



# **SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION**

## **2016 BOYS STATE**

(Post Version)

# **74<sup>th</sup> Session**

Northern State University

Aberdeen, South Dakota

May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

## **PURPOSE**

American Legion Boys State of South Dakota has a two-fold purpose.

1. To better help youth understand and appreciate the American system of government and way of life, including the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
2. To foster a better knowledge of the fundamental principles of government within the State of South Dakota.

These objectives are delivered by the establishment of a mythical 51st State comprised of city, county and state government, giving Boys Staters actual experience in control and operation of these units of government. The American Legion wants the boys of South Dakota to understand the problems of government as well as how it functions.

Upon reaching Boys State, citizens are assigned membership in one of two mythical political parties and to a residence in a specific city and county. The two parties are designated as "Federalist" and "Nationalist" with absolutely no connection to the political parties as they exist in South Dakota today. With the exception of city elections, which are non-political as they are in South Dakota. Party caucuses and conventions are held, with full slates of officers elected at county and state level. Appointive offices are also filled.

## **REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

Registration Deadline is April 1, 2016. The process is as follows:

1. Potential participants are required to apply on line at <http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com>.
2. Following approval, each student will be required to complete a medical statement that must be completed and signed by the applicant's parents and brought to Boys State. This must be completed or the boy will not be permitted to attend.
3. Each student's parents are also asked to sign a release allowing Boys State to use their son's image in daily reporting of activities and other promotional activities.

## **REGISTRATION FEES and POST PROCEDURES**

Boys State participants will register on line in 2016. It is important for posts to evaluate and approve registrations as they are received.

1. The registration fee of \$175.00 must be sent to Rich Kezar, Boys State Register, 314 S. Boyd St., Aberdeen, SD 57401, 605-225-0817 by April 1.
2. A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed per boy if registration is received after April 5.
3. Each American Legion Post in a community without a high school shall be entitled to sponsor one Boys Stater who meets the qualifications.

4. A medical statement will be sent to each boy that must be signed by a parent or guardian and brought with him to Boys State. Please remind Boys Staters at orientation sessions to take the form with them.

Transportation to and from Aberdeen is the responsibility of the American Legion Post. Posts are encouraged to pool resources to minimize costs and promote efficiency. Sponsors should arrange to have their Boys Staters arrive at Northern State University in Aberdeen on Monday May 30 by 2:00PM. Boys are to be picked up on Friday June 3 at approximately 2:00PM.

### **Boys State Team**

President of Board of Directors – Jordon Opp  
American Legion Commander – Terry Hanson  
Adjutant and Secretary – Denny Brendon  
Treasurer and Registrar – Rich Kezar  
Boys State Director – Gene Opbrook  
Dean of Counselors – Dan Heil  
Davin Johnson – Camp Director

### **MEDIA TEAM**

A special group of Boys Staters will be selected as the Boys State Media Team. Led by experienced counsellors and assisted by the Northern State production staff. This group of citizens will be responsible for communications for citizens in attendance and external audiences including parents, peers, and the general public. The Media Team will publish a daily video highlighting Boys State activities that will be shared via YouTube, Facebook, the Boys State website, and potential state wide media outlets.

Applicants to the Media team must meet the same rigorous standard that is required of the other citizens of Boys State and as Boys Staters have the same responsibilities and expectations.

Media Team members should have demonstrated experiences in journalism, radio and TV production, photography or other digital publishing. Team members will write stories, shoot and edit videos, work as photographers and videographers, on-screen reporters and gain valuable experience in meeting deadlines and interacting with a variety of high profile individuals.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Only males who have successfully completed, or will complete by the end of the current school year, their Junior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining, are eligible for Boys State.

1. Leadership: A boy to be eligible for Boys State should have exhibited traits of leadership in his school and community affairs. Boys State is a leadership exercise and only boy leaders, or potential leaders, should apply for attendance.

2. Scholarship: The candidates are normally restricted to those boys whose scholastic ranking place them in the upper third of their class. Although a high scholastic standing is not necessarily essential to good citizenship, it is felt that such a scholastic rating is important in Boys State so citizens can keep up with the action packed program of the week.
3. Character, Honesty, Cooperation: Only boys with outstanding qualifications in character, honesty, service, initiative, and who have a serious and cooperative attitude toward an intensive citizenship training program will be selected.

### **BOYS STATE MUSIC**

Boys State has a Band and Chorus. Each present a Concert at Boys State, and the band performs at flag ceremonies. Citizens who play band instruments are encouraged to bring their instrument and participate in the band. Bass drums and bass horns are provided at Boys State. Vocalists are invited to join the chorus.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Citizens who are accepted to participate in Boys State are required to be in attendance during the entire session. They must report on Monday, May 30, 2016, and remain until Boys State closes on Friday, June 3.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

April 1 – all applications due – apply on line at <http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com>

May 30 - Boys report to Northern State in Aberdeen

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation to and from Aberdeen is the responsibility of the American Legion Post.

### **WHAT TO BRING TO BOYS STATE**

- Completed and signed medical statement and release form
- suitable luggage with: personal clothing needed for 5 days; face towels; bath towels; shaving and toilet articles; sweater or jacket
- non-marking court shoes
- 2 bed sheets; 1 pillow case; 1 blankets; 1 pillow
- suit or appropriate attire for Governor's Banquet
- light sporting equipment such as softball, tennis or basketball; swim trunks; clothes hangers
- musical instruments and cameras are optional