



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.

- **Historical Roots:** The American Legion Boys State program has a rich history, originating in Illinois in 1935. The Washington-based program, American Legion Evergreen Boys State, began in 1940.
- **Nationwide Reach:** The American Legion's Boys State program is active in all American Legion departments (states) across the United States, with the exception of Hawaii.
- **Non-Partisan Values:** American Legion Evergreen Boys State program is a non-partisan and non-political mock government initiative. Its primary purpose is to instill character, foster civic engagement, and nurture patriotism among rising high school seniors.
- **Hands-On Learning:** Delegates actively engage in mock local, county, and state government exercises, gaining firsthand insights into leadership, practical citizenship, and the democratic process.
- **Problem-Solving and Leadership:** This program offers an interactive problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork. Delegates learn through active participation, experiencing government in action.
- **State-Centric Curriculum:** The content of American Legion Evergreen Boys State program is designed to mirror and simulate the government of Washington State.
- **Diverse Activities:** Activities include everything from campaigns, elections, and legislative sessions to court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, and even a pizza party.
- **Varied Learning Approaches:** The program employs a combination of teaching methods, including classroom instruction, lectures, and hands-on activities, promoting an immersive "learn by doing" philosophy.

- **Citizen Participation:** Each participant takes on the role of a "citizen" and actively contributes to the community by assuming specific responsibilities as either an elected or appointed official.
- **Financial Accessibility:** The total cost to attend is \$600. Financial aid is available, and tuition and registration fees can be partially or fully subsidized by American Legion posts and other community-minded organizations, ensuring accessibility for all qualified students.
- **Eligibility:** High school juniors who have completed their junior year and have at least one semester of high school remaining are eligible to apply. Homeschool students are encouraged to participate as well.
- **Academy Endorsement:** Admissions Advisors for the U.S. Military Academies highly recommend attending Boys/Girls State as it provides valuable leadership experience. The application process for these academies includes questions about attendance at Boys/Girls State.