



THE AMERICAN LEGION

**BOYS STATE
BLUE BOOK**

May 25-29, 2021

HOSTED BY TENNESSEE TECH

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Tennessee American Legion Boys State hosted by Tennessee Tech “Blue Book”

Congratulations on your selection to attend Tennessee’s American Legion Boys State!

As Tennessee’s finest young men, your school and your community’s assessment of you as a potential leader is evident, and you should take advantage of this week as an opportunity for individual growth with the help of an outstanding staff from Tennessee Tech.

Over the course of the week, you will hear from many state and community leaders, many of whom participated in earlier Boys State programs. You will be assigned to a fictitious city, county, and political party, and learn about government through participation in meetings, elections, and activities.

Though this year’s Boys State looks different from year’s past, the staff will make every effort to make Boys State 2021 a valuable experience for each delegate. You can look forward to an educational, interactive, and enjoyable week!

BLUE BOOK

You may hear this document referred to as the “Blue Book” because during an in-person program, you would receive this information in a booklet with a blue cover.

This guide should not be confused with the Tennessee Blue Book published by the Tennessee Secretary of State annually. The Tennessee Blue Book serves as a manual of useful information on our state and government, both past and present. It contains information on the makeup of Tennessee state government, state history, national and state constitutions, most recent election results, and census data. A link to the Tennessee Blue Book will be provided along with a reading guide, on the Boys State website and in the virtual platform.

VIRTUAL PLATFORM

This year’s virtual Boys State program is powered by MootUp. MootUp is an immersive 3D Virtual Event Platform that is accessible across all devices and internet browsers, no VR headset required! The 3D web technology that powers the platform has evolved over the years to enable 3D environments to be accessible from your desktop, laptop, Chromebook, tablet, mobile phone, and VR headsets. Mootup supports all browsers and devices.

To join the program each day, you will log-in to MootUp using the credentials provided to you by email. All delegates will receive an invite email to join the platform from LearnBrite Events (hello@learnbrite.com). Delegates should click the “Visit Now” link to create their avatar. Once your avatar has been created, you will receive a second email from LearnBrite Events with your username (it will be your email address) and an automatically generated password. You will use these credentials to login to your Mootup account each day throughout the program.

RULES & EXPECTATIONS

The following behaviors are prohibited by delegates during Boys State 2021:

- Displays of violence, including but not limited to sexual violence, within the virtual platform or other communication channels
- Discrimination or harassment within the virtual platform or other communication channels
- Cyberbullying
- Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, and digital devices (displays of prohibited behaviors, screenshots or recording other delegates, etc.)
- Exhibited use of tobacco (in any form), vaping, alcohol and other drugs, fireworks, and weapons
- Participation by anyone other than the Boys State delegate

Delegates are expected to:

- Attend all sessions
- Be on time for each session
- Be dressed in appropriate attire (polo or collared shirt with sleeves)
- Video conference from a suitable location with minimal distractions
- Use video for any session requested by the presenter
- Mute audio unless instructed otherwise

The rules will be explained in detail during the orientation session on the first day of the program. Unwillingness to adhere to the rules will result in removal from participation in Boys State.

SCHEDULE

All delegates must be logged in and ready to participate on the days and times listed below. A detailed schedule of sessions will be provided to you on Day One.

Day One - Tues., May 25

- 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Day Two - Wed., May 26

- Begins at 8:00 AM
- 10:00 AM – 10:15 – Break
- 12:30 PM – 1:15 PM – Lunch
- 3:15 PM - 3:30 PM – Break
- 4:30 PM – 4:45 PM – Break
- 6:30 PM – Closing
- 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM (*Optional Social Hour*)

Day Three - Thur., May 27

- Begins at 8:00 AM
- 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM – Break
- 12:45 PM – 1:30 PM – Lunch
- 2:45 PM -3:00 PM – Break
- 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM – Break
- 6:00 PM – Closing
- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM (*Optional Social Hour*)

Day Four - Fri., May 28

- Begins at 8:00 AM
- 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM – Break
- 12:30 PM – 1:15 PM – Lunch
- 2:30 PM – 2:45 PM – Break
- 3:45 - 4:00 PM – Break
- 6:00 PM – Closing
- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM (*Optional Social Hour*)

Day Five - Sat., May 29

- Begins 8:30 AM
- Closing - no later than 11:00 AM

BOYS STATE CITIES & COUNTIES

Each delegate will be assigned to one of twelve Boys State cities and counties. Each city will consist of approximately 20-25 delegates and each has a Senior Counselor that guides and mentors the delegates through all Boys State activities. City unity is important so expect to interact often with the delegates in your city. Please see the list of cities with their corresponding county below.

City	County
Alexander	Ferrell
Bradshaw	
Cheek	
Dornan	Harper
Drennon	
Hensley	
Lahiere	Hildebrand
Levi	
Maddux	
Mathis	Markham
Roberts	
Watson	

COMPETITION BETWEEN CITIES

While you learn about Tennessee government throughout the week, your city will compete against eleven other cities in an overall competition. A complete point scale for the competition is as follows:

Activity	1 st Place Pts.	2 nd Place Pts.	3 rd Place Pts.	4 th Place Pts.	5 th Place Pts.
Test*	20	16	12	8	4
Oratorical Contest	15	12	9	6	3
Tennessee Trivia	10	8	6	4	2
Delegate Challenges*	5	4	3	2	1

*Note: Individual delegate points for the activity will be combined and counted toward the city total. Points will be awarded to the city based on the highest average number of points per delegate.

TEST

The purpose of the test is to measure what you have learned throughout the week. All of the answers will be covered throughout the program in sessions or found in your Tennessee Blue Book study guide. A link to the Tennessee Blue Book will be provided along with a reading guide, on the Boys State website and in the virtual platform. The highest average test scores from each city will be awarded points based on the competition scale above.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Each city enters one contestant in the Oratorical Contest. Either an oration (original) or a declamation related to the United States Constitution may be presented, no longer than four (4) minutes. The presentation may not be political. Judging will be based on (1) appropriateness of content (2) delivery and (3) originality.

TENNESSEE TRIVIA

Each city will play a Tennessee Trivia game on Friday, May 28 just prior to the test. Delegates in the city will work together to answer the questions, and the senior counselor for the city will record the score.

DELEGATE CHALLENGES

The virtual reality platform (Mootup) has gamification abilities. Throughout the Boys State “world,” there are “objects” that delegates can “collect” throughout the program. For instance, a Blue Book hidden under a chair. If delegates collect the items, they are awarded points. City winners are determined by highest average number of points per delegate.

BOYS STATE POLITICAL SYSTEM

All delegates are assigned one of two fictitious political parties prior to the program's Day One. You will be a member of the "Jacksonian" or the "Johnsonian" party. Participation within your party is essential and important to the Boys State election process.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING

All delegates have an opportunity to be elected to office, and all are encouraged to "throw their hat in the ring." Election Rules and Information, Campaign and Election Schedule, and Elected and appointed offices are as follows:

Election Rules & Information

1. **City Offices.** All delegates are eligible. Each political party, in caucus, nominates one candidate for each office. Plurality vote wins election. Delegates **may not** run for both a city and a county office, since the elections are held simultaneously.
2. **County Offices.** All delegates are eligible. Each political party, in convention, nominates one candidate for each office. Plurality vote wins election. Delegates **may not** run for both a city and a county office, since the elections are held simultaneously.
3. **State Offices.** All delegates are eligible. State Party Caucuses are held to establish unity and for announcements of the candidates intentions to seek their party's nomination. A petition with 25 signatures of Candidate's Party is required for inclusion on primary ballot. Jacksonian and Johnsonian state primaries are held simultaneously. Plurality vote wins party nomination.
4. **State Senators and State Representatives** once elected are not eligible for further election or appointment to any office by the Governor or the General Assembly.

NOTE: Involvement in elections, win or lose, is one of the most interesting aspects of Boys State. Each delegate may be a candidate, a campaign manager, and/or an active supporter. Election to a state office may begin with election to a city or a county office.

Campaign Guidelines

1. Campaigning is not permitted before the opening session of Boys State (Tuesday, May 25 at 6 PM CDT).
2. Delegates are encouraged to actively campaign during sessions designated for campaigning and discuss their candidacy in city meetings, caucuses, and other sessions devoted to elections. Please, no active campaigning during guest speaker presentations.
3. All campaigning must take place within the MootUp platform. No emails, text messages, or similar contacts outside the MootUp platform are allowed. Proven violation of this guideline will result in disqualification from the election.

Election Schedule

Wednesday, May 26 (Day Two)

- 9:00 AM - **City Party Caucuses** (split into parties- 30 minutes for each party)
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM – Jacksonians
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM – Johnsonians

Select temporary chairman. Select by democratic method nominees as follows: (1) Mayor, (4) Alderman, and (8) State Representatives. Each party will submit nominations to ALBS Administration on forms provided.
- 10:15 AM - Counselors submit nominations to ALBS administration
- 11:00 AM - **County Party Conventions** (split by county and by party)
A Senior Counselor assigned to each county leads the convention County Party Conventions. Select temporary chairman. Select by democratic method, eight (8) state senators and one (1) candidate for each other county office.
- 12:30 PM - Counselors submit nominations to ALBS administration
- 1:15 PM - **State Party Caucuses** (Breakout Rooms by Jacksonian and Johnsonian Parties)
All delegates are eligible. State Party Caucuses are held to establish unity and for announcements of the candidates intentions to seek their party's nomination. A petition with 25 signatures of Candidate's Party is required for inclusion on primary ballot. **Candidates will request a petition link by filling out a request form posted in the Mootup platform and on the Boys State website resources page. Once the request form is submitted, each candidate will receive a web link to their petition. Candidates are encouraged to share the petition link in City meetings, State Party Caucuses, and Campaign Rooms.** Jacksonian and Johnsonian state primaries are held simultaneously. Plurality vote wins party nomination. Party nominees will be placed on the State General Election ballot. Plurality vote wins election. **Mayors, State Senators, and State Representatives once elected are not eligible for further election or appointment to any office by the Governor or the General Assembly.** Petitions for State Party offices are due to ALBS Administration by 10:15 AM on Day 3.
- 2:30 PM - Campaigning for City and County offices
- 5:45 PM - City and County Elections. Vote in Cities

Thursday, May 27 (Day Three)

- 9:15 AM - **State Party Caucuses** (Breakout Rooms by Jacksonian and Johnsonian Parties)
Candidates for state offices may make announcements. Petitions containing at least 25 of the candidate's party members are due to ALBS Administration by 10:15 AM. Jacksonian and Johnsonian state primaries are held simultaneously. Plurality vote wins party nomination. Party nominees will be placed on the State General Election ballot. Plurality vote wins election.
Mayors, State Senators, and State Representatives once elected are not eligible for further election or appointment to any office by the Governor or the General Assembly.
- 10:15 AM - **Petitions** containing at least 25 of the candidate's party members are due to ALBS Administration.
- 10:30 AM - Campaigning for State Primaries begins
- 12:30 PM - State Primary Elections. Vote in cities
- 3:00 PM – Campaigning for General Election begins
- 4:15 PM – General Election – Vote in cities

OFFICES TO BE FILLED

City Government

Voters Elect:

1 Mayor *

4 Alderman

8 State Representatives *

*Once elected, not eligible for any other office

Mayor & Board of Alderman Appoint:

1 Chief of Police

1 Fire Chief

1 City Clerk

1 Supervisor of Streets

1 Health Officer

1 City Engineer

1 City Attorney

1 City Surveyor

1 City Judge

1 City Treasurer

County Government

Voters Elect:

1 County Executive

1 Sheriff (Appoint up to 4 Deputies)

8 State Senators*

*Once elected, not eligible for any other office

State Government

Voters Elect:

1 Governor

5 Members of the Supreme Court

(Only the above offices need a petition)

General Assembly Elects:

- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- Comptroller of the Treasury

Governor Appoints:

- Commissioner of Agriculture
- Commissioner of Children's Services
- Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance
- Commissioner of Correction
- Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
- Commissioner of Education
- Commissioner of Environment and Conservation
- Commissioner of Finance and Administration
- Commissioner of Financial Institutions
- Commissioner of General Services
- Commissioner of Health
- Commissioner of Human Resources
- Commissioner of Human Services
- Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development
- Commissioner of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Commissioner of Safety and Homeland Security
- Commissioner of Tourist Development
- Commissioner of Transportation
- Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
- Adjutant General (Heads up the Department of Military)
- Deputy to the Governor
- Senior Advisor for Legislation and Policy
- Communication Director
- Legal Counsel
- Special Assistant to the Governor for Projects
- Senior Advisor to the Governor

BOYS NATION

Two representatives from each of the 49 Boys States represent their state at Boys Nation in Washington, where the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of federal government. Boys Nation is typically held in Arlington, Virginia, in late July. Two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates to Boys Nation will be selected from among those who are in attendance at the 2021 American Legion Boys State. You must be a rising high school junior to qualify. If you are interested in attending Boys Nation, inform your Senior Counselor. Please be absolutely certain that you can attend for the entire program in July. The Jacksonian and Johnsonian party nominees for Governor will be nominees for Boys Nation. The Senior Counselor of each city will select one nominee for each of the 12 cities and submit their selections by 6 PM on Day Three. The nominees will be interviewed at 6 PM on Day 4 (May 28) via Zoom. Delegates to Boys Nation and alternates will be announced at the Inauguration Ceremony on Saturday morning.

TN BOYS STATE TEAM

Jason Murphy – Chairman

John J. Maddux, Jr. – Vice-Chairman

Dean A. Tuttle – Adjutant, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee

Steve Law – Director

Katherine Williams – Program Administrator

Precious Edmonds – Technology Coordinator

Jerry Keeton – Elections Coordinator

Susan Henry – Logistics Coordinator

Trevor Parsons – 2019 Boys State Governor

SENIOR COUNSELORS

Daniel Allen - Alexander City

Justin Birdwell – Bradshaw City

Ron Borden – Cheek City

Jamie Bryant – Dornan City

Ryan Burchfield – Drennon City

Kelly Deming – Hensley City

Ryan Dilling – Lahiere City

Kyle Farley – Levi City

Mason Hilliard – Maddux City

Robert Owens – Mathis City

Amos Powers – Roberts City

Lance VanDaniker – Watson City

Christian Murphy - Alternate Senior & Technology Support