



**Arizona Boys State Inc.**  
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Dear Legionnaires (and Sons and Auxiliary Members),

Greetings from Arizona Boys State! The Arizona Boys State board of directors and staff would like to extend their gratitude to the American Legion Family for your support of our program. Please read below for some highlights from the 2026 program and essential information on how your Post (or Squadron or Unit) can support the 2027 program.

**Highlights from Arizona Boys State 2026.** The 2026 program was the 78th session of Arizona Boys State and the second-ever session held in Tucson. 228 students representing more than 100 high schools from across the state joined us at the University of Arizona campus for the week-long program—a more than 50% increase in attendance compared to last year! This explosive growth was only possible due to the recruiting and financial support of the American Legion Posts, especially the 30+ Posts that sponsored local students to attend Arizona Boys State.



Attendance wasn't the only milestone we achieved this year. On the programming side, we formed new partnerships with several organizations to deliver high-quality content to our students. Most notably, through our partnership with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, we were honored to host a real-life naturalization ceremony at which 50 new Americans took the oath of citizenship right at Arizona Boys State! On the financial side, we were able to fully cover program costs without drawing any new funding from the Department of Arizona through a combination of cost-saving measures, new outside grants, and the financial backbone of the program: the generosity of the American Legion Posts.



**Looking ahead to Arizona Boys State 2027.** Under the leadership of our new Program Director, Frank Hirrill, preparations for Arizona Boys State 2027 are already underway. Our goals for next year include continuing to grow program attendance back to pre-COVID-19 levels, expanding our programmatic partnerships, and continuing to diversify our funding sources with outside grants and corporate sponsors.



**“A Week that Shapes a Lifetime”**

Even with outside support, Boys State will always be a Legion program, and support from the Posts is essential to our success. Here are some ways that Posts can support the program:

**Recruiting support.** Posts can take ownership of one or more of their local high schools, represent Boys State on campus, and select qualified junior boys to attend the program. Detailed instructions and resources are available to help you successfully recruit students for Boys State. Please note that, for any high school not covered by a Post, recruiting efforts are conducted directly by Boys State staff; as such, we need to know ASAP if your Post will cover a particular school so that recruiting efforts are not duplicated.

**Financial support.** Posts can make two kinds of financial contributions to Boys State: First, Posts can sponsor one or more local students to attend the program. The Post sponsorship fee of \$425 covers more than half of the sponsored student's total cost of attendance, with the remaining cost paid by the student and other donors. Second, Posts can make a general donation to Boys State (not tied to a particular student). General donations benefit the program as whole, including students without a Post sponsor or who require financial aid.



**Volunteer support.** As the program grows in attendance, we need more individuals to serve as volunteer counselors during the program week (June 6–12, 2027, with counselors arriving Saturday, June 5). In addition to counselors, we need volunteers to serve in administrative roles—such as event planning, recruiting, marketing/social media, and fundraising—both during the program week and throughout the year as we prepare for the program.

**Leverage your connections.** If your Post has an “in” with potential corporate donors, guest speakers, or other third parties who might benefit Arizona Boys State, please get in touch!

**We ask all Posts to commit to supporting Arizona Boys State by completing the 2027 Post Survey as soon as possible (no later than Fall Conference): [Click here to complete the survey.](#)**

Thank you again to the American Legion Posts for your critical support of Arizona Boys State. Your generosity and commitment to the program is what makes Boys State “A Week that Shapes a Lifetime.” If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us at [boysstate@azlegion.org](mailto:boysstate@azlegion.org).

Sincerely,

**Frank Hirrill**  
Program Director  
Arizona Boys State

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[boysstate@azlegion.org](mailto:boysstate@azlegion.org)



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