American Legion Post Packet

The 88th Annual American Legion Mountaineer Boys State

June 6 – June 12

2027

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS) program is the most respected educational program of government and leadership instruction for male high school students in West Virginia. For over nine decades, our program has continually adapted to empower young men to become leaders in their schools, communities, and beyond through the execution of our mission of "teaching good government through participation."

Post Actions Requested:

- **Coordinate with your local high school representatives** to identify and nominate outstanding junior male students who demonstrate leadership, character, and a desire to serve.
- **Solicit local businesses, civic organizations, and community leaders to sponsor applicants,** ensuring cost is never a barrier for deserving students to attend ALMBS.



What opportunities does ALMBS offer?

- Networking with leadership-driven peers from across West Virginia.
- Engagement with elected officials and community leaders.
- Eligibility for leadership scholarships nationwide at top colleges and universities.
- Extra merit points toward admission to all U.S. Military Service Academy admissions.
- Exposure to college, university, and career representatives at an exclusive collegiate and career fair.
- Participation in career tracks led by professionals.
- Elections to mock political offices to lead and shape your own state and local governments.
- Participate in recreational, athletic, and musical opportunities.

Your involvement makes a difference! By supporting your local students' participation, you help them unlock unique opportunities and enhance your school's reputation for cultivating future leaders.

Your American Legion Post's involvement in recruiting citizens and sponsors is vital to the success of the program. If you need assistance or have any questions, please reach out to the point of contact for your district.

Response Requested

AMERICAN LEGION POST RESPONSIBILITIES – ACTION STEPS

Complete by November 13, 2026:

1. **Establish Contact with Schools:**
    - Reach out to local high schools to introduce yourself as the ALMBS Post Representative.
    - Provide your contact information and offer support for the ALMBS recruitment process.
2. **Coordinate with School Point of Contact (POC)**
    - Confirm the designated school POC for ALMBS and submit details to almbs@wvboysstate.org.
3. **Request List of Eligible Candidates**
    - Ask the school POC to provide a list of eligible junior male students (including full name, mailing address, and phone number).
    - Ensure the list is exported from the school's data management system and sent to Department Headquarters.

By January 22, 2027

4. **Promote the Program and Support Application Process**
    - Provide schools with ALMBS promotional materials (flyers, brochures, website links).
    - Offer to attend school meetings or assemblies to present ALMBS opportunities.
    - Answer questions from students, parents, and school staff about the program.
    - Encourage eligible students to apply online at https://apply.wvboysstate.org.

By February 12, 2027

5. **Collect and Submit Completed Applications**
    - Receive completed student applications from the school POC.
    - Review applications for completeness and eligibility.
    - Confirm sponsorships for each participant (typically covered by the Post or other community sponsors).
    - Begin forwarding completed applications to Department Headquarters with $350.00 Sponsorship per applicant.

March–May 2027

6. **Continue Collecting and Submitting Completed Applications**
    - The ALMBS Admissions Committee will continue accepting applications until the camp has reached maximum capacity.
7. **Assist with Participant Preparation**
    - Ensure selected attendees receive informational packets from ALMBS.
    - Remind students to attend orientation sessions (virtual or in-person).
8. **Submit Supplemental Donations to Department Headquarters**
    - The ALMBS is a 100% volunteer staff and supplemental donations to cover their expenses at the program are always accepted and appreciated.

June 6–12, 2027

9. **Support Attendees During the Program**

- Be available to answer last-minute questions from students or families.
- Celebrate and recognize students selected to attend ALMBS.
- Publish articles about ALMBS attendees from your community in local newspapers
- Thank your sponsors who helped send participants to ALMBS.

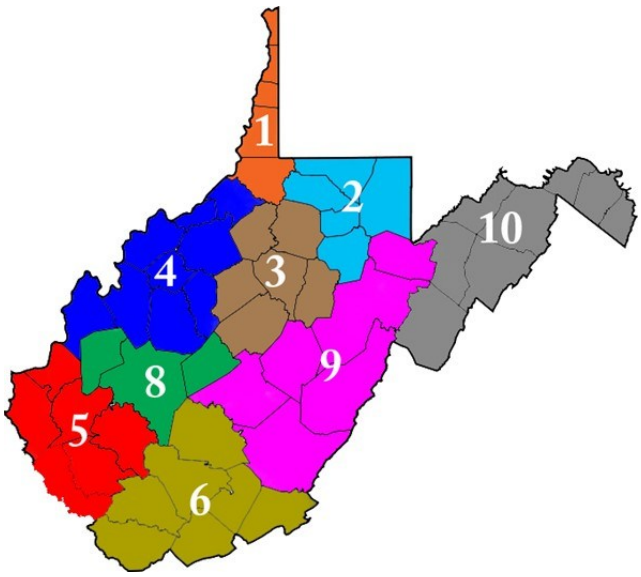
Ongoing Responsibilities

- Maintain communication with ALMBS staff and school POCs.
- Advocate for the program within your community and recruit future participants.
- Provide feedback to ALMBS staff to improve the recruitment and selection process.

AMERICAN LEGION POINTS OF CONTACT

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the local program representative assigned to your area. You may also contact the program director directly at almbs@wvboysstate.org.

District	American Legion POC	POC Phone	ALMBS Staff POC	POC Phone
1	Keith Brown	(304) 780-2890	Jim Davis	(304) 481-4021
2	Matt Sampson	(304) 685-1584	Doug Robinson	(304) 641-4993
3	Clifford Shingleton	(304) 203-8988	Robin Shingleton	(304) 641-3443
4	Robbie Robinson	(304) 582-3210	Randall Kocsis	(304) 672-9991
5	Ed Walker	(915) 850-5556	Clifford Shingleton	(304) 203-8988
6	Bridget Larew	(412) 759-1908	Clifford Shingleton	(304) 203-8988
8	Tommy Wingo	(304) 590-7989	Bob Wines	(304) 266-8717
9	Donnie Lambert	(304) 621-0483	Robbie Robinson	(304) 582-3210
10	Bob Speaks	(304) 676-6593	Robbie Robinson	(304) 582-3210



The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State
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ALMBS OVERVIEW

ALMBS Participants Discover Their Leadership Potential!

ALMBS is a week-long, hands-on leadership and government program for high school junior males in West Virginia. Since 1936, ALMBS has helped thousands of students build confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain real-world experience in government, law, public service, and citizenship.

Why Should Students Attend?

- **Experience Government in Action:** Run for office, pass laws, and make decisions in a simulated state government. Witness the effects these laws and decisions have on the simulated community.
- **Build Their Network:** Meet motivated students from across West Virginia and connect with elected officials and professionals.
- **Boost Their College and Career Prospects:** Gain eligibility for scholarships, earn extra merit points for military academy admissions, and stand out on college applications.
- **Explore Careers:** Try out career tracks in law enforcement, journalism, homeland security, emergency services, business, and more. Attend a private collegiate and career fair to develop post high school plans.
- **Have Fun:** Enjoy sports, music, and recreational activities throughout the week.

ALMBS is nonpartisan and has no association with any real-world political parties or their platforms. All eligible students are welcome! If they want to challenge themselves, grow as leaders, and make a difference, this is their opportunity!

QUALIFICATIONS

ALMBS is open to all those meeting the requirements below regardless of race, color, religion, disability, political affiliation, socioeconomic status, or national origin.

Individuals who possess the following qualifications are eligible to apply for admission to ALMBS:

1. Member of the male enrollment of the current junior class;
2. 2.75 grade point average (GPA) or higher on a four-point scale;
   (Note: Schools should use the most current cumulative GPA as of their response.)
3. Good personal character, ensuring he will effectively represent himself and uphold the esteem of his local school/community;
4. Never attended an American Legion Boys State program previously; and
5. Citizen of West Virginia OR attend a high school in West Virginia.

USEFUL LINKS:

The following websites are useful sources of additional information:

- The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State website: https://wvboysstate.org.
- The American Legion Department of West Virginia website: https://wvlegion.org.

Information about the Citizens' activities will be regularly updated online during the program to include election results, a daily newspaper, pictures, assemblies, and speakers. Major events will also have live video feeds. Check the ALMBS website daily for a list of scheduled events that will be streamed. The ALMBS website also includes an overview video that each American Legion Post may use in recruiting sponsorships and Citizens to the program. Additionally, ALMBS may be followed on most social media platforms.

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation to and from ALMBS must be arranged by the participant's guardian(s) or sponsoring organization.
- **Participants are not permitted to drive themselves** to the program.

STAFFING

ALMBS depends on dedicated volunteers to run a successful program. If you or members of your American Legion Post are interested in joining the staff, contact Director Robbie Robinson or Assistant Director Matt Sampson—new volunteers are always welcome.

Each year, ALMBS hosts a meeting at the Mid-Winter Conference, held immediately after the Board of Directors meeting on Friday evening (or as announced). Posts are strongly encouraged to attend to ask questions, learn recruitment strategies, and help spread the word about ALMBS.

SPONSORSHIP AND COST DETAILS FOR ALMBS PARTICIPATION

The cost for one participant to attend the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS) is **$350**. Local American Legion Posts play a vital role in securing sponsorships to ensure as many eligible young men as possible can attend this life-changing program.

Who Pays?

- **Local American Legion Posts** typically cover the application fee for their local applicants by contacting organizations within their communities to secure as many sponsorships as possible.
- Posts should strive to identify and recruit **multiple sponsors** to help support not only their own area but also other regions of the state where sponsorships may be limited.
- **Identify potential sponsors by observing which businesses and organizations are already supporting youth activities in your community—look for signs, banners, and advertisements at local school sports complexes. These groups are often strong candidates to help sponsor ALMBS participants.**
- **Eligible sponsors** include:
  - American Legion Posts and American Legion Riders Chapters
  - Sons of The American Legion Squadrons and American Legion Auxiliary Units
  - Veterans' organizations
  - Civic clubs and fraternal organizations
  - Churches and religious organizations
  - Businesses
  - Individuals
  - Any other groups interested in investing in the development of community leaders

Sponsorship Process

- An **example sponsorship solicitation letter** is provided for modification and use as needed.
- **All ALMBS applications must include:**
  - The sponsor's name and address
  - Payment of the $350 fee for the application to be processed

If Sponsorship Cannot Be Secured Locally

- If you are unable to secure a sponsor in your area, contact:
    - Director Robbie Robinson
    - Assistant Director Matt Sampson
    - Department Headquarters
- These contacts may be able to help identify sponsorships available from other areas of the state.
- A participant may also be **self-sponsored** by his family, provided all qualifications are met.

Tax Deductibility and Use of Funds

- The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, Inc. is a **non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization**.
- **All donations and sponsorships are tax deductible** as allowed by law.
- **All sponsorship fees are used exclusively to pay program expenses for the week.**
- ALMBS staff are volunteers and receive **no financial compensation** from the program.

SAMPLE SPONSORSHIP LETTER

Subject: Help Build Tomorrow's Leaders—Sponsor a Local Student for Boys State!

Dear Community Leader,

We invite you to make a lasting impact on the future of our community by sponsoring a young man to attend the 87th Annual American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS), West Virginia's premier leadership and citizenship program for high school juniors.

Each year, ALMBS brings together outstanding students from across the state for a nonpartisan week of hands-on government, leadership training, and personal growth. This experience empowers participants to become engaged citizens and future leaders—right here in our own community.

How You Can Help:
The cost for one participant to attend ALMBS is $350. We rely on the generosity of local organizations, businesses, and individuals like you to ensure that every deserving student has the opportunity to attend, regardless of financial circumstances. Your sponsorship will directly support a young man from our area, helping him unlock his leadership potential and bring those skills back to benefit our schools, neighborhoods, and civic organizations.

Why Sponsor?

- Your donation is tax-deductible—ALMBS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- 100% of your sponsorship goes directly to program expenses; all staff are volunteers.
- You'll be recognized as a champion for youth leadership in our community.

If you are able to sponsor a participant, or if you would like to support additional students from other areas of the state, please contact us at [insert local Post contact information] or reach out to ALMBS directly at almbs@wvboysstate.org.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference. Together, we can inspire and equip the leaders of tomorrow!

With gratitude,
[Your Name], [Your Title/Role, American Legion Post]
[Contact Information]

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Application Process

1. Complete the online application by scanning the QR code below.
2. Print the submitted application that is emailed to you.
3. Bring the printed application to your guidance counselor for certification of your eligibility for American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS).
4. Submit the certified application to your school's ALMBS point of contact (ask your guidance counselor) for collection by the American Legion or ALMBS Staff member.
5. Confirm with your school's ALMBS point of contact that your application has been received by a program representative.

HTTPS://APPLY.WVBOYSSTATE.ORG

Reproduce and distribute this sheet as needed.
Intended to be utilized when meeting with eligible candidates.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

88th Annual • June 6–12, 2027 • WVU Jackson's Mill, Weston, WV

★ *Founded 1936 • 2nd Oldest Boys State Charter in the Nation* ★

YOUR WEEK WILL CHALLENGE YOU TO

L — LEARN
Discover the foundations of American government

E — ENGAGE
Connect with West Virginia's best student leaders

A — ACHIEVE
Compete, campaign, and win elected office

D — DISCOVER
Unlock your leadership potential and future path

HOW TO APPLY

1. **Complete the Online Application**
   Scan the QR code to the right to complete the online application.
2. **Print Your Submitted Application**
   Print the submitted application that is emailed to you.
3. **Get Certified by Your Guidance Counselor**
   Bring the printed application to your guidance counselor for certification of your eligibility for American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS).
4. **Submit to Your School's Point of Contact**
   Submit the certified application to your school's ALMBS point of contact (ask your guidance counselor) for collection by the American Legion or ALMBS staff member.
5. **Confirm Your Application Was Received**
   Confirm with your school's ALMBS point of contact that your application has been received by a program representative.

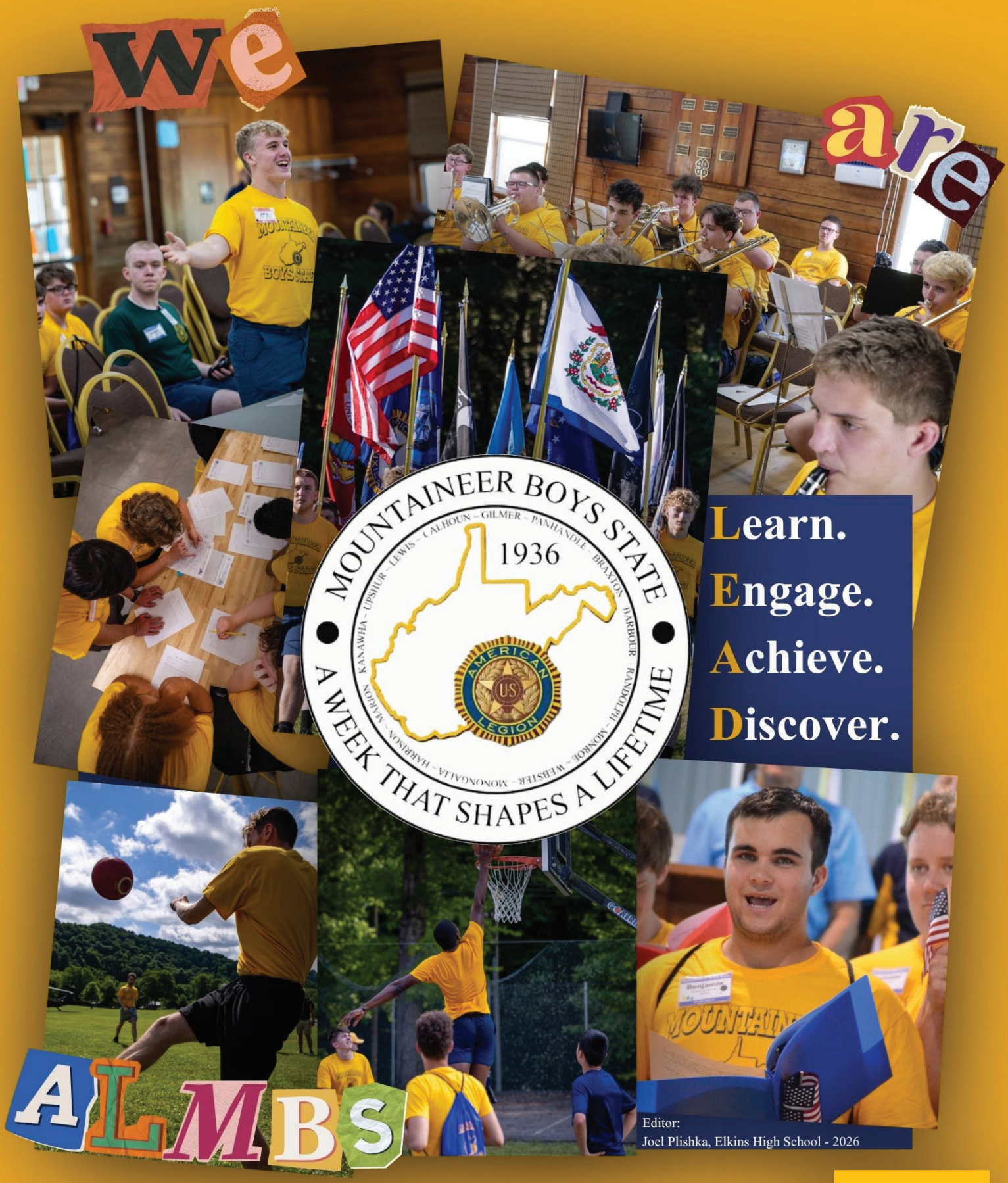
SCAN TO APPLY

apply.wvboysstate.org

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Current high school juniors (rising seniors)
- Male students from West Virginia
- Maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Recommended by an American Legion Post or school sponsor

Questions or need assistance? Contact us at **almbs@wvboysstate.org**



June 6-12, 2027

https://apply.wvboysstate.org