



Arizona Boys State Inc.
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Comrades of The American Legion Department of Arizona,

Greetings from Arizona Boys State! The Arizona Boys State board of directors and staff would like to extend their gratitude to the American Legion Posts for their support of our program. Please read below for a quick summary of the 2025 program and essential information on how your Post can support the 2026 program.

Summary of Arizona Boys State 2025. The 2025 program was the 77th session of Arizona Boys State and the first-ever session held in Tucson. Approximately 150 students representing more than 80 high schools from across the state joined us at the University of Arizona campus for the week-long program. Students attended over 11 schools of instruction and heard from notable speakers such as Arizona State Treasurer Kimberly Yee and Congressman Juan Ciscomani (video remarks). And of course, students established and operated the 51st state: Arizona Boys State.



Program cost update. We are proud to celebrate Arizona Boys State 2025 – a success made possible by the generosity of the American Legion Posts. Our program relies on the American Legion Posts as its primary source of financial support, and we deeply appreciate the Posts' commitment to this impactful program.



We estimate that the cost of the 2026 program will be approximately \$850 per student, reflecting the significant costs required to deliver the Boys State experience. Although costs have risen substantially due to inflation, to keep the program accessible, the student contribution will increase only modestly from \$225 to \$300 (with financial aid available for students who cannot afford this fee). The Post sponsorship amount will remain at \$425 per student to encourage maximum Post participation. The Department of Arizona and other donors will cover the remaining per-student cost.

We are actively exploring corporate sponsorships and other cost-saving options for the 2026 program and beyond to ensure the program's financial sustainability. If you would like to assist with external fundraising efforts, please reach out.



“A Week that Shapes a Lifetime”

How to get involved in Arizona Boys State 2026. As the financial picture clearly indicates, the American Legion Posts play a crucial role in ensuring the success of Arizona Boys State. The program relies on Posts to support Boys State in two main ways: (1) recruiting students to attend Boys State, and (2) providing financial support. Financial support may come in the form of a “sponsorship” (i.e., money tied to a particular student) or a general donation to the program.



We encourage every Post to appoint a Boys State Chairman and to begin discussions with the Post Executive Committee regarding how your Post will support Arizona Boys State 2026. Once your Post has determined its desired level of involvement, please complete the Post survey on Arizona Boys State’s website at www.azlegion.org/boysstate/posts no later than November 7, 2025 (the first day of Fall Conference).

If your Post plans to engage in recruiting efforts, you will receive detailed instructions and resources on how to successfully recruit students for Arizona Boys State. In that case, it is especially important that you complete the Post survey before the deadline so that recruiting efforts are not duplicated; the Boys State staff recruits directly from high schools not covered by any Post, and we do not want a school to receive “mixed messages” from your Post and from the Boys State staff.

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 Arizona Boys State “A Week that Shapes a Lifetime.” If you have any questions about Boys State, please don’t hesitate to contact us at boysstate@azlegion.org.

Sincerely,

Steve “Chico” Aguirre
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