



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! On behalf of The American Legion, I am honored to welcome you to one of the most respected and selective citizenship programs in the nation. Your decision to participate places you among a distinguished group of young leaders who have chosen to step forward, learn, and lead.

American Legion Boys State is more than a program it is an experience. Here, you will engage in a hands-on approach to government, gaining a deeper understanding of how it functions and, more importantly, how it depends on the involvement of its citizens. This is a leadership action program designed to challenge you, stretch you, and equip you with skills that will serve you for a lifetime

You will quickly discover that government is not something distant or abstract it is shaped by those who participate. This program will show you that leadership, responsibility, and service are not just ideals, but actions. While the experience may be demanding at times, it will also be rewarding, memorable, and impactful in ways you may not fully appreciate until years from now.

Since 1935, American Legion Boys State has developed generations of young men who have gone on to serve their communities and nation with distinction. Among Boys State alumni are leaders in government, business, education, medicine, technology, and beyond. As you begin this journey, understand that the same opportunity lies before you.

Whether your future leads you into public service or another path, the relationships you build here and the lessons you learn will stay with you long after the program concludes.

As National Commander, I extend my very best wishes for a meaningful, engaging, and life-changing 2026 American Legion Boys State experience.

Dan Wiley  
National Commander