



THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE 85TH ANNUAL: JUNE 9 – JUNE 15, 2024 WEST VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL PACKET

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 it demonstrates 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.

Please take the time to review the enclosed materials and provide the requested response by November 10, 2023. 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 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 for 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.

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



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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. **NOTE:** The young man must meet all qualification requirements if self-sponsored.

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.

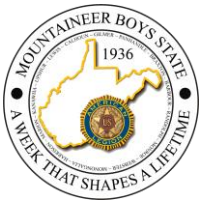
PROCEDURE: It is requested that by **November 10, 2023**, each high school provide ALMBS with an eligible candidate list of **ALL** students who meet the qualifications. The preferred method is by exporting an eligible candidate list directly from WVEIS or other appropriate data management system into 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.

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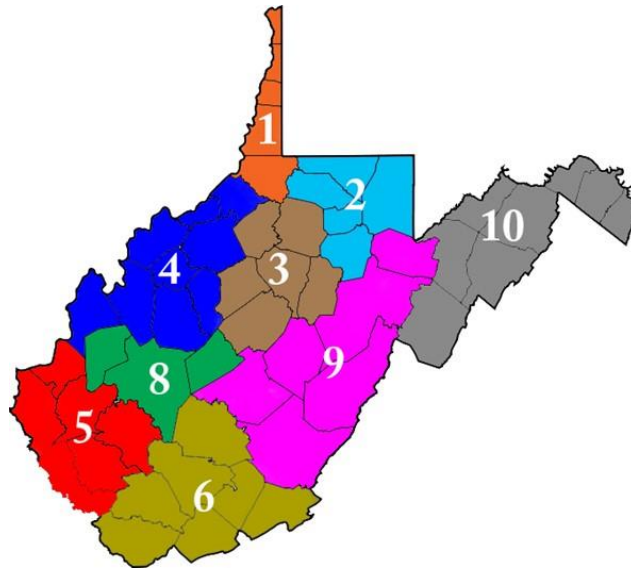
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Please direct interested eligible candidates to complete the online application (<https://apply.wvboysstate.org>) and provide to the school primary contact upon completion. We ask you to keep the completed applications at your school to be picked up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

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.

- 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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