

# INSTRUCTIONS & PACKING LIST

**TO:** Tennessee American Legion Boys State Delegates  
**FROM:** Judge Gary McKenzie, Chairman, Tennessee American Legion Boys State  
**SUBJECT:** 2020 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, May 17 to May 22, 2020. Please note that Boys State ends on Friday, May 22.

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 17 at 12 p.m. CST and ends on Friday, May 22 at 12 p.m. 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. No delegate will be released to anyone other than a parent or guardian 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.

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND RELEASE FORM (which consists of: Physician Release, Insurance Release, and Parent's Release):** You must bring these **completed forms** with you to check in. The physician release must contain the signature of your **doctor** and the Participant Information and Release Form must be signed by your parents/guardians and **notarized**. You cannot check in nor participate in Boys State without your completed documents.

**ON-SITE CHECK IN:** Check in will begin **PROMPTLY** at 12:00 noon (CST) on Sunday, May 17. Do not be late and please eat lunch before you arrive. Take exit# 286 (Willow Avenue) off of Interstate 40 and travel north to the University. The address for the Memorial Gym is 810 Quadrangle, Cookeville, TN 38505. Leave your baggage in your automobile. You will retrieve your baggage after check in and take it to your room. Once inside Memorial Gym, please take a seat in the bleachers and wait for instructions.

**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 noon CST on Friday, May 22. Neither the American Legion Department of Tennessee nor 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 p.m., Sunday, May 17 and the last meal will be breakfast on Friday, May 22. If you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies, please contact Susan Henry at [tnboysstate@gmail.com](mailto:tnboysstate@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

**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 "epi" pens and inhalers may be carried by the delegate all times.

**CLOTHING:** Each delegate will receive Boys State T-shirts to wear every day during the week. Personal T-shirts or sweat shirts are only needed for a daily one-hour 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 22. 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 can 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. Headquarters will accept emergency calls only from parents/guardians, principals, etc. Social calls from friends will not be accepted by the headquarters staff.

**CELL PHONES:** Please bring your cell phones.

**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 musical instrument, please bring it with you. A band is organized each year at Boys State and it will participate **as an orchestra** during the inauguration ceremonies. Past Boys State bands have been outstanding. Also, musical instruments can be utilized during the Talent Show. Tubas and drums will be furnished. Every Boys State band member will be provided a **certificate of participation**.

**PARADE and INAUGURATION:** Closing ceremonies will begin at 10.00 a.m., Friday, May 22. Delegates and Boys State Band will march to Overall Field for the PASS-IN-REVIEW and the Inauguration Ceremony. The program will conclude by noon and all delegates must depart at that time. Parents and guests are invited to attend.

**MONEY:** The costs of your daily T-shirts, food, and lodging have been pre-paid by your sponsor. 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 or Grill. Obtaining change can be difficult. It might be helpful for you to bring a roll of quarters.

**TEXTBOOK:** A textbook covering all aspects of Tennessee government will be given to you during check in. This book will be used the week of Boys State and can be a ready reference for you in the future.

A "**PACKING LIST**" can be found herein. It lists items you should and should not bring with you to Boys State.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Henry at [tnboysstate@gmail.com](mailto:tnboysstate@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing you on May 17 for an exciting and action-packed week at Boys State!

### **SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES AT BOYS STATE**

1. Meet Tennessee **leaders and dignitaries**.
2. See and hear the arguments of a real case before the **Tennessee Supreme Court**.
3. Meet and make **friends** with many of the over six hundred delegates to Boys State.

## **PACKING LIST**

The official attire for Boys State will include the following:

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

### **REQUIRED ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT TO BOYS STATE**

- Participant Information and Release Form (consists of: Physician Release, Insurance Release, & Parent's Release)
- Blanket
- Sheets (2 sets - XL twin and full) the size you need will depend on your room assignment.
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Towels
- Pajamas
- Sunscreen
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Hand soap (bar or liquid)
- Clothes hangers
- Tennis 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
- Flip flops/shower shoes

### **OPTIONAL ITEMS**

- Athletic clothing
- Tennis racket, ping pong paddle, nerf balls, etc.
- Musical Instruments (Tubas & Drums will be provided)
- Smart Phone or Cell Phone

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

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