randall Kocsis (304) 672-9991
- District 10: Robbie Robinson (304) 582-3210 or Jacob McCarty (304) 376-2673



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



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE 83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 12 – JUNE 18, 2022 AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

DEADLINE DATES: Completed application forms with fee attached, made payable to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, should be mailed by February 28, 2022, The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, c/o Director Robbie Robinson, P.O. Box 3191, Charleston, West Virginia 25332. **AN APPLICATION IS CONSIDERED COMPLETE AFTER IT HAS BEEN VALIDATED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION POST COMMANDER AND SENT TO HEADQUARTERS WITH THE \$250 APPLICATION FEE ATTACHED.** Earlier submission of completed applications is welcome and encouraged.

- January 17** High Schools respond to American Legion Post and Department Headquarters with Recommendation List. Provide ALMBS Application to interested eligible candidates.
- February 14-18** Pick up completed applications from High School(s)
- February 28** American Legion Post selections (Applications) submitted to Department Headquarters.
- March/April** Citizen Packets mailed.
- May/June** Orientation sessions held throughout districts.
- June 12** 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 15** 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 18** 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.
- June/July** 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.
- August/September** Begin engaging schools and sponsors for the 2023 American Legion Mountaineer Boys State



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS 83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 12 – JUNE 18, 2022 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.

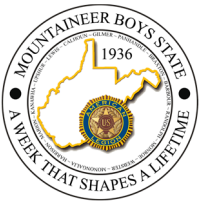
We are asking for your assistance in helping build the future of America by sponsoring a young man from our county. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

<NAME>

American Legion Post <###>

AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE
EMAIL: ALMBS@WVBOYSSTATE.ORG
MAIL: PO BOX 3191, CHARLESTON, WV 25332



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS
83RD ANNUAL: JUNE 12 – JUNE 18, 2022
ALMBS APPLICATION CHECKLIST

PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING

- Contact your District point of contact if you have any questions or need assistance.
- Talk to ALMBS staff at Mid-Winter Conference.
- If you would like to serve on staff notify Robbie Robinson.
- Make sure all applications are filled out clearly and thoroughly. Please include sponsors name and mailing address.
- If you can 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
- Submit applications and sponsorships. 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.**