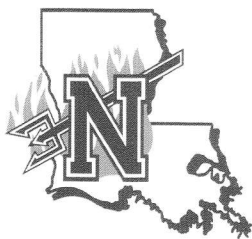


Louisiana Boys State

SALUTES



**Your Support
and
Dedication
Will Not Be Forgotten.**



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Department of Louisiana

Presents

Session 72

**BOYS
STATE**

June 26 - July 2, 2011

**Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana**

WELCOME

I want to welcome each of you young men to The American Legion Boys State Program at Northwestern State University. Delegates to Boys State will learn about government by doing activities that will involve running a mythical fifty-first state and by running for offices on all levels of government including city, parish and statewide government. In addition to learning about government, each delegate will have an opportunity to meet new people from throughout the state and possibly make lifelong friends.

You were chosen to be a delegate for this prestigious and one of the longest running government education programs because of your hard work and example of good citizenship within your school. After Boys State, when you enter college and the working world, resumes that indicate your completion of this long-standing program will be a great plus for you.

We ask that you return to your school and community and relate your positive experience to underclassmen in your school so that others will be aware of this opportunity. Tell them what you learned and how you enjoyed your time as a citizen of Boys State.

God bless you and have an enjoyable week at Northwestern State University.

Boys State Chairman:

Harold Burson, Chairman
8430 Wilderness Way
Shreveport, LA 71116
318-866-9696 or 318-458-9760

Boys State Director:

Gilbert Lovelady
260 Old Alexandria Road
Columbia, LA 71418
318-649-7036 or 318-267-2237
gillovelady@yahoo.com

~ 1 ~



OBJECTIVE

The objective of Boys State is to educate our youth in the duties, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. The program teaches the practical mechanics of government by actually performing the functions of local, parish, and state elected officials. Applications of all of the principals of democratic government are used in every possible way. The Constitution and statutes for the State of Louisiana are the basis for the development of the fundamental laws of Louisiana Boys State. Boys State is regarded as a mythical fifty-first state with statutes and ordinances constructed by the citizens to govern themselves.

Citizens of Boys State will not only be required to use knowledge already acquired concerning the political machinery of a state, but they will also find themselves performing the same duties as real office-holders in the everyday world. The citizens organize their own city, parish and state governments. They choose their own officials in accordance with regular election procedures. They learn the duties of offices on the city, parish and state level. They introduce and debate their own bills in the state legislature. Justice is administered through their own law enforcement agencies and courts. They experience the nomination process used by political party conventions and use actual voting machines for the election of state officials.

At Boys State, the citizens have an opportunity to learn that government is only what he makes of it. Everything learned is accomplished by a hands-on approach.

~ 2 ~

INFORMATION FOR CITIZENS AND PARENTS

Boys State is a longstanding American Legion Youth Program

We are firm in our conviction that the hope of the free world depends largely upon the integrity and character of the citizens of the United States. To accomplish this end and to cultivate a sense of individual responsibility, The American Legion developed this program to instill in the hearts and minds of our young men a love of justice, freedom and democracy.

The Boys State program exemplifies The American Legion's conviction that only through a better understanding can we hope to maintain, not only law and order, but to insure for generations to come the American way of life.

General Regulations

The general regulations governing Boys State are established by The American Legion Boys State Commission and administered through the Director. He is assisted by the District Procurement Chairpersons, Assistant Directors, Boys State staff and The American Legion staff. Any deviation must be approved by the District Chair and in turn, by the Director.

Sponsorship

Boys State is a program of The American Legion, Department of Louisiana. The program receives additional support from many civic groups and businesses. A citizen must be sponsored through an American Legion Post in order to attend the program.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome to visit for the Official State Installation. This will be conducted on Friday afternoon, the 1st of July. Because of a limited size of facilities and the rapid pace of the program, it is not practical to have visitors at other times. Only the director may allow for exceptions.

~ 3 ~

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Health and Medical: **CARRY THE SIGNED MEDICAL FORM ON YOUR PERSON. DO NOT PLACE THIS FORM IN YOUR LUGGAGE. THIS FORM MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE!** Your current medical condition is to be explained on the front side and the parent/guardian consent is to be **SIGNED** and completed on the back side of the form. Health insurance information is needed. The program is quite strenuous and only those in good health and who are physically fit should participate. Anyone with a temporary disabling condition must contact your District Procurement Chairman to discuss the situation. (Names can be found on *page 7* of this pamphlet.)
2. All citizens are expected to enter all phases of the program and to participate in the many diversified activities. All citizens are expected to obey the rules as indicated throughout this pamphlet.
3. Arrange to meet former citizens from your school. Learn about the program and any other valuable information that they may be able to offer.
4. Contact the American Legion Post representative at least two weeks prior to the start of the program. Advise the representative that you will definitely be a part of the program. The representative will also advise the citizen of the location and time to be at the transportation pick-up point.
5. Carefully read ALL materials sent to you and bring them along with you to the program.
6. Upon returning home, please be prepared if asked to attend a meeting at the local American Legion Post and make a report on your experiences at the program.

~ 4 ~

7. Elections at the city level will be one of the first orders of business. **NO CAMPAIGN MATERIALS FOR ANY OFFICE, ON ANY LEVEL, ARE ALLOWED TO BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE AND BROUGHT TO THE BOYS STATE PROGRAM!**
8. Each citizen is expected to remain with the program for the entire session. Should the program date coincide with some other activity such as family vacations, football, band camp, etc., consider your options. Boys State ends July 2nd.
9. Extra Money: Transportation, room and board are paid by sponsors. Other items such as snacks, candy, chips and soft drinks may be purchased at night. Pizza can be ordered on certain nights of the program. It is also advisable to purchase at least **two** additional shirts. The cost per shirt is \$10.00. Please do not bring excessive amounts of money. Other than for shirts, \$50.00 is ample.
10. If prescription medication requiring refrigeration is needed, we can help with this. A small refrigerator is available in the infirmary for this purpose.
11. **What to bring:** A checklist of items needed is found on *pages 11-12*.
12. **What not to bring:** Do not bring expensive items such as jewelry, cameras, iPods, etc. Leave the sporting equipment at home. You will not have time for these items. **Cell phones can only be used during free time in the dorms. Use of phones is not permitted during program sessions. This disrupts the flow of the session and is simply impolite.** Should a family emergency occur, the Boys state emergency numbers are:
Boys State Chairman Harold Burson's cell: 318-458-9760
Boys State Director Gil Lovelady's cell: 318-267-2237
Only the director may allow for exceptions.
13. Neither Northwestern State University nor Boys State will be responsible for lost or stolen property. Safeguard your items. Campus police will become involved should a theft take place. Be careful and this should not be a problem.
14. During the program, each citizen should write to his American Legion sponsor and/or co-sponsor expressing thanks for being able to attend the program. The name of the sponsor will be on the application card. Bring paper and a stamped envelope for this purpose.
15. All luggage items, including hanging bags and backpacks must be labeled for identification. Enter your name, hometown and district. Just in case, place similar information inside the luggage.
16. There will be a Boys State / Girls State social attended by citizens, counselors and staff. Bring appropriate clothing—dress shirt and slacks. A new boys State shirt may be traded for a Girls State shirt.
17. Each citizen who attends this program is a young adult and should represent themselves, their school, their sponsor and the American Legion accordingly.

MAILING ADDRESSES

The Citizen (while at Boys State):

Citizen's Full Name
Louisiana Boys State
Northwestern State University
Varnado Hall
541 University Parkway
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Boys State Program Information:

The American Legion
Louisiana Boys State
1885 Wooddale Blvd., Suite 1110
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

THE SELECTION PROCESS

These guidelines should be followed as closely as possible by the Post Commander and the Post Boys State Chairperson to insure uniform and equitable selection in all areas of the state. It is our intent that only outstanding boys participate as citizens of Boys State.

Leadership, character, scholarship and patriotism are specific characteristics to be considered during the selection process. **THE FINAL SELECTION OF CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POST. TO DO THIS, AN INTERVIEW BY POST MEMBERS IS NECESSARY.**

There will be areas where two or more schools will nominate citizens to one post. There will also be areas where more than one post will receive nominees from one school. Keep in mind the concept of equitable. Where two or more schools send to one post, the number of students selected shall be the total of both school quotas. Where two or more posts sponsor students from a single school, the post must cooperate to determine how many of the school's quota may be sponsored by each.

Inevitably, cancellations and vacancies will occur. Each post is asked to select both citizens and alternates. Commitments for housing, meals, etc., must be made in advance. Post should be prepared to fill last minute vacancies with alternates. To ensure that the District Procurement Chairperson and Director have last minute access to alternates, please enter on the back of the Director and the District cards, the name, phone number and cell number of an alternate. Then enter on the top, front side of those cards "**Alt on back.**" This may reduce "**No Shows.**" Either the Director or the District Chairperson may have some success contacting alternates who want to attend the program. Although citizens are asked to contact the Post Chairperson at least two weeks in advance, many do not because schools are not in session and it had been a school counselor who made the selection. **(SEE FINAL SELECTION ABOVE.)**

~ 9 ~

Hopefully, when that occurs, the Post Chairperson will attempt to do the contacting to confirm that all citizens will be with us on *Day 1* of the program. With a couple of weeks to work with, be able to obtain an alternate and avoid the loss use of a sponsor's money.

ENROLLMENT DEADLINE: MAY 20

It is absolutely necessary for all applications and fees to be filed with Department Headquarters no later than the close of business on May 20. By June 1, all Day 1 documents must be completed for the university, including dormitory and bed assignments. The university must know where our citizens are located at all times. Each of us who are a part of Boys State will be included in the Northwestern University emergency evacuation plans for the duration of the program. To accomplish all of this, the District Chairperson must establish an earlier date for receipt of the application cards from each post. Three months should be adequate for the selection process to be completed. Keep in mind that final exams begin in early May. Post Chairpersons should be interviewing and selecting citizens and alternates between the beginning of February and the end of April.

THE BOYS STATE POST CHAIRPERSON is responsible for the supervision of all matters pertaining to the program at the local level. The chairperson serves an important role as the liaison between the post and schools as well as assisting to obtain sponsors, interview citizens and maintain contact with the District Chairperson. See cooperation of the schools, requesting that each submit more names than the school quota in order to have alternates if the need should arise. Explain to the school the reason why extra names are needed for the program.

The quota for the 72nd Session is based upon allocated space at Northwestern. We will have 8 parishes, each consisting of 2 cities.

~ 10 ~

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!!

ITEM CHECKLIST FOR BOYS STATE

- ☐ 1. **SIGNED MEDICAL FORM!!!!!!!**
- ☐ 2. If applying - **Samsung Scholarship Form** fully completed, signed and with proper school seal
- ☐ 3. **Beddings** (including, but not limited to, set of twin sheets or sleeping bag, blanket, pillows and pillow cases)
- ☐ 4. **Linens** (including, but not limited to bath towels and wash cloths for the entire week)
- ☐ 5. **All medicines** (like inhalers, insulin and prescription medicine).
- ☐ 6. **Toiletries** (to include deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream, mouthwash, etc.)
- ☐ 7. **Tennis shoes or comfortable walking shoes and socks**
- ☐ 8. **Sufficient clothing to last the entire program.** (For every day of the program, you will need shorts or jeans and a Boys State shirt. It is advisable that at least two additional shirts be purchased in addition to the one given. **Khaki slacks are needed by all delegates for the State Official Installation.**
- ☐ 9. **Dress shirt and slacks for the social.** (A new Boys State shirt may be traded for a Girls State shirt at the social.)
- ☐ 10. **Sport coat and slacks or suit, dress shirt and tie, dress shoes and socks** are required for citizens participating in the political party speeches and the elected officials for the State Official Installation.
- ☐ 11. **Shower shoes or flip-flops for shower and dorms only!**
- ☐ 12. **Notebook and pen/pencils.**

~ 11 ~

- ☐ 13. **Umbrella or poncho**
- ☐ 14. **Money for extra shirts,** (cost \$10.00 each) plus **pizza and snacks** (\$50.00 should be ample)
- ☐ 15. **A backpack for everyday use**
- ☐ 16. **Positive Attitude and an Open Mind!!!**

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to attend Boys State is limited to **young men between their junior and senior years of high school** who attend an approved Louisiana High School. It is this educational level that best fits the program and will permit the students to return home and use their leadership skills developed through Boys State to enhance their school and community during their senior year. Students who will not return to a Louisiana school may not participate.

The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any application.

Students who have chronic or acute medical conditions such as a recent operation or severe illness **cannot** be accepted.

Students with documented permanent disabilities are eligible to attend. In such cases, a family member or friend of generally the citizen's are and gender may be required to assist him.

Each student must remain with the program for the **entire session** in order to be considered as having completed this program.

Anyone who fails to abide by the rules will have his citizenship terminated and The American Legion, school and the sponsor will be advised!

~ 12 ~

LOUISIANA BOYS STATE

CODE OF CONDUCT

The violation of the following code will result in the dismissal of a Boys State Citizen from the program. Any citizen dismissed for violating the CODE OF CONDUCT will not be recognized as having been a delegate to Boys State. In addition, a letter will be sent to the delegate's high school principal and the sponsoring American Legion Post.

1. The use of tobacco products, alcohol and/or rugs is prohibited. If you cannot refrain from using these items during this program, we ask that you decline your invitation to attend the program.
2. In accordance to Louisiana law and Northwestern State University policy, **hazing** or **abuse** is unacceptable and could also result in arrest by local authorities.
3. Intentional destruction or vandalism to Boys State or Northwestern State University property will not only result in dismissal from the program, but could require restitution or prosecution for such damages.
4. Disrespect, harassment or repeated lack of cooperation with Boys State staff, counselors, The American Legion staff or Northwestern State University staff, faculty or students will not be tolerated.
5. Intentional or repeated use of abusive language or profanity will not be allowed as any part of the program. This includes, but is not limited to songs, chants, banners, laws, speeches, debates, party conventions, etc.

~ 13 ~

6. Boys State citizens are not to be in any area, dorms, meetings, etc. of Girls State with the exception of the social, joint convocations or any officially designated program conducted by Boys State during the duration of the program
7. All citizens are expected to be active participants in all aspects of the Boys State program and to cooperate with all Boys State, The American Legion and Northwestern State University personnel.
8. No citizen of Boys State shall harass or disrespect another citizen of Boys State because of their **beliefs, religious practices, ethnic heritage, or race.**
9. No citizen of Boys State should be alone on campus at any time during the program. Citizens must be accompanied as a group or individual at all times by a Boys State staff member or counselor, an American Legion staff member or a Northwestern State University official or student worker.
10. Individual candidate speeches that include **vulgarity** or other **derogatory** or inappropriate remarks that could be interpreted as **racist** or **sexually explicit** will result in termination or that candidate's campaign, by expulsion from Boys State.

*These rules are in effect
throughout the entire program,
including the last night.*

COLLEGE CREDIT/SCHOLARSHIPS

Northwestern University offers Boys State Citizens an opportunity to obtain college credit for Boys State and receive scholarship money for having been a citizen of Louisiana Boys State.

~ 14 ~