



## TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

### 2023 Boys State Program

### Instructions

**TO:** Tennessee American Legion Boys State Delegates

**FROM:** Jason Murphy, Chairman, Tennessee American Legion Boys State

**SUBJECT:** 2023 Boys State

Congratulations on being selected to attend the **number-one** American Legion Boys State program in the nation! The Tennessee American Legion Boys State program will meet at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee, from Sunday, May 21 to Friday, May 26, 2023.

At Boys State, you will meet Tennessee leaders and dignitaries, see and hear the arguments of a real case before the Tennessee Supreme Court, and meet and make friends with hundreds of delegates.

Please read the following information carefully, as it will be helpful in making plans to attend Boys State.

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT/PROGRAM LENGTH:** The program begins on Sunday, May 21 at 12 PM CST and ends on May 26, 2023. At 12 PM CST. Delegates are expected to stay for the entire program. **Delegates will not be excused to go home for any reason other than an actual emergency (i.e., death in immediate family, illness, injury).** You cannot leave early for ACT tests, weddings, civic functions, graduations, ball games, service academy programs, jobs, etc. If you know of any reason that you cannot stay for the entire program, please notify your school and sponsoring organization so that an alternate delegate can be selected and sent in your place. Sponsors deserve to have their delegates fulfill all obligations of the program. Delegates will only be released to individuals designated on their Registration Form until the conclusion of the program. A letter of explanation for any early departure will be sent to the delegate's school, sponsoring organization, and American Legion State Headquarters.

**PHYSICAL AND PARTICIPANT HEALTH FORM:** You must bring these **completed forms** with you to check-in.

1. The [Physical Form](#) must contain the signature of your **doctor**. School physicals for sports or band may be substituted as long as they are no more than 12 months old from the start date of the program (May 21, 2023).
2. The [Participant Health Form](#) must be completed and signed by your **parent or guardian**.

You cannot check in or participate in Boys State without your completed documents.

**ON-SITE CHECK-IN:** If your last name begins with the letters **A-M**, please arrive promptly at **12:00 PM**. If your last name begins with the letters **N-Z**, please arrive at **12:30 PM**.

Delegates will check in to the residence halls in Tennessee Tech's "Capital Quad" area located on the Southwest end of campus along the corner of Peachtree Ave and 7th Street. For GPS, this address will direct to the general area: 715 Stadium Drive, Cookeville, TN 38505. Please see the [campus map](#) for the residence hall and check-in parking locations. **Delegates will receive their residence hall check-in location by email by May 19.** Please be on the lookout for that information. The first meal is at 6 PM, so **please eat lunch before you arrive.**

**AUTOMOBILES:** If you bring a vehicle, you will be given a parking permit and an envelope at check-in. The parking permit must be placed under the front windshield on the driver's side. The vehicle will be parked in an area designated by the Director. The keys will be placed in the envelope and will be turned in at the Boys State Headquarters.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Your parents or guardians are responsible for your transportation home when the program ends at approximately 12 PM CST on Friday, May 26. Neither the American Legion Department of Tennessee or Tennessee Tech University will be responsible for providing transportation for your return home. Please discuss and coordinate your transportation with your parents or guardians.

**MEALS:** The first meal will be served at 6 PM Sunday, May 21, and the last meal will be breakfast on Friday, May 26. If you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies, please be sure they are listed on your program registration form. You may email [BoysState@tntech.edu](mailto:BoysState@tntech.edu) if you need to add dietary information to your application.

**MEDICATION:** Delegates may maintain personal storage of over-the-counter and prescription medications unless the delegate asks the Boys State Headquarters personnel to store the medications for them. No over-the-counter medications (Ibuprofen, Tylenol, etc.) will be dispensed by Boys State personnel. Medications that require refrigeration can be stored in the Boys State Headquarters. Personal EpiPen and inhalers may be carried by the delegate all times. If you have questions regarding medications, you may email [BoysState@tntech.edu](mailto:BoysState@tntech.edu).

**CLOTHING:** Each delegate will receive Boys State T-shirts to wear every day during the week. Personal T-shirts or sweatshirts are only needed for a daily athletic period. You can wear shorts during the week, but they must have pockets and be an appropriate length for meeting visiting dignitaries. No cut-off, gym shorts, or unhemmed shorts will be allowed. Please see the attached "Packing List" for additional instructions on clothing.

The elected Boys State Governor will have the option of wearing a suit and tie at the Inauguration Ceremony held on Friday, May 26. If you intend to run for Boys State Governor, you may bring a suit and tie with you. Otherwise, if elected, make arrangements for your parent/guardian to bring one to you before the ceremony.

**TELEPHONE:** A telephone will be in each room for long-distance calls only. You may call collect or use a calling card with a 1-800 access number. There will be no local or incoming calls. In case of emergency, your parent/guardian may call the Boys State Headquarters at (931) 372-3730.

**MOBILE DEVICES:** Please bring a smartphone or tablet in order to access the online documents for the program. It is also recommended to bring a portable battery/power bank charger for your mobile device, as there will be limited opportunities throughout the day for charging. Please be sure the portable charger has the needed connector ports and/or cables needed for your device.

**ATHLETICS:** In addition to the regular athletic program (see attached “Packing List” – Optional Items), delegates will be allotted periods of free time. If you have a tennis racket or a ping pong paddle, you can bring them. You may also want to bring a hat to wear during athletic periods.

**BAND:** If you play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument, we would like to invite you to join the Boys State band. Each year at Boys State, a band is organized and directed by Tennessee Tech’s Director of Bands and volunteer staff. The band will perform in the pass-and-review and inauguration ceremonies. Past Boys State bands have been outstanding! Tubas and drums will be provided—all other instruments (and instrument accessories) are to be provided by the participant. Every Boys State band member will receive a certificate of participation.

**INAUGURATION:** Closing ceremonies will begin at 9:30 AM. Friday, May 26. The program will conclude by 12 PM, and all delegates must depart at that time.

**MONEY:** The costs of the program, which were pre-paid by your sponsor, include all meals. Therefore, you will not need a large quantity of money for expenses. Please bring small bills, ones, and fives preferred. Usual expenditures include soft drinks, snacks, campaign materials, or a souvenir, all of which may be purchased from the University’s Bookstore. Obtaining change can be difficult. It might be helpful for you to bring a roll of quarters.

**PACKING LIST:** A “packing list” can be found on the following page. It lists items you should and should not bring with you to Boys State.

If you have any questions, please email [BoysState@tntech.edu](mailto:BoysState@tntech.edu).

I look forward to seeing you on May 21 for an exciting and action-packed week at Boys State!



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### Packing List

The official attire for Boys State will include the following:

- Boys State T-shirt and full-length pants, jeans, or walking shorts (shorts must be hemmed, cut-offs are not allowed).
- Long dark dress pants will be needed for the official photograph and parade.
- Tennis shoes and socks are required.

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#### **REQUIRED ITEMS**

- Signed Participant Forms (1. Physical Form and 2. Participant Health Information Form)
- Blanket
- Sheets - Standard twin size
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Towels
- Pajamas
- Sunscreen
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Hand soap (bar or liquid)
- Clothes hangers
- Tennis Shoes, Flip flops/shower shoes
- Dress shoes or dark tennis shoes
- Jacket and/or raincoat
- 1 Pair Dark Slacks
- Socks (several pairs, including one dark pair)
- Plenty of T-shirts and/or Sweatshirts
- Smartphone or tablet with charger
- Portable battery/power bank charger for mobile device with needed ports and cable

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#### **OPTIONAL ITEMS**

- Athletic clothing and hat
- Tennis racket, ping pong paddle, nerf balls, etc.
- Musical Instruments (Tubas & Drums will be provided)
- Suit/Tie (Governor-Elect may wear for Inauguration Ceremony)
- Snacks
- Water Bottle

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#### **DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS**

- Too much baggage. Please travel light.
- TV
- Jewelry
- Hardball equipment/Spike shoes/cleats
- An over-supply of money
- Pre-printed campaign materials. They are strictly prohibited. Posterboard and other supplies are available at the Tennessee Tech University Bookstore.