

TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

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Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, Tennessee

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE CELEBRATES 55 YEARS AT TENNESSEE TECH

Tennessee's American Legion Boys State program, which more than 20 Putnam County students are attending this year, will fill the campus of Tennessee Tech University this week for the 55th consecutive time.

Because of the opportunities given to hundreds of 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. About 450 students will receive instruction and advice from Gov. Bill Lee, 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 25, with an inauguration ceremony and an address by State Sen. Paul Bailey.

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. Cameron Sexton and Sen. Paul Bailey will lead a discussion on major political issues in Tennessee on Monday. Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Brad Nealon will address delegates on Wednesday night. Major Gen. Max Haston, retired 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.