

AMERICAN LEGION POST PACKET

THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE

JUNE 9 – JUNE 15
2024

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.

TIMELINE

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

All dates are preferred and ALMBS will continue working with posts and schools until all slots are filled.

Preferred by November 10, 2023

- Coordinate with local High School(s)
- Determine school primary contact(s) and obtain list of eligible candidates from High School(s)

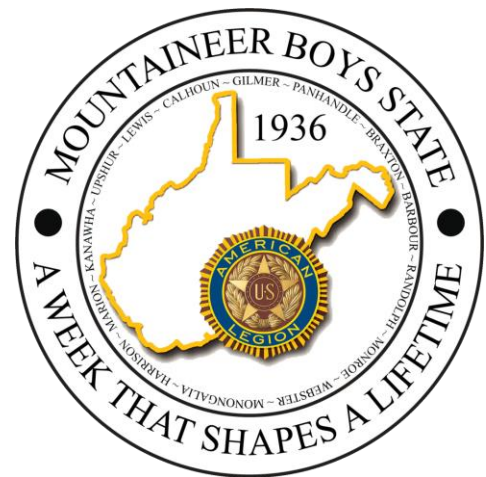
Preferred by January 19, 2024 – In coordination with school contact, direct interested eligible candidates to complete the online application (apply.wvboysstate.org) and collect upon completion

Preferred by February 2, 2024 – Collect completed applications from High School(s)

March/April – Completed applications and sponsorships sent to Department HQ (**EARLIER IS BETTER**)

May – Virtual orientation sessions held

June 9, 2024 – ALMBS Opening Session



85TH ANNUAL

RESPONSE REQUESTED



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE 85TH ANNUAL: JUNE 9 – JUNE 15, 2024 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 2024** 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 2024 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.

Please coordinate with your primacy school contact to direct all interested eligible candidates to complete the online application (<https://apply.wvboysstate.org>) and return it for endorsement and processing. **All applications sent to Department Headquarters must be accompanied with payment in the amount of \$350.** If you cannot secure sponsorship in your area, contact Director Robbie Robinson, Asst Director Matt Sampson 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.

Each year at the Mid-Winter Conference there is 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 Director Robbie Robinson or Asst Director Matt Sampson 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 students 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 model 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.

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



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Please take the time to review the enclosed materials and provide the requested response within March. You may visit <https://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.

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 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.

OBLIGATION OF AMERICAN LEGION POSTS: The American Legion Post Commander or his designated representative in charge of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program shall coordinate with the local high school(s), interview eligible candidates, ascertain those available, make final selections and endorse applications, and **return completed applications and fees to Department Headquarters within March, or before.** **Earlier submission of completed applications is welcome and encouraged** as it permits the participants the ability to prepare for participation in ALMBS and apply for the Samsung Scholarship. This scholarship application cannot be completed until they are officially accepted into the program and requires the participant(s) to work with their high school and community service organizations to certify their application support documentation.

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 preferably by November 10, 2023; 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 \$350.

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.**

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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. **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.

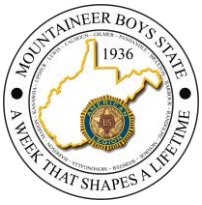
QUALIFICATIONS: Individuals who meet the below qualifications are eligible to apply for admission to ALMBS.

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. Showcases exceptional attributes in personal character, ensuring he will effectively represent himself and uphold the esteem of his local school/community;
4. Have never attended an American Legion 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, color, religion, disability, socioeconomic status, or national origin.

ORIENTATION SESSIONS: To address and hopefully reduce no-shows and better prepare those selected to attend, virtual orientation sessions will be conducted starting in May and leading up to the start of ALMBS. Those selected, alternates, school officials, sponsors, parents, and American Legion Family members are encouraged to attend. **If your American Legion Post conducts a separate information session, please ensure your applicants are encouraged to attend one of the official ALMBS virtual orientation sessions.**

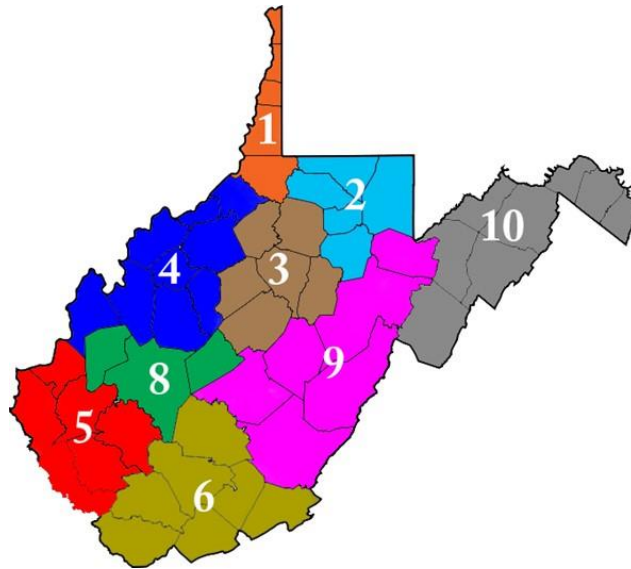
ALMBS WEBSITE: ALMBS has a website that can be accessed at <https://wvboysstate.org>. The website will be updated daily with information about the Citizens' activities, including election results, daily newspaper, pictures, assemblies, and speakers. There will also be live video feeds of major events 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.



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POINTS OF CONTACT: If you have any questions, please contact an individual assigned to your area. The ALMBS website (<https://wvboysstate.org>) may also provide useful information. The American Legion Department of West Virginia website (<https://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 Clifford Shingleton (304) 203-8988
- District 4: Jim Viers (304) 863-3084 or Robbie Robinson (304) 582-3210
- District 5: Ed Walker (915) 850-5556 or Bob Wines (304) 266-8717
- District 6: Frank Cooley (304) 887-4381 or Jimmy Slaughter (304) 800- 6626
- District 8: Jake Ruddle (304) 579-8301 or Dave Bush (304) 661-4979
- District 9: Donnie Lambert (304) 621-0483 or Barbara Burdette (304) 661-4910
- District 10: Mike Immel (304) 283-7579 or Jeff Ryman (304) 839-7120



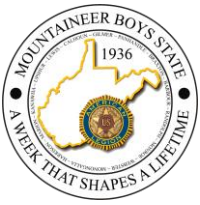
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DEADLINE DATES: Completed application forms with fee attached, made payable to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, should be mailed within March, The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, c/o Director Robbie Robinson, P.O. Box 3191, Charleston, 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 \$350 APPLICATION FEE ATTACHED.** Earlier submission of completed applications is welcome and encouraged.

- November 10, 2023** High Schools respond to American Legion Post and Department Headquarters with a list of eligible candidates. Direct interested eligible candidates to complete the online application (apply.wvboysstate.org).
- February 2, 2024** Pick up completed applications from High School(s)
- March** American Legion Post selections (Applications) submitted to Department Headquarters along with \$350 sponsorship fee per application.
- March/April** Attendees selected by ALMBS Admissions Committee and Citizen Packets mailed.
- May/June** Virtual orientation sessions held.
- June 9, 2024** American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Citizens should arrive at WVU Jackson's Mill starting at 8:30 a.m. for registration and assignment of cottage/county.
- June 9-15, 2024** Visitors are encouraged and welcome to visit throughout the week of ALMBS. A list of activities that The American Legion Family may be interested in can be found on the ALMBS website (<https://e.wvboysstate.org>). If you visit ALMBS outside of an official function, please register at the Dorsey Building upon your arrival. Evening activities usually conclude around 8:30 p.m.
- June 15, 2024** Sponsors and parents should arrive at WVU Jackson's Mill multi-purpose building on the air strip as announced online (<https://e.wvboysstate.org>) 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.
- September/October** Begin engaging schools and sponsors for the 2025 American Legion Mountaineer Boys State



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS 85TH ANNUAL: JUNE 9 – JUNE 15, 2024 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 \$350. We would like to send as many young men from our county as possible.

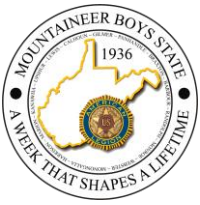
We are asking for your assistance in helping build the future of America by sponsoring a young man from our county. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

<NAME>

American Legion Post <###>

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS
85TH ANNUAL: JUNE 9 – JUNE 15, 2024
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 the sponsor's 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 \$350 sponsorship check per application must be submitted with the applications; otherwise, the application will not be processed. **Early submissions are welcome and encouraged.**

WEST VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL PACKET

THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE

JUNE 9 – JUNE 15
2024

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TIMELINE

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

All dates are preferred and ALMBS will continue working with schools until all slots are filled.

Preferred By November 10, 2023

- Coordinate with local ALMBS Representative
- Submit school primary contact
- Submit list of ALL eligible candidates

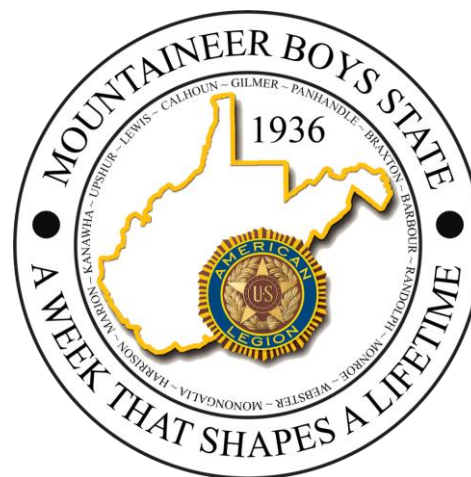
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March/April – Attendees selected and information packets sent

May – Virtual orientation sessions held

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85TH ANNUAL

RESPONSE REQUESTED



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OVERVIEW: Enclosed is information on The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. ALMBS, which has existed since 1936, is a youth development program offering students 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.

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It remains our goal to have every high school and home school community in the State of West Virginia represented at each annual 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.

PURPOSE: 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 multiple levels of government activities operated by the participants elected to the various offices. There are executive, legislative, and judicial sessions; assemblies with a variety of keynote speakers; and Americanism presentations.

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 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 be prepared to respond to these requests so that your students can successfully be considered for potentially \$10,000 in scholarship funds.

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COST: The entire cost for one boy to attend ALMBS is \$350. Local American Legion posts, or sponsors they can obtain, usually pay this fee. ALMBS is always looking for sponsors and perhaps you may have some civic groups, individuals or businesses in your community that would be willing to underwrite the cost of sending young men to ALMBS. If so, please contact your local American Legion Post or The American Legion Department of West Virginia Headquarters at (888) 534-4667. An interested applicant may also locate his own sponsor or he and/or his family may pay the \$350 fee, which covers program expenses. 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.

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. Showcases exceptional attributes in personal character, ensuring he will effectively represent himself and uphold the esteem of his local school/community;
4. Have never attended an American Legion 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, color, religion, disability, socioeconomic status, or national origin.

PROCEDURE: It is requested that by **November 10, 2022**, each high school provide ALMBS with an eligible candidate list of **ALL** students who meet the qualifications. The preferred method is by exporting an eligible candidate list directly from WVEIS or other appropriate data management system into Microsoft Excel or comma delimited file. **The eligible candidate list (in Microsoft Excel [*xlsx] or comma delimited file [*csv]) can then be submitted electronically to almbs@wvboysstate.org.** Please ensure you provide the high school's name, county, point of contact, point of contact title, email, phone, and fax information in the body of the email.

When preparing the report please ensure the students' first name, last name, complete mailing address, and phone number are present. *Please make a copy for your records and forward a copy to your local ALMBS Representative.*

Do not list anyone who does not have all the above qualifications. It has been proven that candidates who possess the above qualifications have a better chance of adjusting to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program and will be of value to the recommending school and community upon their return. ***All eligible candidates who apply for admission must be able to commit to participate for the entire duration of the ALMBS.***

We are asking you to coordinate with your local ALMBS Representative to make this opportunity available to ALL students who meet the qualifications. If you do not know who your ALMBS Representative is, please refer to the list below for the available resources in your area.

Please direct interested eligible candidates to complete the online application (<https://apply.wvboysstate.org>) and provide to the school primary contact upon completion. We ask you to keep the completed applications at your school to be picked up by your ALMBS Representative.

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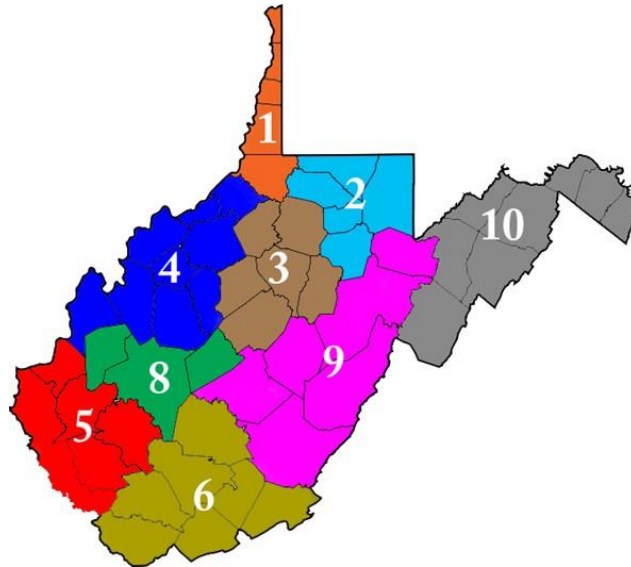


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Please remember that the list of eligible candidates you submit is not an application. We will use the list of eligible candidates to provide information regarding the ALMBS opportunity to those who appear on it. The American Legion will screen all applicants and select those for admission. Unfortunately, there is a limit on the number of young men who can be admitted to ALMBS, and we cannot guarantee that every student that you list will be able to attend. Feel free to rank your applicants in order of admission preference.

POINTS OF CONTACT: If you have any questions, please contact an individual assigned to your area. The ALMBS website (<https://wvboysstate.org>) may also provide useful information. The American Legion Department of West Virginia website (<https://wvlegion.org>) or phone (304) 343-7591 may also be used as a reference.

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