



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
*Veterans Strengthening America*

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

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Dear American Legion Boys State Citizen,

Congratulations and welcome to American Legion Boys State! American Legion Boys State is among the most highly respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. I am confident that you will not be disappointed with your decision to participate in this outstanding citizenship education experience. It will influence life decisions in ways that you may not fully realize until years later.

As one of thousands of young men from throughout the nation selected to participate in American Legion Boys State each year, you will experience government in a practical sense. American Legion Boys State is a leadership action program; one that teaches government and its structure. It proves that government is just what you make it. You will find Boys State to be challenging and sometimes demanding, however, I'm certain you will undoubtedly also find it enjoyable and educational.

If this government "... of the people, by the people, and for the people" is to remain strong, it requires the involvement of its citizens. The onus of preparing for that responsibility now rests squarely upon your shoulders and those of future generations. Since 1935 American Legion Boys State has been prominent in producing young men who, just like you, stepped up to become ready for accepting that responsibility. It is possible that a future mayor, governor, congressman, or even president, may be among those in your class of American Legion Boys State citizens. I make this statement because this program has historically been the springboard for many careers in local, state and federal public service. Regardless of the future career path you follow – politics, education, business, medicine, information technology or so forth - you will develop lasting bonds of friendship with fellow Boys State citizens that will extend well after the formal program has ended.

I wish to again extend my best wishes for an interest-provoking, exciting and very fulfilling 2022 American Legion Boys State experience.

PAUL E. DILLARD  
National Commander