



THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

The American Legion Evergreen Boys State Communications Toolkit

Talking Points

Centralized talking points regarding The American Legion Evergreen Boys State program are essential in building brand awareness. Below is a series of statements regarding the over-arching goals, program standards and expected outcomes.

- The American's Legion Boys State program started in Illinois in 1935. The American Legion Evergreen Boys State program started in 1940 in Washington.
- The American Legion's Boys State program exists in all American Legion departments (states) in the United States, except for Hawaii.
- The American Legion Evergreen Boys State program is a non-partisan, non-political mock government exercise intended to instill character, the importance of civic engagement and patriotism among rising high school seniors.
- By participating in mock local, county and state government exercises, delegates learn firsthand about leadership, practical citizenship and the democratic process.
- The American Legion Evergreen Boys State program provides delegates with an interactive problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork. Delegates learn by doing as they experience government in action.
- The content of The American Legion Evergreen Boys State program subscribes to the concept of emulating and simulating government in Washington State.
- The American Legion Evergreen Boys State activities include campaigns, elections, legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies and a pizza party.
- The American Legion Evergreen Boys State program utilizes a combination of tactics, including classroom work, lectures and hands-on activities that promote learning by doing.
- Each participant is known as a "citizen" and becomes an integral part of the community by assuming specific responsibilities as either an elected or appointed official.
- Total cost to attend is \$450. Financial aid is available and tuition and registration fees may be subsidized in full or in part, by American Legion posts and other community-minded organizations so that all qualified students may attend regardless of their ability to pay.

- Students who have just finished their junior year of high school, and have at least one semester of high school left to complete, are eligible to apply to The American Legion Evergreen Boys State program.
- Homeschool students are welcome and encouraged to apply!
- Admissions Advisors for the US Military Academies highly recommend attending Boys/Girls State. They value the leadership experience the program provides. The application process for the Academies includes questions about attendance at Boys/Girls State.