



The Mountaineer

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Sunday, June 7, 2026
wvboysstate.org*"A Week That Shapes A Lifetime"*

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87TH ANNUAL SESSION OPENS AT WVU JACKSON'S MILL

Welcome to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State

The 87th Annual American Legion Mountaineer Boys State opens today, June 7, 2026, at West Virginia University's Jackson's Mill. Young men from across all 55 counties of West Virginia gather here for a week of hands-on instruction in city, county, and state government.

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program is the second-oldest in the nation. Founded in 1936, it is the only Boys State program in the country to be held continuously where it was founded.

During the week, Citizens learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of franchised citizens. Training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state government. Operated by students elected to various offices, ALMBS activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs.

Each Citizen will receive the Manual of Government, which serves as his guide throughout the week. Career path opportunities span ten programs — see today's Career Paths feature inside for the full list.

Welcome to a week that shapes a lifetime.

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

TODAY'S KEYNOTE ADDRESSES · SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026



DINNER · 5:30 p.m.

Jamie Summerlin

Marine Veteran · Author of "Freedom Run"

If anyone can run the distance, it's Marine veteran Jamie Summerlin. His passion for running and empathy for fellow veterans inspired him in March 2012 to embark on a 3,452 mile, 100 day cross country journey from Coos Bay, Oregon to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. His trek across 16 states and the District of Columbia, detailed in his book *Freedom Run*, raised money for organizations supporting veterans and inspired communities to find ways to support those who have served. Summerlin serves on the Board of Directors for Operation Welcome Home in Morgantown.

TODAY AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

7:15 a.m. Staff Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Registration of Citizens
10:30 a.m. Orientation in Cottages
11:55 a.m. Bar Exam Preparation
12:30 p.m. LUNCH
After Lunch Bar Examination
5:30 p.m. DINNER · Keynote: Jamie Summerlin
7:00 p.m. Assembly · MIA/POW & Taps Ceremonies
10:30 p.m. Devotions — Chapel
11:30 p.m. Lights Out

TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunday outlook — Lewis County / Jackson's Mill

HIGH [84°F] LOW [60°F]
CONDITIONS [Cloudy / Rain]

INSIDE TODAY

→ Speaker Spotlight (1)
→ From the Podium — 1 draft article
→ Career Paths at ALMBS
→ Awards & Boys Nation
→ Feature: What is Taps & When Is It Used?

CAREER PATHS AT ALMBS

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State offers Citizens hands-on instruction across ten career paths. Each Citizen will be exposed to multiple paths during the week, and many will hold positions or apply for staff roles within a specific path. Career path instruction is among the most distinctive features of ALMBS — exposing Citizens to vocations they may not otherwise encounter and offering hands-on participation that informs college and career decisions.

1. Political

Citizens may run for state, county, or city offices. State offices include Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Supreme Court Justice. County offices include Sheriff, Clerk, Assessor, Commissioner, Prosecuting Attorney, and members of the Senate, House of Delegates, and Board of Education. City offices include Mayor and City Council.

2. Legal

ALMBS legal system positions: Supreme Court Justices, Attorney General, Circuit Court Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, Magistrates, Circuit Clerks, and Defense Attorneys. Each ALMBS county prepares and presents a court trial reviewed by visiting Attorneys from the Harrison County Bar Association. Citizens must pass the ALMBS Bar Exam to be eligible for legal offices.

3. Journalism

Print (The Mountaineer) and Broadcast journalism staffs cover the entire week. Citizens report on guest speakers, elections, classes, legislative news, athletics, and what is taking place at the city, county, and state levels of government. The Journalism office is in the Southeast Learning Center.

4. Banking

The Boys State Bank operates throughout the week, accepting deposits and withdrawals, processing loans, and managing the Boys State currency system used to purchase campaign materials, advertisements, and General Store items. Positions: President, Vice President, Loan Officer, and Tellers (Full-Time and Part-Time).

5. Law Enforcement

Two divisions: State Police and Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Police. Citizens patrol Jackson's Mill, enforce Boys State laws (including motor vehicle laws), issue citations, and work with the legal career path on trial proceedings. DNR Police also conduct kayak patrol on the West Fork River.

6. Corrections

Corrections Officers process and supervise Citizens cited under Boys State law. Meets with advisors at the Yurts (between Webster and Monroe cottages). Climbing Wall exercise is part of the program.

7. Homeland Security & National Guard

Citizens work with advisors at the Mountain State Building on emergency preparedness, security operations, and disaster response. Members participate in the Formal Review as a uniformed unit.

8. Office of Emergency Services

OES Directors meet at the Kanawha Center for instruction on emergency management, life safety, and the coordination of state and county emergency response. Fire Training Academy participation is part of the program.

9. Forensic Laboratory

Forensic Lab personnel work in the EEC basement, supporting the legal career path with evidence analysis and expert testimony in ALMBS court trials.

10. Business Management & Marketing

Citizens organize and operate ALMBS business ventures — including campaign material sales, the General Store, and advertising placements in The Mountaineer and on broadcast. Meets at Southeast Learning Center (SLC) Right.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State recognizes Citizens, Staff, and entire cottages through a slate of named awards — most given in memory of longtime leaders — and a growing list of memorial scholarships. Awards are presented at Commencement on Saturday. Compete with honor.

■ THE HIGHEST HONOR

American Legion Boys Nation

Two Citizens will be selected to represent The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. This is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Citizen. Two alternates will be selected in case the main selectees are not able to attend.

ELIGIBILITY: Citizens elected to state office, Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, or party chairmen are eligible. In rare circumstances, the Boys Nation Selection Committee will consider Citizens who did not obtain one of these positions but who have excelled in all aspects of the program.

■ CITIZEN AWARDS (INDIVIDUAL)

POLITICAL PROCESS

Tommy E. Jones Award

Citizen who contributes most to the political process. Judged on enthusiasm, sincerity, honesty, organizational ability, and creativity.

In memory of longtime Mountaineer Boys State Administrator Tommy E. Jones.

LEADERSHIP & CHARACTER

P. E. Kercheval Award

Citizen who is an active participant in all Boys State activities, is courteous and congenial, holds high moral standards, and demonstrates leadership.

In memory of one of the original Founders of Mountaineer Boys State and longtime Chief Medical Officer, Dr. P. E. Kercheval.

LEGAL EXCELLENCE

Frank Taylor, Jr. Award

Citizen who exhibits enthusiastic interest in law and displays high moral character with honor, respect, and integrity for the rights of others. Must be an active participant. Only Citizens who passed the ALMBS Bar Examination are eligible.

In memory of longtime Mountaineer Boys State Legal Adviser Frank Taylor Jr.

CITY & COUNTY GOVERNMENT

David “Dave” Farris Award

Citizen who contributes significantly to the city and/or county government aspects of the program and exhibits a good sense of humor, kindness, competence, and fairness for all. Only Citizens who hold an elected city or county office are eligible.

In memory of longtime Counselor and Headquarters Staff member David “Dave” Farris.

PATRIOTISM

Hershel “Woody” Williams Americanism Award

Graduating Citizen who has shown the most patriotism throughout the week — demonstrating respect to the flag and to ceremonies, integrity, enthusiasm, service before self, honor, and love of country.

Renamed in 2022 in honor of West Virginia’s own Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel “Woody” Williams.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

James E. Dague Legislator of the Year Award

Member of the ALMBS Senate or House of Delegates who best exemplifies extraordinary character, enthusiasm for education, and a genuine devotion to the legislative process. Selected by the Legislative Advisers, chaired by the Legislative Coordinator.

In memory of longtime Legislative Adviser James E. Dague.

LEGION PRINCIPLES

Dr. John T. Dombrosky Award

Staff member or Citizen who has displayed the attributes of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness with the Legion principles as exemplified by Dr. Dombrosky.

In memory of Dr. John T. Dombrosky, who was a Mountaineer Boys State Citizen, Assistant Medical Officer, and Chief Medical Officer.



■ COTTAGE AWARD

TOP COTTAGE

William R. Fugitt Memorial Award

Awarded to the cottage that attains the best total score across nine categories: City Government, County Government, Board of Education, Bar Examination, Legal Program, Daily Inspection, Athletics & Band Participation, State Election Participation, and General Conduct.

In memory of longtime Mountaineer Boys State Administrator William R. Fugitt.

“Webster cottage holds the most Fugitt titles since 2018, taking the award in 2018, 2022, 2023, and 2025.”

— ALMBS History

■ SCHOLARSHIPS

Two memorial scholarships are awarded annually at ALMBS. Both began in 2025.

ESTABLISHED 2025 · \$500

James E. Dague Memorial Scholarship

Awarded annually in the amount of \$500 to the recipient of the Legislator of the Year Award. Established by the family of James Dague upon his passing. First recipient: 2025.

ESTABLISHED 2025 · \$1,000

Harley O. Stagers Memorial Scholarship

Awarded annually in the amount of \$1,000. Issued for the first time in 2025. First recipient: Gabriel Gainer.

ALMBS FEATURE

What is Taps & When Is It Used?

Taps is now played by the military at burial and memorial services, to accompany the lowering of the flag, and to signal the “lights out” command at day’s end.

Throughout the week of American Legion Mountaineer Boys State you will hear Taps sounded numerous times throughout the day. When heard, it is appropriate for you to stand in place and surrender a proper salute.

Day is done, gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh.

OF NOTE

Pledge of Allegiance

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

The Pledge should be rendered standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Persons in uniform render the military salute. Veterans and Service Members not in uniform may also render the military salute.

🎵 OFFICIAL ALMBS SONG

Men of Tomorrow

Words by Roy Lee Harmon · Music by Margaret Nicely Leidig · MBS Original, 1938

V E R S E

*Someday the State we love will call for leaders strong and bold
To solve the problems great or small and we'll be enrolled
For service to our fellowmen, and we won't be afraid,
We're training now for service, then we'll lead the big parade.*

C H O R U S

*Oh, we're the Men of Tomorrow, we march along in happy ranks today.
We never borrow a bit of care or grief along the way.
Gladly we're learning the things a good American should know.
Gladly we're yearning to chart the way a patriot should go.
With lessons done, objectives won, Good citizens we'll be;
We'll proudly stand in our home land When Mountaineers are free,
Men of tomorrow, good fellowship each one of us enjoys,
Men of tomorrow . . . a group of all-American boys.*

CONNECT WITH US

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#ALMBS · #WVBoysState
#WeAreBoysState · #MenOfTomorrow