



ARIZONA BOYS STATE NEWS

WHAT IS ARIZONA BOYS STATE?

The American Legion Arizona Boys State is a flagship youth program of the Department of Arizona. This week-long summer leadership training and civics education experience is designed to teach students about how our government functions and to encourage them to become engaged citizens. Boys across the state who have completed their junior year of high school are eligible to attend Boys State.

When they arrive at Boys State, students become citizens of a fictional 51st state: Boys State. Over the next several days, students campaign and hold elections for political offices at the city, county, and state levels. Once these positions have been filled, the students learn by doing – they pass their own laws, operate their own courts, and generally govern themselves (under the supervision and guidance of the Boys State staff). Students also receive extensive instruction on court procedures, the legislative process, the criminal justice system, civil rights, and civic duties. Outside of these activities, the program also offers numerous recreational opportunities including athletic events, a band, a choir, and a daily student-run newspaper.

At the conclusion of every session of Arizona Boys State, two outstanding students are selected to represent Arizona at The American Legion Boys Nation, and one eligible student is awarded The American Legion Samsung Scholarship.

Arizona Boys State is one of 50 Boys State programs operated around the country by The American Legion. The official motto of Boys State is “A Week that Shapes a Lifetime.” Learn more on our website: azlegion.org/boysstate.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 31, 2024

If your Post plans to recruit students for Boys State, notify us by submitting the webform (see QR code on p. 3)

March 1, 2025

Deadline for schools and Posts to select students for Boys State

March 15, 2025

Student registration deadline

April 30, 2025

All sponsorships and donations due to Department

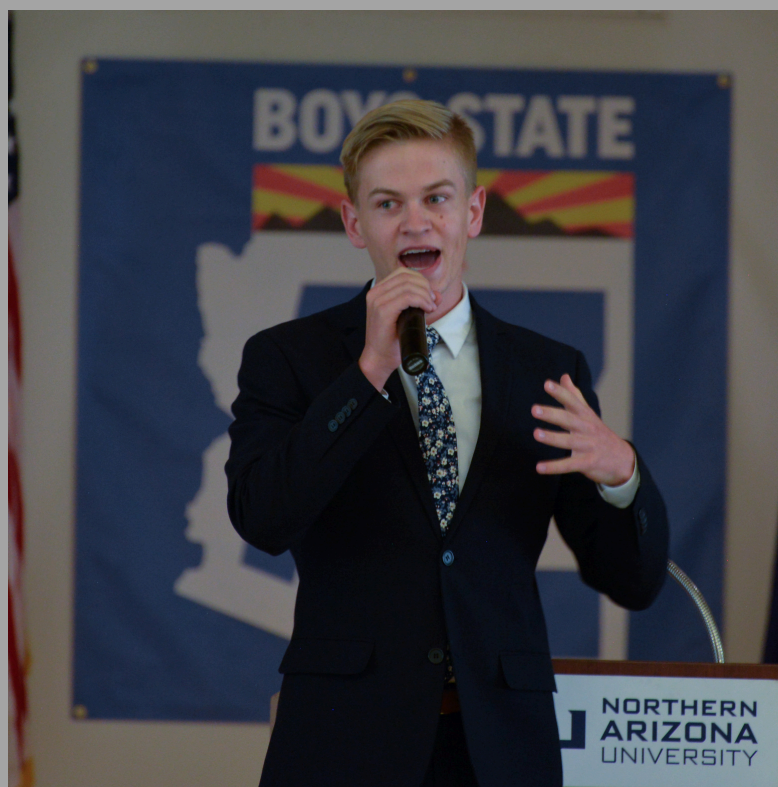
June 1-8, 2025

Arizona Boys State 2025

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Attendance:** 171 students representing 90+ different high schools around Arizona attended Arizona Boys State 2024 – an approximately 25% increase in attendance compared to 2023.
- **Post participation:** More than 20 Posts actively recruited students from local high schools, and more than 30 Posts financially sponsored one or more students. Thank you!
- **Guest speakers:** Notable speakers at Arizona Boys State 2024 included State Treasurer of Arizona Kimberly Yee, U.S. Senator Mark Kelly (video remarks), and former Navajo Code Talker John Yazzie.
- **Honoring Director Bahill:** The 2024 program concluded with a special retirement ceremony honoring Program Director Larry Bahill's 50 years of service to Arizona Boys State.

A WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME!



WHATS NEW IN 2025:

We are looking forward to several exciting changes for the 77th session of Arizona Boys State:

- **New Program Director:** Past Department Commander and past National Executive Committee Member Steve "Chico" Aguirre has been appointed as the new Program Director for Arizona Boys State following Larry Bahill's retirement.
- **New location:** After 76 years at the Northern Arizona University campus in Flagstaff, Arizona Boys State will be moving to the University of Arizona campus in Tucson. The move is intended to help control program costs and reduce transportation-related barriers to attendance. Although Boys State will now be located on the same campus as, and run concurrently with, Arizona Girls State, the two programs will continue to operate independently.
- **Longer program:** Historically, the Boys State program was 7 days long. Arizona Boys State 2025 will include one additional day (8 days total) to extend the popular "all offices operating" portion of the program. The program will run from June 1 to June 8, 2025.

HOW POSTS & MEMBERS CAN GET INVOLVED!

We need YOUR support!

The American Legion Posts play a critical role in ensuring the success of Arizona Boys State. There are many ways that Posts can get involved:

- **Actively recruit students from local high schools.** Posts may send representatives to one or more local high schools to promote Arizona Boys State and select qualified students to attend the program. Posts that choose to become actively involved in recruiting for the 2025 program will be provided with a resource packet including promotional materials, talking points, answers to frequently asked questions, and sample interview questions. Posts can become actively involved in recruiting even if they do not have adequate funds to financially sponsor all students selected. Please note that if a high school is not covered by any Post, recruiting outreach for that school will be conducted by Boys State staff; for this reason, if your Post plans to actively recruit students from local high schools, it is essential that you submit the webform (see QR code below) so that recruiting efforts are not duplicated.
- **Sponsor one or more students.** Many Posts choose to financially sponsor one or more students from local high schools. It costs Arizona Boys State approximately \$650 to host a student; however, each student is only asked to pay a tuition fee of \$225. The student's sponsoring Post typically pays the remaining \$425 per student. Sponsorships may be paid on our website or by check made payable to Arizona Boys State and mailed to Department (please write the sponsored student's name on the memo line).
- **Make a general donation to Boys State.** Posts and Members may make general donations to Boys State without tying these funds to particular students. These donations are used to cover general program expenses, including students who do not have a Post sponsor. General donations may be made on our website or by check made payable to Arizona Boys State and mailed to Department. Please note that Boys State is in the process of converting to a 501(c)(3) organization; individual donations may not be tax deductible while this conversion is pending.

Posts are encouraged to start discussions ASAP regarding your Post's involvement with Boys State.

Once your Post has determined its desired level of involvement, please complete our webform: use the QR code, or visit

azlegion.org/boysstate/posts.



Questions about Arizona Boys State? Please contact **boysstate@azlegion.org**.

"Boys State has taught me the importance of patriotism, government, civics, and social issues at an integral time in my life. I am blessed for The American Legion and their programs."

-Arizona Boys State alumnus