

# TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

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Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, Tennessee

## **AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE CELEBRATES 54 YEARS AT TENNESSEE TECH, 79 YEARS IN STATE**

The American Legion Boys State program that ranks as best in the country will fill the campus of Tennessee Tech University this week for the 54th consecutive year.

Because of the opportunities given to more than 500 rising high school seniors from across the state, Tennessee's American Legion Boys State holds a high reputation and thousands of students apply to come each year. Putnam County alone will send about 40 students who will receive instruction and advice from the state's lieutenant governor, military leaders, and state and local government officials.

"We continue the tradition of serving students in our state with this program," Steve Law, Tennessee ALBS director, said. "As Memorial Day approaches each year, we look forward to having the privilege of teaching hundreds of young men about government and service to their state."

Beginning Sunday, delegates will be immersed in learning state government by running a mock 51st state, Boys State. They will organize political parties and establish city, county and state governments by election, complete with primaries and political campaigns. American Legion posts across the state sponsor delegates and fund the activities held at Tennessee Tech. The week will conclude on Saturday, May 26, with an inauguration ceremony and an address by U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander.

Judge Gary McKenzie oversees the program at Tennessee Tech, serving as American Legion Boys State state chairman for Tennessee. Judge McKenzie will welcome participants Sunday night and speak to them in a Monday evening assembly.

State Rep. Ryan Williams, Rep. Kelly Keisling and Sen. Paul Bailey will lead a discussion on major political issues in Tennessee on Monday. Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Jason Locke will address delegates on Wednesday night. Major Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee adjutant general, will be a guest speaker on Thursday.

Boys State again will host the SCALES program, the Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students, during which the Tennessee Supreme Court will hold a special session to hear oral arguments in two actual Supreme Court cases.

Since the creation of the program in 1995, the SCALES project has given more than 25,000 Tennessee students the ability to see the judicial branch in action.