

The American Legion Department of Washington Evergreen Boys State June 15-21, 2025

Recruiter's Handbook

EvergreenBoysState.org

The American Legion Department of Washington



Evergreen Boys State

Tony Morea, Chairman Evergreen Boys State Executive Board 3211 159th Ave NE, Snohomish, WA 98290

EvergreenBoysState.org

The American Legion Department of Washington Evergreen Boys State

2025 Session June 15th through June 21st

Location:

Warm Beach Conference Center 20800 Marine Dr Stanwood, WA 98292

Cost of the program is: \$600 total \$300 "tuition" to the sponsoring Post \$300 "registration" to each Student

Transportation to and from Evergreen Boys State is a Student/Post/District responsibility

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Introduction

Dear Legion Family Members,

We need your help! We hear from delegates each year that the best way to get students' attention is for someone to visit their school and share information in person! If your Post sent one or more boys to Evergreen Boys State this past year, be sure to contact them and request their assistance in promoting the program to this year's Junior class at their school.

Please keep in mind that selecting an "ideal week" for Evergreen Boys State is no easy feat. No matter which week we choose, conflicts inevitably arise with school schedules, sports events, sports camps, speech and debate contests, ASB student government retreats, scouting activities, family vacations, and after-school/summer jobs. Some schools finish in early June, others finish their year in late June. Furthermore, the various Military Academies all offer their summer leadership programs for high school juniors in June, forcing students to make tough decisions regarding their participation.

We know some schools may adopt a strict stance against excusing students to attend; however, many have shown willingness to accommodate students by allowing them to reschedule their finals – or even take exams remotely while attending Evergreen Boys State. It's imperative that students and their parents take the initiative to coordinate such arrangements with their schools.

At the Department level, we will continue to focus on digital marketing and recruitment. There are flyers and brochures available for download on the Evergreen Boys State website and the Recruiters Toolbox. There are HUNDREDS of high schools in Washington state – the five Department level committee members do not have the ability to reach out to each of them personally. You, the Legion Family members in the Posts and Districts, are the main points of personal contact with the schools and with other youth organizations.

Let's continue to think creatively about our recruitment efforts this year. Consider innovative ways to connect with students virtually:

- Print and display flyers on community bulletin boards at local stores.
- Utilize the NextDoor app for advertising, a platform parents frequently use.
- Explore opportunities for articles or press releases in the local city newspaper.
- Check if your Post has social media presence on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook with which to advertise.
- If your Post sponsors a Boy Scout troop, don't forget to invite them to apply.
- Reach out to local homeschool support groups.
- Leverage any existing contacts with teachers or counselors in schools; consider emailing them.
- If necessary, we suggest conducting interviews via telephone using platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, or Microsoft Teams instead of in-person interviews.
- **Don't forget the Running Start Counselors** at the community colleges and technical schools.

We welcome additional innovative recruitment suggestions from Post Recruiters. Please send your ideas to Office@EvergreenBoysState.org, and we will share them with everyone.

Your support is crucial in making this year's Evergreen Boys State a success. Together, we can overcome our challenges and ensure the 2025 program grows and thrives.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this program!

Respectfully, Your EBS Staff and Committee Members

Where Your Post Fits In

Let's begin by discussing your Post's essential role in the planning and execution of the American Legion Evergreen Boys State program. Evergreen Boys State offers valuable suggestions on how your Post can contribute, when to take action, and some strategies for achieving success. The guidelines in this guide have stood the test of time, proven through the experience of Boys State programs nationwide.

Posts that diligently follow the procedures for delegate selection and attendance are rewarded with the opportunity to send Washington's finest young talents to Evergreen Boys State, enriching the program and ensuring its success.

It's important to remember that all American Legion Posts are autonomous. <u>You</u> have the flexibility to choose the delegate selection process that aligns best with your Post's values and mission. Additionally, keep in mind that you and your Post members retain the final say in the selection of the delegates you choose to sponsor. While collaboration with schools is encouraged, the ultimate sponsorship decision rests with your Post. Active involvement by your membership in this process is crucial.

Additionally, many American Legion Posts in Washington actively engage with their communities, seeking support from other civic organizations to provide young citizens with this invaluable opportunity. Why do they choose to do so? Because they recognize the positive impact of nurturing responsible citizens who return to their communities and support the local American Legion's programs wholeheartedly.

Your Post members' commitment and involvement are key to the success of the Evergreen Boys State program. Together, we can continue to empower the leaders of tomorrow.

American Legion Post Commander

We recommend that you consider appointing a dedicated member as the Boys State Chairperson or establishing a Boys State committee. Encouraging active involvement from as many Post members as possible will help you better fulfill your duties as Post Commander.

When selecting the Evergreen Boys State Chairperson, it's crucial to choose a qualified individual for the role. The ideal candidate might not necessarily be readily visible within your meeting room. It could be someone who, while unable to attend meetings regularly, is committed to recruiting delegates for Evergreen Boys State.

To identify the right person for the role, review your membership roster and seek out individuals with excellent interpersonal skills and effective communication abilities with young people. This person could be a teacher, coach, scout leader, newspaper reporter, or anyone with the qualities required. Avoid merely looking for someone who might be willing to take on the role; instead, focus on someone you are confident will actively and effectively fulfill the responsibilities.

Personally reach out to them and extend an invitation to serve as the Evergreen Boys State Post Chairperson. Explain why you believe they are well-suited for the position and highlight the valuable contributions they can bring to the team.

By making a thoughtful selection and engaging a qualified Chairperson, you will strengthen your Post's involvement in the Evergreen Boys State program and help us continue our mission effectively.

Post Evergreen Boys State Chairperson

You play a pivotal role in the selection of high-quality delegates, which is essential for the success of the Evergreen Boys State session. You have a unique opportunity to shape the future leaders of your community, state, and nation. Many former Boys State citizens have gone on to become leaders in government, the military, business, and various professions, including the President of the United States.

Take great pride in the responsibility you've been entrusted with for your American Legion Post. Effective planning and follow-up are key attributes for an Evergreen Boys State Chairperson. It's important to remember that, like with college admissions, students initially APPLY to attend Evergreen Boys State. Your Post will need to interview and accept them, after which the student will REGISTER to attend.

It's advisable to take swift action. Initiate personal contact with key individuals such as the high school guidance counselor, government teacher, superintendent, school board members, clergy, and leaders of Boy Scout troops within your community. Arrange meetings to introduce them to the Evergreen Boys State program and provide them with Evergreen Boys State brochures that explain the program in detail. You may also seek their recommendations for potential students, but remember, you and your Post should have the final say in selecting the delegates.

Ensure that these individuals understand the program's purpose and what Evergreen Boys State entails. As the Post Chairperson, it's crucial that you familiarize yourself with the program. Take the time to read this handbook and the Citizens Manual so that you can see the program from the delegates' perspective. Also, review the registration timeline and don't hesitate to reach out to your District Chairperson, District Commander, or email Office@EvergreenBoysState.org if you have any questions. Wear your American Legion cap with pride, recognizing our organization's vital role in creating the national Boys State program!

Ultimately, YOUR POST will make the final delegate selections. Each young man should express a strong commitment to attend the entire week. It's important that selected delegates have a basic understanding of the program's objectives and dates.

Evergreen Boys State recommends having a list of potential interviewees by March or April to allow ample time for interviews and final selections. [Even if you miss this time frame, it's never too late to get started!] An application form for information gathering is included in this guide, providing essential information for your Post Selection Committee to review before interviews at the Post or school. Additionally, a suggested interview and scoring form is provided for your committee's use.

When choosing individuals to assist with interviews, select those who have an interest in working with young people and possess experience in dealing with them. Choose individuals who can make well-informed decisions about delegate selections and effectively evaluate the attitudes and responses of the young men.

We realize that certain Posts may have limited financial resources and may not be able to sponsor more than one or two students. If you find yourself with more students in need of sponsorship than your Post can accommodate, please don't turn them down. Reach out to us at Office@EvergreenBoysState.org. We are here to help you secure additional funding for your students.

Please note that the online application on our website is not intended to replace your personal contact with schools in your local Post area. Don't solely rely on the website for applications; actively engage with schools. The online application has been a valuable tool for generating leads to identify interested students who may not have learned about Evergreen Boys State through traditional recruitment methods.

Remember, YOUR efforts are the linchpin for the success of this program. Your dedication and commitment are what make Evergreen Boys State thrive.

What Was Evergreen Boys State Like?

A Post Follow-Up

After the Evergreen Boys State program, it's essential to assess what you've achieved with the resources you invested. Indeed, your Post may have allocated more funds to Evergreen Boys State than any other program throughout the year. Equally important is understanding the enriching experiences and insights gained by the young men sponsored by your Post. Sharing these experiences not only benefits your Post but also promotes the American Legion within your community.

We recommend hosting a dinner event in the Fall, shortly after the young men return to school. Extend invitations to all your delegates and their parents, bearing in mind that these students have busy schedules that quickly fill up with other commitments.

Invite school officials, civic leaders, and any individuals who were involved in the delegate selection process. Extend invitations to the Mayor and the City Council, and consider reaching out to local news media outlets, including the local newspaper, radio stations, and, if available, local television stations.

Carefully plan the event to avoid scheduling conflicts with major community events, such as football games or other activities that could divert a significant portion of the community away from your event. If your Post or Auxiliary Unit also sent girls to Evergreen Girls State, consider inviting the young ladies to participate in the event as well.

When you contact your young men about attending the dinner, explain that they will have the opportunity to share a brief report with the Post members about their experiences at Evergreen Boys State.

During the event, introduce your esteemed guests, but allow the spotlight to shine on the young men (and women). This event is dedicated to them, and they should take center stage. Everyone in attendance is there to express their pride in these young adults and celebrate their achievements.

Your commitment to acknowledging and celebrating the Evergreen Boys State experience not only benefits your Post but also fosters a sense of pride and community involvement. We encourage you to make this event a memorable one.

Planning for the Future

Now that your Post has selected outstanding delegates to represent you, and they have returned from Evergreen Boys State brimming with enthusiasm, your future Evergreen Boys State endeavors will be considerably smoother.

These delegates are eager to share their remarkable experiences and newfound knowledge with their friends, describing the incredible time they had at Evergreen Boys State where learning and fun harmonized. The more word spreads about our program, the stronger our position becomes. And who do we have to thank for this positive momentum? It all started with you.

Consider involving your delegates from the previous year or former Boys State delegates who reside and work in our community as part of your Post selection committee.

Your dedication and commitment have ignited this positive attitude, and we are confident that your continued efforts will keep the Evergreen Boys State program thriving.

Thank you for making it all possible!

The History of American Legion Boys State

What is Boys State (Nationally)

As a distinguished program of the American Legion, Boys State was conceived with the idea that our youth should gain a deeper understanding of how government operates in practice. It emphasizes that each individual plays an essential role and carries a corresponding responsibility for the character and success of their government. Consequently, Boys State stands as a program of immense educational significance, addressing the critical need for educating our youth in the practical aspects of citizenship.

American Legion Boys State can be aptly characterized as a leadership initiative. Here, accomplished male high school juniors participate in an immersive government course tailored to foster a comprehensive understanding of governmental structures. This program serves to underscore the pivotal truth that government is a reflection of the collective efforts of its citizens.

Through Boys State, we are molding future leaders, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to actively engage in and positively influence the course of our government.

How and Why Boys State Started

Boys State emerged in response to a pressing concern during the 1930s. At that time, Fascist-inspired Young Pioneer Camps were influencing high school boys, advocating that democracy had become obsolete and should be replaced by Fascism. Fueled by this challenge to democratic values, two Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, both educators and members of The American Legion in Illinois, conceived the Boys State program.

Their vision was to create a counter-movement among American youth, one that would foster a deeper comprehension of our government system and instill a profound commitment to its preservation. Harold Card's experience in organizing and supervising a Boy Scout camp influenced the format of Boys State. With limited staff, he allowed the boys to take on self-governance, holding elections for roles like mayor and city council members. Appointments were made for crucial positions such as police, fire, health, and sanitation officials. What became evident was that the boys became genuinely engrossed in fulfilling their 'city' responsibilities, often to the point of overlooking their Scout duties. They were learning through active participation.

The inaugural Boys State took place at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois, in June 1935. Today, many decades later, the program continues to provide young men with the opportunity to learn by doing. Over the years, well over one million young men have participated in Boys State. Our democratic way of life continues to face other challenges from government systems at odds with our democratic ideals and from apathy among our own citizens.

The American Legion remains steadfast in its sponsorship and execution of Boys State. We believe that young citizens who are well-versed in the functioning of our government system will be better equipped to uphold its principles and safeguard it for generations to come.

Evergreen Boys State Goals and Objectives

The Evergreen Boys State program, with its broad scope, encompasses a multitude of important objectives. Among these, The American Legion places the utmost emphasis on the following:

- Fostering Civic Leadership and Pride in Young American Citizenship: Our primary goal is to cultivate a sense of civic leadership and instill pride in every young man attending Evergreen Boys State. We aspire for each participant to return to his community as a more engaged and responsible citizen. We aim to kindle within him a personal desire to contribute to his community's betterment, making it a place where everyone can thrive.
- 2. Cultivating a Passion for In-Depth Government Study: Beyond a passive interest, we strive to ignite a genuine passion for the comprehensive study of government. Our aim is to nurture an enduring thirst for knowledge in this field.
- 3. Nurturing an Understanding of American Traditions and Belief in the United States: We endeavor to convey the rich traditions that have shaped our nation's history. Our aim is to impress upon young men the profound value of these traditions and to demonstrate that the continued existence of freedom depends on the dedication of those who work toward a better America.
- 4. **Instilling a Determination to Uphold Our Form of Government**: We pursue this objective through various means, but our primary approach is to immerse young citizens in the realization of the extraordinary privilege of being an American.

The last two objectives are drawn from the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion:

- 5. **To Inculcate a Sense of Individual Obligation to the Community, State, and Nation**: We aim to instill in our youth a profound understanding of their personal responsibility to their community, state, and nation.
- 6. **To Safeguard and Transmit to Posterity the Principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy**: Our commitment is to ensure the perpetuation of these principles, fostering their understanding and appreciation among future generations.

These objectives represent our unwavering commitment to molding responsible, informed, and patriotic citizens who will actively contribute to our society's betterment.

Program Purposes

Evergreen Boys State serves as a dynamic workshop, dedicated to imparting practical knowledge of citizenship to young men. This program of education is conducted under the auspices of the American Legion, Department of Washington, with a clear mission: to instill constructive attitudes toward the American form of government among the youth of today.

Through Evergreen Boys State, we demonstrate that our system of government remains vibrant and relevant. It underscores that a republic thrives with an enlightened citizenry and an administration that is transparent, honest, and responsive to the will of the people.

This program functions as a hands-on school of government, promoting education through active participation. It showcases the pivotal role each individual can play within our government system. Evergreen Boys State is more than just a theoretical exercise; it is an immersive experience that empowers young men to understand and engage with our democratic processes.

Program Information

The Evergreen Boys State program operates on a "learn by doing" principle, where selected citizens actively engage in simulating the operations of various levels of government, political parties, and a state legislature. Our program is designed to cultivate a more active and informed interest in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship. It serves as a vibrant workshop where democracy comes to life.

At Evergreen Boys State, our approach to education is hands-on. Young citizens work together to establish and operate fictitious cities, counties, and a state. They also form and manage political parties, oversee judicial systems, and convene a bicameral state legislature. The structure and governance of Evergreen Boys State mirror the constitution, statutes, and codes of the State of Washington.

Citizens of Evergreen Boys State arrive with pre-existing knowledge of political processes, parliamentary procedure, law enforcement, court systems, and legislative operations. During their time in office, they gain additional insights and skills from our experienced staff, who guide them in performing the actual functions of officeholders. Each Citizen is provided with text materials for reference during and after the program, explaining various government branches and procedures.

Upon registration, each Citizen is assigned to an Evergreen Boys State "city" and a "political party." These assignments are carefully made to ensure equal participation in all aspects of government and politics, encouraging each Citizen to collaborate with peers from across Washington State. Evergreen Boys State cities take names inspired by Washington trees, counties are named after mountain ranges or water bodies, and the state is aptly named "Evergreen."

Our curriculum commences with the official designation of each student as a Citizen of the Great State of Evergreen. They immediately begin the formation of city governments, followed by the creation of political parties, and county and state level offices. Aspiring political officeholders file and campaign individually, representing their respective parties. Primary and general elections are held, culminating in inaugural ceremonies. Following the installation of all officers, every facet of city, county, and state government springs into action.

Instructors, well-versed in the functions and procedures of state government and its political subdivisions, provide guidance and coaching to our youthful citizens. However, they are careful to allow the citizens to function independently. Our overarching goal is to enable the citizens to fully experience and immerse themselves in the process.

From this immersive school of government, young citizens gain firsthand knowledge that their government is as effective as their active participation allows. They understand the importance of their roles within our system of government: each person can run for office, vote for their chosen candidate, and actively influence government policies.

EVERY CITIZEN HAS A DEFINITE AND INTEGRAL PART IN THE PROGRAM.

Non-Partisan

Evergreen Boys State takes immense pride in its non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-military stance. Our program is designed to present citizens with problem-solving challenges that are entirely independent of any association with existing political parties and completely devoid of propaganda. Our sole aim is to empower young citizens to grasp the responsibilities they will one day assume as adults.

It is of paramount importance to emphasize that the assignment of citizens to various parties within our program has no bearing on the real political parties in Washington state. These party affiliations are entirely fictional, and no attributes of actual political parties will be attributed to the parties within Evergreen Boys State.

Our unwavering commitment to non-partisanship underscores our dedication to providing a fair, impartial, and inclusive platform for young citizens to explore and engage with the fundamental principles of democracy.

At Evergreen Boys State, the political parties are entirely fictional constructs used for educational purposes. We do not designate any party as 'conservative' or 'liberal.' Instead, the political positions of these two parties are determined by the citizens themselves. Citizens are randomly assigned to a political party by a computer, and both parties have an approximately equal number of members. Just as in real life, it is unlikely that a citizen will align perfectly with one party or the other. Once again, the primary focus is on their learning experience in understanding the political process, rather than reaching a specific political outcome.

Eligibility and Attendance

Participation in Evergreen Boys State is open to young men who meet the following two essential eligibility criteria:

- 1. **Grade-Level Requirement**: Citizens must have recently completed their Junior year in high school and be on the cusp of entering their Senior year when they attend Evergreen Boys State in June.
- 2. **Willingness to Attend and Engage**: Citizens must demonstrate a genuine desire and willingness to attend and actively participate in the program.

Additionally, please note the following important guidelines:

- Citizens must be males between the ages of 15 and 18.
- Previous attendance at any Boys State session disqualifies candidates.
- Candidates who have not completed the 11th grade will not be considered.
- Foreign exchange students will find this program highly challenging as they may only have limited preexisting knowledge of Washington State government.
- Running Start participation is deemed equivalent to high school for eligibility purposes.
- High school Juniors are particularly valued, as they are poised to return home and assume leadership roles within their school and community during their Senior year.
- The responsibility for selecting Citizens rests with the local American Legion Post, Unit, District, Riders Chapter, or SAL squadron. Selection methods should prioritize fairness to all eligible candidates, with an emphasis on identifying the most representative Citizens who embody well-rounded citizenship, leadership, character, scholarship, and service. It's crucial to emphasize that eligibility and selection cannot be influenced by race or creed, and there should be no request for applicants to provide photographs as part of the selection process.

Please select only those Citizens who can commit to staying for the entire week, as late arrivals and early departures are not permitted.

Lastly, it's important to acknowledge that the Department of Washington reserves the right to accept or reject any application to Evergreen Boys State. The Chairman or their designee may admit delegates to attend Evergreen Boys State. During the program, the Director or their designee retains the right to dismiss any Citizen for violations of the rules, irrespective of sponsorship.

Time and Place

We are excited to announce that Evergreen Boys State program will take place on the beautiful campus of Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood, Washington, commencing on June 15th, 2025, at 3:00 PM and concluding on June 21st, 2025, at 10:30 AM. Please note that both the starting and ending dates and times are inclusive.

To ensure a smooth experience for all participants, we ask that delegates adhere to the following arrival and registration details:

- Citizens should not arrive at Warm Beach Conference Center before noon on June 15th.
- We recommend having lunch prior to their arrival.
- Registration will officially commence at noon on Sunday, June 15th, and conclude at 2:30 PM on the same day.

Please be aware that housing and meals will not be available prior to the registration period or following the program's conclusion. The first meal, dinner, will be served on Sunday evening, June 15th, at 5:30 PM.

Tuition and Registration Fees

We are committed to making Evergreen Boys State program accessible to <u>all</u> eligible students without regard for their ability to pay. Below, you'll find information regarding program fees and options for financial assistance:

Total Fees: The total program fee for Evergreen Boys State is \$600.

Breakdown of Fees: Traditionally, this total fee has been divided into two components:

- Tuition Fee: \$300 paid by the sponsoring Post
- Registration Fee: \$300 paid by the student

Financial Assistance: Students have the option to request financial assistance from their sponsoring American Legion Post. To ensure inclusivity, we suggest that Posts provide \$300 in assistance to any student requesting sponsorship. However, we understand that each situation is unique, and Posts may offer more, or less, funding based on individual circumstances. If a student's family is willing and able to cover the entire \$600 fee, they are welcome to do so.

Payment Options: Post sponsors will be afforded the opportunity to pay via check or online via our Square portal. Once you have reported your sponsorship agreement via the form, students will be provided a link at which they can pay their portion of the fees via Square portal (or check). During registration in Stanwood, any unpaid fees can be paid in cash, by check, credit card, or money order by each Citizen who has not made other payment arrangements. All checks should be made payable to "Evergreen Boys State."

Additional Students: If a Post wishes to sponsor more students than they can financially support, we urge that you do not turn down the additional students. Please have them submit their registration form via the online portal. Afterward, please contact us at Office@EvergreenBoysState.org for further assistance as soon as possible.

We are dedicated to ensuring that financial considerations do not impede any eligible student from participating in this program. If you have any questions or require assistance regarding fees or financial support, please feel free to reach out to us.

Transportation

We would like to clarify the responsibilities and arrangements regarding transportation to and from the Evergreen Boys State program:

Delegate Responsibility: Transportation to and from Evergreen Boys State is the ultimate responsibility of the Delegate and their parent or guardian.

Local Arrangements: In certain Districts, the local American Legion Post recruiter or a District Chairperson may facilitate transportation arrangements for sponsored Delegates. The coordination and associated costs for such arrangements are managed at the local level and are not the responsibility of the Department of Washington, Evergreen Boys State, or the EBS on-site program staff.

We encourage Delegates and parents to communicate with their local American Legion representatives to explore any available transportation options if needed.

Sponsorship

To ensure a successful and well-prepared 2025 Evergreen Boys State session, we emphasize the importance of early enrollment for qualified candidates. We ask that you submit required forms and Fees online or via USPS to American Legion Department of Washington, P. O. Box 3917, Lacey, WA 98509-3917, c/o EBS Registrar, as soon as possible after selection of your delegates.

Early Enrollment Benefits:

- Early enrollment is important to guarantee a reservation for qualified candidates at the 2025 Evergreen Boys State session.
- Reservations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Fees submitted after June 1, 2025, and up until the start of EBS on June 15th, will continue to be accepted, provided space is available.

Payment Details:

- Payment via Square portal is the preferred method, however there is a "convenience" fee for online payments, so checks will be accepted if that is your preference.
- Please make all checks payable to "Evergreen Boys State."

Supporting Scholarship Opportunities:

The American Legion Department of Washington welcomes and extends an invitation to local civic, fraternal, educational, religious, labor, and other compatible organizations to consider funding tuition scholarships for deserving young men. Citizen selections are typically made by an American Legion Post. In cases where a local American Legion Post is not available, applications can be made directly to the Evergreen Boys State Director's Office. Tuition Fees should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably by the local American Legion Post, although individual sponsors are welcome as well.

Post-Program Reporting:

Upon their return home, we strongly encourage every Citizen to appear before their sponsoring organization and present a report to its members regarding their experiences and impressions of the Evergreen Boys State program.

Your support and timely contributions play a crucial role in the success of this program, and we are immensely grateful for your commitment. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Physical Examination & Special Needs

Physical Examination: A physical examination by a physician is not mandatory for applicants. However, all applicants are expected to meet normal health standards and complete the application questionnaire.

Special Needs Citizenship: Evergreen Boys State welcomes applicants with special needs. We are committed to providing an inclusive experience for all citizens. However, it's important to note that any arrangements and costs for special considerations or accommodation required for these citizens will be the responsibility of the sponsoring organization or the individual citizen and their family.

We encourage open communication to ensure that all citizens have the support and resources they need to fully participate in the program. Should you have any questions or require further information regarding health requirements or special accommodations, please feel free to contact us.

Health and Medical

Ensuring the health and safety of our participants is a top priority at Evergreen Boys State. We would like to provide you with important information regarding our efforts to address health concerns, including those related to COVID-19:

Sanitation Measures: The Evergreen Boys State staff is diligently working in collaboration with the Warm Beach Conference Center to plan and implement appropriate sanitation measures as required by the county health department to address any lingering health concerns.

Medical Assistance: During Evergreen Boys State, we have provisions in place to provide first aid and medical attention if required. Our dedicated team will take every precaution to prevent accidents and illness.

Participant Responsibility: It's important to note that while we take comprehensive measures to ensure safety, Evergreen Boys State, Inc. cannot be held responsible for injuries or sickness should they occur during the program.

Local Healthcare: Local healthcare facilities are available should any medical assistance be required or requested. We have arrangements in place to address any health-related needs promptly.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together to create a safe and enriching environment for all participants. If you have any specific questions or concerns related to health and safety measures, please do not hesitate to contact us.

On-Site Rules for Student Safety

Please be aware of the following guidelines:

Prohibited Items and Activities: It is strictly prohibited for any citizen to use or be in possession of intoxicants, tobacco products, illegal drugs, firearms, other weapons, or explosives during their time at Evergreen Boys State. Additionally, activities such as gambling, destruction of property, or leaving the Evergreen Boys State Campus area without permission from the On-Site Director or their designate are also strictly prohibited.

Consequences for Violations: Any citizen found engaging in any of the above-mentioned prohibited activities will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program. Please note that there will be no recourse or refund in such cases, and the individual will be barred from further participation in the program.

We expect that all participants fully understand and respect these rules to ensure the safety and integrity of Evergreen Boys State. If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding our code of conduct, please feel free to reach out to us.

R&R / Free Time

Program Emphasis: While there will be designated times for rest and relaxation, it's important to note that Evergreen Boys State is not a recreational camp. Participants will not have the opportunity to engage in typical recreational activities such as football, baseball, swimming, or the use of sports or recreational facilities. Instead, the emphasis during free time is on rest and relaxation.

We also request that sponsoring groups and participants recognize that Evergreen Boys State is not a rehabilitative, disciplinary, or recreational camp. It is a scholastic leadership program designed to provide an intensive citizenship-training experience.

Selection Criteria: We encourage the selection of candidates with outstanding qualifications in citizenship, leadership, character, scholarship, and service, who approach the program with a serious attitude toward intensive citizenship training.

Instructions for Boys State Citizens

For convenience, a handout packet for your delegates is included in a later section of this Recruiter's Handbook. Please feel free to copy and distribute it to the delegates you select. To access complete Citizen Instructions for Evergreen Boys State, please visit our website at EvergreenBoysState.org. These instructions will <u>not</u> be mailed to each Citizen individually.

Accessing Instructions: To obtain the necessary information, please visit our website as mentioned above. Detailed instructions and important program information will be available online for your reference.

Email Notifications: Additionally, once we have received citizen <u>registration</u> forms, our office will send them – and their parents – important information via email. Please remind citizens to check their email regularly for updates and instructions. To ensure that citizens receive important updates and information from us promptly, we suggest that they add Office@EvergreenBoysState.org to their email contacts list. This will help prevent our emails from being misrouted to their junk, promotions, or spam folder.

Scholarship Opportunities at EBS

We are pleased to offer several scholarship opportunities to exceptional participants at Evergreen Boys State. Please review the following scholarship programs:

Samsung American Legion Scholarship: This prestigious scholarship requires certified information from high schools and family military records for eligibility. The minimum scholarship amount awarded is approximately \$1,250. The state winner's application is forwarded to the National level, where they can compete for one of ten \$5,000 awards or one of ten \$10,000 awards. Please note that scholarship winners receive one of the following amounts: \$1,250, \$5,000, or \$10,000 – they do not receive a combination of these amounts. Apply here: https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung.

Important Note: The Samsung Scholarship Application must be completed online before arriving at Evergreen Boys State on June 15th, 2025. No exceptions can be made for any reason; mailed or faxed applications and/or supporting documents cannot be accepted. Students should not bring hard copies of their application or supporting documents to Evergreen Boys State, as any material not part of the online application will not be considered.

The **Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Boys Nation Scholarship**: Two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to two Evergreen Boys State Citizens selected to attend the American Legion Boys Nation program. Attendance and completion of the Boys Nation program are required for eligibility.

The **Evergreen Boys State Foundation Governor's Scholarship**: A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to the elected Governor of the State of Evergreen.

The **Carl Wipperman Leadership Scholarship**: This \$1,000 scholarship is presented to an outstanding future leader based on their demonstrated commitment while attending Evergreen Boys State.

The **Harry L. Easley Outstanding Citizen Scholarship**: A \$500 scholarship is awarded to an Evergreen Boys State citizen who distinguishes themselves during the week as an outstanding citizen of the State of Evergreen.

The **Leonard Beil Speaker of the House Scholarship**: A \$500 scholarship is awarded to the Speaker of the House.

In addition to these scholarships, several Certificates of Recognition are presented during the week, including:

- City Outstanding Citizen Award Certificates (one per city)
- "Citizen of the Day" Recognition Certificates
- "Expectations of Excellence" Recognition Certificates
- Bar Examination Ace Certificate

We encourage all participants to strive for excellence and take advantage of these scholarship opportunities. For more information on the Evergreen Boys State Foundation and how to donate, please contact the Evergreen Boys State Director or Chairman.

A citizen's commitment and dedication during Evergreen Boys State could lead to these rewards and recognitions.



Personnel Duties and Responsibilities

District Chairpersons

- 1. Ensure that the Department Chairperson has your accurate contact information, including your name, address, phone/cell number, and email address. Send this information to Office@EvergreenBoysState.org.
- 2. Before December 1st, reach out to each Post Commander in your District to gather contact information for each Post Boys State Chairperson. Forward this information to Office@EvergreenBoysState.org.
- 3. Ensure that Post Chairpersons are familiar with and understand their responsibilities.
- 4. Attend your District's Fall and Spring Conferences, as well as roundtable meetings.
- 5. Participate in all Boys State-related events within your District.
- 6. Assist in forwarding all Boys State student applications to Post Chairpersons.
- 7. Follow up with Posts to ensure that applications are being processed promptly and that registrations are submitted on time.
- 8. Provide advice and assistance to Post Chairpersons as needed.
- 9. Conduct a District Orientation for all delegates.
- 10. Serve as a member of the Evergreen Boys State Board of Directors.

Post Chairpersons

- 1. Contact the high schools in your local area as soon as you receive this information.
- 2. From November to February, re-establish contact with all high schools in your Post's vicinity to ensure they are informed about Evergreen Boys State. Confirm that schools have received flyers and have your contact information.
- 3. Identify a contact person within each high school (Principal, Counselor, Teacher, Librarian, Coach, etc.).
- 4. Arrange for a speaker to discuss Boys State at schools during the fall or winter.
- 5. If necessary, organize Post fundraisers to sponsor one or more students.
- 6. Make delegate selections and submit the required forms and fees to the Department as soon as possible after selection.
- 7. Promote and share program information with other community organizations to raise awareness and foster goodwill for the American Legion.

Note: If space is available, Evergreen Boys State will continue to accept registration forms from interested delegates up to and including the start date (June 15th). Contact Office@EvergreenBoysState.org for further details.

Post and District Chairpersons should be familiar with the website: **EvergreenBoysState.org**



Thank you for accepting the role of Post Chairperson for the Evergreen Boys State Program.

Is it a significant responsibility? Not really. The requirements for this position include:

- An understanding of The American Legion.
- Familiarity with the Evergreen Boys State Program.
- A willingness to collaborate with high school students and parents.
- Access to a phone and a computer.
- A friendly demeanor and a small amount of time.

So, what does the EBS Post Chairperson do? Here's a breakdown:

- Collaborate with your Post leadership to secure funds to sponsor students for the Program.
- Establish contact with your local high school student leadership for nominations to attend the Program.
- Collect Applications, either in printed hard copy or from online sources, or both.
- Evaluate Applications to ensure they meet qualifying standards, make selections, and seek additional funding if necessary.
- IMPORTANT: Please refrain from excluding qualified students due to funding constraints. Reach out to us at Office@EvergreenBoysState.org for funding assistance.
- Communicate with the selected student and their parents to inform them of their acceptance to Evergreen Boys State as soon as possible after the interview.
- Have the student fill out the online Registration form ASAP
- Submit the online Sponsorship Agreement form
- Submit payment to the Department of Washington via check or Square Portal
- Maintain regular contact with the student and their parents until they are on their way to EBS.

If you receive an email with an online application, follow these steps:

- Upon receiving an online application via email, start by acknowledging the sender. Reply to the email, confirming receipt of the application and the initiation of the processing.
- Immediately contact the student and parents and follow the same procedures as outlined for other applications.
- Review online Applications for qualifying standards, make selections, and seek additional funding if required.
- REMINDER: Do not exclude qualified students due to funding constraints. If your Post has already made selections and is out of funds, reach out to us at Office@EvergreenBoysState.org for funding ideas and assistance.
- Inform the student and their parents about their selection to attend Evergreen Boys State.
- Have the student fill out the online Registration form ASAP
- Submit the online Sponsorship Agreement form
- Submit payment to the Department of Washington via check or Square Portal
- Maintain regular contact with the student and their parents until they are on their way to EBS.

Boys State Post Chairperson Timeline

- 1. Incoming Post Commander appoints a Chairperson
 - a. Must have Email
 - b. Should have a Legion Cap
 - c. Should enjoy working with teenagers
- 2. Post Commander and/or Post Boys State Chairperson should notify District Boys State Chairperson of the appointment and provide the contact Name/Email/Phone number
- 3. Review the EvergreenBoysState.org website and learn all you can about the program
- 4. In the Fall, after school has begun, make an appointment to see the High School career counselor, the Junior Class advisor or the Principal or Vice Principal. Also reach out to JROTC instructors and club advisors!
 - a. Wear your Legion Cap
 - b. Dress for success, wear a Legion Polo shirt (if you have one) and slacks
 - c. Briefly describe the Evergreen Boys State Program and <u>ask for a point of contact in the school</u>, preferably a teacher or staff member who has been to either Boys State or Girls State.
- 5. Make an appointment with the previously arranged school point of contact
 - a. Review the Boys State program with the POC giving dates and location
 - b. Give the POC application forms for potential candidates to fill out
 - c. Ask the POC to identify potential candidates for the program
 - d. Ask the POC to set up a meeting for you to meet the candidates and brief them on the program
 - e. Dress for success and wear your Legion Cap
- 6. Meet with candidates and brief them on the program
 - a. Have Boys State flyers available for each student.
 - b. Have application forms with you
 - c. Have students fill out application forms
 - d. Dress for success and wear your Legion Cap
- 7. Make individual appointments to meet with each student [and their parent(s)] for interviews.
 - a. Notify students that they have been selected to attend ASAP after interview
 - b. Provide the selected student with the Delegate Registration Checklist
 - c. Ask that they immediately fill out the Registration form online
- 8. Talk about possible arrangements for transportation to Boys State
- 9. Personally contact each student at least once per month until the program starts on Father's Day

Be sure to submit forms and payment to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. It is okay to send the check for \$300 (or agreed upon amount) per student later if you are recruiting multiple students. If a Post has more students than they can afford to send, please DO NOT turn down students for lack of funding! Interview them and have them submit their online registration form via the registration portal! Please contact us at Office@EvergreenBoysState.org to assist with finding other funding sources.

Contact us at Office@EvergreenBoysState.org if you have any questions or problems.

Remember, many teenagers plan their summertime activities several months in advance so successful recruiting means getting to them <u>early</u>!

At the Department level we have TWO goals; at least one Boys State Citizen per Post and one Boys State Citizen per High School.

EBS Recruitment Process

In preparation for the Evergreen Boys State program, it is important to understand the recruitment process:

Step 1: Outreach to Post, Schools, and Partners

 Begin by reaching out to your local American Legion Post, schools, and your sponsoring partners immediately.

Step 2: Application Distribution

- Utilize the Application in this packet as an information gathering tool for recruitment.
- Schools can distribute these Applications to students interested in participating in the program, and they should be returned to you as the local recruiter.

Step 3: Online Application (EvergreenBoysState.org)

- The online application process is designed to complement your recruitment efforts and is not intended to replace personal contact with local schools.
- Interested students may submit online applications. These applications serve as informational resources for you.
- Online applications will be forwarded to District or Local Post Chairpersons for contact purposes.
- Completion of an online application is not mandatory for program attendance
- The online application form alone does not fulfill the program registration requirements. The official registration form must be completed and all additional forms and payment must be received for the registration to be considered complete.

Step 4: Local Interview & Selection Process

- Conduct interviews with each student to assess their suitability for attending EBS.
- Notify selected students of their participation in the event ASAP after interview.
- Provide students all necessary information including event details, dates and expectations
- Stay in contact with the students and their parents until the start of Evergreen Boys State!

Step 5: Registration Distribution

 Provide the Delegate Registration Checklist document to the student as it contains all required steps for them to complete the registration process.

Step 6: Completing the Registration

- Registration is considered complete when:
 - o Registration form submitted online
 - o Additional parent forms submitted to the upload portal.
 - The Selecting Post Chairperson has completed the Sponsorship Agreement Form.
 - Full payment has been received
- Submit all checks (utilizing the Check Transmittal Form) to:

Evergreen Boys State c/o EBS Registrar The American Legion Department of Washington PO Box 3917 Lacey, WA 98509-3917

Following these steps ensures a smooth and efficient registration process for Evergreen Boys State. Thank you for your dedication to the program.

Utilizing the Online Application System Effectively

The online application system is designed to <u>complement</u>, not replace, the crucial role of Post Chairpersons in personally reaching out to schools and recruiting delegates for Evergreen Boys State. As the Chairperson, you may receive data from the EBS website indicating which students in your area have submitted online applications to attend EBS. It's essential to proactively engage with these students promptly to maintain their interest and ensure they remain committed to attending the program.

When you receive this initial information from the EBS website, it serves as your first indication of an application within your District or local Post area. Timely contact with the student is of utmost importance. Failing to do so might lead the student to explore other summer program options, potentially resulting in the loss of valuable candidates. We must act swiftly to avoid this situation, which regrettably occurs each year.

Your urgency in reaching out to prospective delegates is vital to the success of our recruitment process. Your proactive engagement makes all the difference, preventing the unfortunate loss of potential participants.

EBS Website Application	Oct 5 (2 days ago)		
via shr.prod.phx3.secureserver.net			
Name:	Jim (fictitious Name)		
StreetAddress	POB 77		
City	Big		
State / Province / Region	WA		
Postal / Zip Code	98756		
Phone:	5097777777		
E-mail:	Big4@gmail.com		
Age:	16		
Year in school for the 2015/2016 school year:	Junior		
Preferred T-Shirt Size:	Large		
Parent/Gaurdian Name:	June Smith		
High School:	Big High School-Full-time Running Start student at Wenatchee Valley College		
H.S. Counselor/Advisor Name:	Steven Jones		
H.S. Counselor/Advisor Email Address:	Extra@.wednet.edu		
H.S. Counselor/Advisor Email Address: Any information relevant to your application you w ould like us to know :		y Eagle Rank by through the t Master, Walt mmended I apply pervisor with ys looking for es, and know that d only a r year in high allow me to put	
Any information relevant to your application you w ould	Extra@.wednet.edu I have been a member of Boy Scout Tro years and am planning on completing m next summer. This Troop is chartered American Legion Member. He has reco for Boys State. I am also a youth su Patrol Explorer's Post 77. I am alwa ways to improve my leadership abiliti Boys State is a unique opportunity an possibility the summer after my junio school. The field for H.S. Counselor will not	vy Eagle Rank by through the t Master, Walt mmended I apply pervisor with ys looking for es, and know that d only a r year in high allow me to put <u>du</u>	
Any information relevant to your application you w ould like us to know :	Extra@.wednet.edu I have been a member of Boy Scout Tro years and am planning on completing m next summer. This Troop is chartered American Legion Member. He has reco for Boys State. I am also a youth su Patrol Explorer's Post 77. I am alwa ways to improve my leadership abiliti Boys State is a unique opportunity an possibility the summer after my junio school. The field for H.S. Counselor will not in the correct email of <u>Big@.wednet.e</u>	vy Eagle Rank by through the t Master, Walt mmended I apply pervisor with ys looking for es, and know that d only a r year in high allow me to put <u>du</u>	
Any information relevant to your application you w ould like us to know : How did you hear about Evergreen Boys State:	Extra@.wednet.edu I have been a member of Boy Scout Tro years and am planning on completing m next summer. This Troop is chartered American Legion Member. He has reco for Boys State. I am also a youth su Patrol Explorer's Post 77. I am alwa ways to improve my leadership abiliti Boys State is a unique opportunity an possibility the summer after my junio school. The field for H.S. Counselor will not in the correct email of <u>Big@.wednet.e</u>	vy Eagle Rank by through the t Master, Walt mmended I apply pervisor with ys looking for es, and know that d only a r year in high allow me to put <u>du</u>	

Guidelines for Selecting EBS Delegates

Post Chairpersons play a crucial role in selecting students to attend Evergreen Boys State. It's important to emphasize that this selection process isn't about comparing students against each other; rather, each student should be evaluated on their individual merit to determine if they'd be a good fit for the program. There's no limit to the number of students a Post can select to attend. If your Post has more qualified students than available funding, don't hesitate to reach out to your District Boys State Chairperson and/or the EBS office at Office@EvergreenBoysState.org for assistance in finding additional funding sources.

Desirable Characteristics of Prospective Evergreen Boys State Citizens:

- **Passion for the Program**: A student should have a genuine understanding of the Evergreen Boys State program and a strong desire to attend.
- **Positive Attitude**: They should exhibit a positive outlook on life and demonstrate good citizenship.
- **Academic Performance**: While not a strict requirement, having a higher than average Grade Point Average is beneficial.
- **Recommendation**: A positive recommendation from a High School Advisor, Teacher, or Principal is a plus but <u>is not mandatory</u>.
- **Grade Level**: Students should be currently enrolled in the eleventh grade (Junior year) in high school and be returning as a Senior the following year.
- First-time Attendee: They must not have attended any previous Boys State Program.

Other General Characteristics to Consider:

- **Patriotism**: Demonstrates a strong sense of patriotism and a willingness to actively participate in their community, state, and nation.
- **Community Involvement**: Involvement in community service and youth activities outside of school, such as Scouting, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4H, FFA, Church, and other service organization youth programs.
- **School Activities**: Active participation in school activities, including student government, clubs, class projects, school publications, and sports.
- Leadership Potential: Exhibits leadership skills or shows potential for leadership roles and upholds strong moral and ethical standards.
- Poise and Presentation: Presents themselves well and demonstrates poise.
- **Motivation**: Displays motivation and has both short-term and long-term goals, including plans for higher education and scholarship searches.
- Work Experience: Is or has been employed.
- American Legion Affiliation: Special consideration should be given to individuals with an American Legion affiliation.

Please remember that the above are suggested guidelines. Keep in mind that the world is shaped by individuals with a wide range of abilities. If you have an average student who genuinely seeks to attend Evergreen Boys State to learn and grow, we encourage you to consider their application with an open mind. Our program thrives on diversity, and every student brings unique qualities that contribute to its success.

HANDOUT PACKET FOR DELEGATES

General Information for Delegates

All essential information for selected Delegates will be accessible via the email address they provide and on the Evergreen Boys State website at EvergreenBoysState.org. This information will become available after we have received your completed Evergreen Boys State Registration Form via the online registration portal.

Once we have received your registration form, our office will send you (and your parents) important information via email. Please ensure that you check your email regularly for updates and instructions. To ensure that you receive important updates and information from us promptly, we request that you add Office@EvergreenBoysState.org to your email contacts list. This will help prevent our emails from being misrouted to your junk or spam folder.

Stay connected and informed through our website and email notifications to ensure you have access to all necessary details.

What to Bring to Evergreen Boys State

Recommended Personal items:

To ensure a comfortable and productive experience at Evergreen Boys State, we recommend the following personal items:

Toiletry Articles: Soap, deodorant, washcloth, two bath towels, drinking cup, toothpaste, toothbrush, and shaving supplies. Maintaining personal hygiene is essential.

Clothes Hangers: To keep your clothing organized.

Plastic Bags: Useful for storing soiled laundry and damp articles.

Sunglasses: To protect your eyes from wind and sun.

Eyeglasses: If you wear contact lenses, it's advisable to bring your glasses and extra cleaning solution due to the windy conditions in Stanwood.

Religious Materials: Feel free to bring any religious material for your personal use.

Notetaking Materials: A Citizens Manual will be furnished for your reference; and it has limited space for taking notes. If you are someone who values the act of note-taking on paper as a vital part of your learning process, it is advisable to come prepared with a notebook and pens or pencils for your personal use.

Please be prepared for the typical weather conditions in western Washington, which may include occasional wind and rain. As you will be living in a casual business setting and aspiring to hold high office within the State of Evergreen, you are expected to dress appropriately. You should dress in a manner that reflects the professionalism you would expect from public officials in similar circumstances. Depending on your role and responsibilities, you may need to adhere to specific dress codes as required by the program.

We want your experience to be enjoyable and successful, so make sure to bring these items and dress accordingly.

Dress Codes

To ensure that you are appropriately dressed for various program events, Evergreen Boys State has established the following attire codes:

Code "C" (Casual): This attire is suitable for approximately 80% of your time at program events. It includes casual clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for most activities.

Code "D" (Dress): You will be required to wear dress clothing for at least two program events: the Friday Banquet and any time you wish to be on stage addressing your fellow delegates during the course of Evergreen Boys State. Dress attire should reflect the importance and formality of these occasions.

Code "R" (Rest and Relaxation): Approximately 10% of your time will be designated for rest and relaxation. During these periods, you are free to wear comfortable, casual clothing suitable for unwinding and leisure activities.

Definition of Attire Codes

Code "C" (Casual Clothing)

- Long pants such as jeans, Dockers-style, and slacks.
- Dress or semi-dress shirts and sweaters.
- Dress walking shorts (knee-length with hems, not sports or athletic-style shorts) with an appropriate shirt for warm weather.
- Sweatshirts in their original condition for appropriate casual dress times.
- Casual jackets and sweaters for evening wear.
- Consider bringing a rain jacket.
- Adequate underclothing and extra socks.
- Comfortable, casual shoes suitable for walking.
- Slippers or shower shoes for use inside or outside dorm rooms or buildings; barefoot walking is not allowed. Open-toe footwear (e.g., sandals/flip-flops) should remain within the dorm area.
- Do not bring T-shirts that advertise any restricted products of Evergreen Boys State, gang-related shirts or colors, shirts with inappropriate content, worn-out or torn clothing, or old military attire.

Code "D" (Dress Clothing)

Dress clothing is required for semi-formal situations. This includes occasions when you are on stage with specific program duties, as well as while engaging in political campaigns for higher office. Be sure to pack more than one dress shirt, slacks or dress pants, a tie, a sports coat or business suit, and dress shoes.

Note: If students do not have dress clothing, they should not feel restricted from attending. Please don't feel like you need to go out and purchase expensive dress clothing! We suggest checking out local thrift stores like Goodwill or Value Village. Additionally, the sponsoring Post may provide financial assistance if needed. Wearing a dress shirt, tie and dress slacks with casual shoes is acceptable.

Code "R" (Rest and Relaxation, Free Time Dress)

During designated rest and relaxation times, various types of gym or sports clothing, including sweatpants and athletic wear, are allowed. Shirts must always be worn outside of the buildings.

Money

During the week at Evergreen Boys State, Citizens will only require a small amount of cash – we suggest bringing no more than \$25. All Citizens will receive an Evergreen Boys State t-shirt upon their arrival.

At Warm Beach Conference Center, vending machines will be accessible to Citizens throughout the week. These vending machines offer a variety of options, including sodas and snacks, for those who wish to enjoy refreshments between our regularly scheduled meal times. Make sure to bring small denomination currency as the change machine can only dispense change for \$5 bills.

Smartphones, Tablets & Laptop Computers

While there is no specific requirement for smartphones, tablets, or laptop computers to participate in the program, most Citizens find having these devices extremely handy during the week. They can provide access to the internet and assist with various tasks such as research or note-taking.

Please note that while we take security seriously throughout the conference center, Evergreen Boys State cannot assume responsibility for any lost personal electronic equipment, including smartphones, tablets, or laptop computers.

Citizens are encouraged to use these devices responsibly and take necessary precautions to safeguard their personal belongings.

Valuables & Personal Items

For your convenience and safety, we strongly advise against bringing valuable items, including jewelry, to Evergreen Boys State. Please refrain from bringing anything of significant value.

Evergreen Boys State does not assume responsibility for any lost personal articles, clothing, jewelry, electronics, or money during the program. We do not offer item check-in or safekeeping services throughout the week.

Insurance Information

At Evergreen Boys State, we prioritize the health and safety of all participants. We take every precaution to minimize the risk of accidents and illness.

For participants who do not already have group accident, sickness, or medical insurance coverage, we provide coverage through a group policy for this event. It's important to note that this policy serves as excess coverage, meaning it complements any other valid and collectible group insurance plans that participants may have. (Please note that this exclusion does not apply to individual accident and sickness policies.)

If unforeseen circumstances necessitate the use of this insurance program, you will receive more detailed information directly from Evergreen Boys State at that time.

Your well-being is our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring a safe and secure experience for all participants.

Dining at Warm Beach Conference Center

Warm Beach Conference Center is dedicated to offering nourishing meals served buffet-style in their dining facility. These meals are intended to cater to a diverse range of dietary needs and preferences. While individualized meal plans are not available, guests with specific dietary restrictions are more than welcome to bring supplementary food items to complement the provided menu. In certain cases where cross-contamination is a concern, guests are requested to provide their own foods as Warm Beach Conference Center is unable to accommodate these situations.

For your convenience, we have designated areas equipped with refrigerators, microwaves, and ample counter space where you can prepare and store your supplemental items. It's important to note that peanuts are not used in the preparation of any foods provided by the conference center, nor are they available in the vending machines on the premises.

If you'd like to get a better sense of the menu options, a sample menu can be provided upon request. We are committed to ensuring that your dining experience at Warm Beach Conference Center is both satisfying and accommodating to your dietary needs.

If you have any specific dietary concerns or require further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

Emergency Contact Information During the Week

If you need to contact the Evergreen Boys State Office, you have several options to reach us:

Through Warm Beach Conference Center: You can visit our website at EvergreenBoysState.org for contact details. The Warm Beach Conference Center can assist you in reaching us at any time.

Emergency Messages: For emergency messages, rest assured that they will be promptly forwarded to the Director twenty-four hours a day.

Email Contact: You can send inquiries or messages to Office@EvergreenBoysState.org. Our email mailbox is actively monitored between 6am and 11pm throughout the week, and we aim to respond promptly.

Phone Contact: During the week of the Evergreen Boys State program, we will have a dedicated phone line in the Evergreen Boys State office. The phone number will be published on our website so you can reach us during this time.

Your feedback and questions are important to us, and we are committed to providing timely assistance and support. Please feel free to utilize any of the above methods to get in touch with us.

Citizen Mailing Address

{Citizen's Name} c/o Evergreen Boys State Warm Beach Conference Center 20800 Marine Dr Stanwood, WA 98292

Advance Preparations Suggested

To ensure a productive and fulfilling experience during Evergreen Boys State week, we strongly encourage each Citizen to take advantage of the following opportunities for advanced preparation:

Preview the Citizen's Manual: The Citizen's Manual for the prior year, an essential guide to the program, is available for preview on our website before the start of Evergreen Boys State. The current year's manual will be posted immediately prior to the start of the program in June. We highly recommend that each Citizen takes the time to review this resource.

Familiarize Yourself with Parliamentary Procedure: As an integral part of the program, understanding parliamentary procedure is essential. We recommend Citizens acquaint themselves with the basics of how it works.

Explore Opportunities for Public Office: Citizens will have the chance to run for public office at various levels of government, including city, county, and state, as well as the judicial system. To prepare, consider contacting current elected officials to gain insights into their roles and responsibilities.

Learn About Local Political Parties: Discover the local political party system in your area. You can reach out to members of political parties to understand their functions and how the political party system operates locally.

Stay Informed on Current Political Issues: To engage actively in discussions and debates, it's beneficial to stay informed about current political issues. You can do so through various sources like television news, magazines, newspapers, and online news services.

By proactively engaging in these activities, you will be well-prepared to participate actively in Evergreen Boys State and make the most of this unique experience.

Additional Suggested Preparation

As part of your preparations for Evergreen Boys State, consider these additional items to enhance your understanding and participation:

Glossary of Terms: Familiarize yourself with the Glossary of Terms provided online. Understanding these terms will be valuable during discussions and debates.

How a Bill Becomes a Law: Study the process of how a bill becomes a law. Online materials are available to help you grasp this fundamental aspect of governance.

Draft a Bill: Utilize the provided Bill form to draft your own bill. Ensure you use the proper bill enacting clauses for a comprehensive understanding of the legislative process.

Calling Trumpet/Bugle Players!

We are in search of talented musicians interested in participating in playing for our opening and closing flag ceremonies each day. If you have a knack for playing the trumpet or bugle and would like to contribute to these significant ceremonies, please contact us at <u>Office@EvergreenBoysState.org</u>.

National High School Oratorical Program

Evergreen Boys State hosts an abbreviated version of the Constitutional Speech Contest, inspired by the American Legion's National Scholarship Contest. This program offers a platform for those with an interest in public speaking to showcase their talents. It's an excellent opportunity to exercise your skills and make your voice heard.

Samsung Scholarship Application

Please take time to verify your eligibility and apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. The information can be found here: https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung. The State Samsung winner will receive – at a minimum – an award of approximately \$1,250. The State winner's application will be forwarded to compete for a National Scholarship Award of \$5,000 or \$10,000.

If you are eligible to apply, you will want to start working on this now as it is a very involved application. Attention to detail is very important as ultimately you are applying for a \$10,000 scholarship. Also please note that if you are directly related to a Korean War veteran you will want to utilize their documentation for your eligibility.

Family Day and Closing Ceremonies

Your family is invited to join us for the Evergreen Boys State Family Day and Closing Ceremonies event, scheduled for approximately 8:00 a.m. on Saturday (subject to revision). We welcome all attendees, including families of EBS Citizens, members of sponsoring organizations, school officials, EBS alumni, and the general public, to the Family Day breakfast.

- **Family Day Breakfast**: A breakfast meal will be served and will require an admittance fee, as charged by Warm Beach Conference Center. Public attendees may purchase breakfast tickets beginning in June by using the link on our website. Please note that there is no cost for attendance at the graduation portion of the event for those who do not wish to partake in breakfast.
- After the Closing Ceremonies, Citizens will have a City Meeting attendance obligation. This is the final gathering of your city where Evergreen Boys State Certificates and Pins will be awarded to those attending the final City Meeting on Saturday morning.

FORMS

The American Legion Department of Washington Evergreen Boys State Selection Evaluation Guidelines

This evaluation tool is offered as guidance for the Recruiters. The evaluation process remains at the discretion of the individual American Legion Post Selection Committees. This is offered only as a guideline to assist in your selection process.

Name of candidate: _____

Date

It is recommended that scoring be on a 10-point basis. 1 being unacceptable, 5 being average, and 10 showing high understanding, each group should have one spokesman to ask the questions and give information about the program. All committee members should score each applicant at the same time. **Selection Process** of 10 to 15 minutes for each candidate.

Observations

- 1. The **Application Form** itself can tell you a lot. Is the form properly filled out? Is it legible? Is it downloaded, and on appropriate paper? **(Score** ___**)**
- 2. **Personal appearance** How is he dressed? Is he well groomed? (*Taking into consideration current fashion styles and fads*) Do they appear to fit into what should be considered as normal high school student dress? Are they respectful to you as an adult, and the adults around them? (*Have you created an atmosphere of respect for them to react to?*) (Score ___)
- 3. Are parents present at the selection process? (Y/N) (Where possible, parents should be invited to <u>student interviews.)</u>

Important Teaching Questions

- 1. How did you find out about Evergreen Boys State? What do you think you do at Evergreen Boys State? Why do you think you should be selected and sponsored to attend Evergreen Boys State? (Score ____)
- Can you stay for the entire week if selected? (June 15th thru June 21st, 2025, noon till noon is required) <u>If the answer to this question is NO, explain the requirements.</u> (The only acceptable answer here is YES)

Student General Information

- 1. What school activities are you involved in? (Score ___)
- 2. What activities are you involved in outside of school? (Score ____)
- 3. What is your high school GPA? (Grade Point Average) (Score ___)
- 4. What have you considered doing after high school? College, Military, job, Etc. (Score ___)
- 5. Have you applied for any scholarships? (Most high school Juniors have not) (Score ___)
- 6. Are you going to apply for Evergreen Boys State Scholarships? (Y/N)
- 7. Define leadership? What leadership activities are you involved in? (Score ___)
- 8. Define Patriotism? Have you ever been involved in any patriotic activities? (Score ____)
- 9. Explain Citizenship? Are you a good Citizen? (Score ____)
- 10. Have you ever been involved in student government? (Score ____)
- 11. Why are you a good representative of your school? (Score ____)

Committee Scored Questions (scored after interview)

- 1. Is this the kind of student that is representative of our local school district? (Y/N)
- 2. Is this student willing to be part of Boys State and work within the system of the program? (Y/N)
- 3. Is this the student that I want to represent me, his school, and the membership of our Post? (Y/N)
- 4. Is this student going to be disruptive and influence others to follow his disruptive characteristics? (Y/N)

YES, I recommend we send this student to Evergreen Boys State.

Signed _____

_ Total Score ____



Quick Reference for American Legion Evergreen Boys State 2025

<u>Dates</u>

- Program Dates June 15th through June 21st, 2025
- Registration forms must be submitted <u>online</u>
- Deadline for the Samsung Scholarship application is June 15th, 2025 (application is online and more info can be found at https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung)

Location and Time

- Location Warm Beach Conference Center, Stanwood
- Registration times June 15th from Noon-2:30pm
- Family Day Breakfast June 21st at 8:00am (cost \$15/person)
- Graduation Celebration June 21st at 9:00am (no ticket required)

<u>Cost</u>

- Cost per delegate \$600 (total)
- Tuition \$300 (usually paid by the sponsoring Post/District/SAL/Riders Chapter/Unit)
- Registration fee \$300 (usually paid by the delegate at time of registration this may be paid in advance as well)
- Financial aid is available up to the full cost to attend
- Please do not turn down a student due to lack of funding we will find funding to sponsor them!

Website Links

- <u>https://EvergreenBoysState.org</u>
- <u>https://EvergreenBoysState.org/post-chairmen-and-recruiters-resources/</u> (resources page)
- <u>https://EvergreenBoysState.org/volunteer-application/</u> (volunteer to help out on site!)
- <u>https://tinyurl.com/EBS-EGS</u> (EBS recruiters toolbox)
- Also find us on Facebook (@EvergreenBoysState, Instagram (@EvergreenBoysState) and Twitter (@WA_BoysState)!

Contact information

- Chairman: Tony Morea Chairman@EvergreenBoysState.org
- Director: Ryan Johnston Director@EvergreenBoysState.org
- Administrative Officer: Carol Reed Office@EvergreenBoysState.org
- Evergreen Boys State Contacts:
 - East: Mike Montaney mmontaney@gmail.com
 - West: Carol Reed cmreed98058@hotmail.com
- Department Administrator/Registrar: Office@EvergreenBoysState.org EBS Registrar P.O. Box 3917, Lacey, WA 98509-3917



The American Legion Department of Washington



EvergreenBoysState.org Tony Morea, Chairman

Dear Evergreen Boys State Citizen and Parents,

Congratulations on Your Selection!

On behalf of the Evergreen Boys State Board of Directors, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you and your family. You have been handpicked, sponsored, and are now officially REGISTERED as a 2025 CITIZEN of the Great State of Evergreen. This is a significant achievement, and we are thrilled to welcome you to one of the most renowned Boys State programs in the entire nation.

In its illustrious 85-year history, Evergreen Boys State has played a pivotal role in the lives of more than 29,000 young men. Many of them attribute their ongoing success to the invaluable experiences gained through this elite American Legion program.

Program Details:

The 2025 session of Evergreen Boys State will be held on the picturesque campus of Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood, Washington. The program officially kicks off with registration beginning at Noon on June 15th and concludes at 10:30 am on June 21st, 2025. It's important that you arrive on time and remain actively engaged throughout the entire week. If you haven't prepaid your fees in advance, you'll need to settle the balance upon arrival and registration at Warm Beach Conference Center.

Prepare and Explore:

We encourage both parents and delegates to visit our website at EvergreenBoysState.org. There, you'll find a wealth of information that will help you prepare for this remarkable event. In the lead-up to Evergreen Boys State, our office will also provide additional guidance to ensure you're well-prepared. Familiarizing yourself with the program's rules and requirements is of utmost importance, so please take the time to review the provided materials. Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your sponsoring Post, your designated representative, or email us at <u>Office@EvergreenBoysState.org</u>.

Scholarship Opportunities:

We strongly encourage you to explore your eligibility to apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship, an excellent opportunity for financial support. You can find all the details here: <u>https://legion.org/scholarships/samsung</u>. The Washington State Samsung winner is guaranteed

to receive an award of approximately \$1,250. What's more, the Washington State winner's application will be submitted for consideration in the National Scholarship Award competition, where awards of \$5,000 or \$10,000 are up for grabs. Evergreen Boys State also offers several other local scholarship opportunities during the program, and you can stay updated on these through our website. Generally, about one in twenty students attending Evergreen Boys State this year will be awarded a scholarship from the program.

A Proud Legacy Awaits:

We eagerly anticipate meeting you in person this June, knowing that you'll relish the experience of becoming a member of the group of distinguished Washington State citizens known as Evergreen Boys State Alumni.

Once again, congratulations on your selection, and we can't wait to embark on this incredible journey with you.

With warm regards,

Tony Moreal/Chairman American Legion Evergreen Boys State American Legion Department of Washington



Please Join Us For Family Appreciation Day

Saturday, June 21st, 2025 Warm Beach Conference Center, 20800 Marine Dr, Stanwood, WA 98292 8 a.m. – Breakfast (ticket required) 9 a.m. – Awards and Graduation Ceremonies (no ticket required) Followed by the Citizens' final City meeting, Citizen and City Fellowship, Wrap-up (Pins and Certificates) and Dismissal

Parents, Educators and Legion Family Members Welcome to Attend

Evergreen Boys State Breakfast

All guests MUST have pre-paid tickets to attend the breakfast.

Cost: \$15 per person

Tickets are \$15 per person (to cover the cost of breakfast). Tickets may be purchased in advance online (below) beginning in June with a purchase deadline of noon Wednesday, June 18th, or in person at EBS Site Registration on June 15th. All breakfast tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets bought online will be held at the door for pick-up on Family Day. NO refunds of unused breakfast tickets.

EvergreenBoysState.org

Initial Outreach:

- The Post obtains copies of the **Application form** and takes them to the local high schools.
- The school teacher/advisor/counselor helps identify interested students and provides leads to the Post via completed forms.

Student Selection:

- Interested students participate in an interview process with the Post.
- After interviews, the Post selects the students they wish to sponsor to attend EBS.

Registration:

- Once selected, the Post <u>immediately</u> provides the chosen students with the EBS Delegate Registration Checklist which has the website link for EBS registration.
- The student uses the link to complete their registration form. (there is no parent signature on this form so no reason why they need to wait to submit it!)
- Upon successful submission of the registration form, the student will receive an email with a copy of their form and their Delegate ID.

Confirming Sponsorship:

- The student shares their registration email and Delegate ID with the sponsoring Post.
- The Post uses the Delegate ID to fill out the **Sponsorship Agreement** form at https://tinyurl.com/EBS-Sponsor.

Communication with the Student's Family:

- An automated email will be sent to the student's family prompting them to complete and submit the necessary medical and permission forms.
- Another email will follow with detailed instructions on the payment process. This email provides options for payment, either via check or Square.

Payment Process:

- The student's family makes their portion of the payment as instructed in the email.
- The sponsoring Post submits their share of the payment per email instructions. They can opt to pay via Square or, if preferring to pay by check, they must use the Check Transmittal form. The check is sent to the Department of Washington.

Dietary and Additional Arrangements:

- The student's family is responsible for filling out dietary restrictions form at https://tinyurl.com/EBS-FOOD.
- In June, Family Day breakfast tickets are made available for purchase. Both the student's family and the sponsoring Post can buy these tickets either via check or Square as per their preference.



EBS Recruiter's Registration Checklist

Here is a checklist for the Post Recruiter that will help complete the sponsorship & registration process.

Checklist
Take copies of the Application form to the local schools, scout troops or other youth activities to obtain leads on interested students
The school or other organization helps identify interested students and provides names and contact information to you
The Post should interview and select students they wish to sponsor for Evergreen Boys State using their local procedures
Once selected, notify your student <u>immediately</u> ! Provide your student with a copy of the " EBS Delegate Registration Checklist " so they know how to complete the registration process.
Registration form will be completed by the student at the website link they are provided on their checklist
Student should forward their email with registration form to their local Post sponsor for their records
The sponsoring Post should complete the online " Sponsorship Agreement " form at <u>https://tinyurl.com/EBS-Sponsor</u> to report the amount of fees which will be paid on the student's behalf.
Additional forms required for registration will be emailed to the PARENT email the student provided on their registration form (FYI only)
Payment of Fees Online [Link to be Provided]
Payment of Fees Via Check: Fill out the "Sponsor Payment Transmittal Form ," make check out to "Evergreen Boys State" and mail to the address on the form
(Optional) Purchase Family Day tickets and come to the Family Day breakfast and graduation celebration on June 21 st beginning at 8:00 am at Warm Beach Conference Center!

Registration is not complete until all required information is submitted and payment received.



EBS Delegate Registration Checklist

Congratulations on being selected as a Delegate to attend the Evergreen Boys State Leadership Program! The program will be held the week of June 15-21, 2025, at Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood.

Below is a checklist that will help you complete your registration process.

Checklist
Registration form completed online here: <u>https://tinyurl.com/EBS-REG</u> (or use QR below)
[If being sponsored by a local Post] Forward your email with registration form to your local Post sponsor for their records
Additional forms will be emailed to the PARENT email you provided on your registration form
Medical form completed, signed by parent, and uploaded to portal [beginning in March 2025]
Permission and media form completed, signed by parent, and uploaded to portal [beginning in March 2025]
[If required] Special Dietary Needs form filled out online here: https://tinyurl.com/EBS-FOOD (or use QR below)
Information regarding payment of Fees will be sent via separate email [Payment Portal Opens March 2025]
Purchase Family Day tickets (optional) [You may purchase at check-in on June 15 th or online at the link which will be provided in June 2025]

Registration is not complete until all required information is submitted.









2025 Application to Attend

Evergreen Boys State Leadership Conference June 15-21, 2025

First Name:	Last Name:
Address:	
	State: Zip:
Contact Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
Parent/Guardian Name:	
High School:	Counselor/Advisor:
H.S. Counselor/Advisor Email Address:	

Please provide any information relevant to your application you would like us to know on the back of this form.

For students in the Class of 2026!

Hey there, future leader! Are you ready to take charge, build connections, and make your mark on the world? We're here to tell you about an incredible opportunity that could change your life: American Legion Evergreen Boys State!

Imagine a week where you step into the shoes of a political leader, debate important issues, and engage with like-minded peers from across the state. That's American Legion Evergreen Boys State in a nutshell – an experience that will challenge you, empower you, and shape you into a confident and informed citizen.

Evergreen Boys State aims to allow every interested young man to attend regardless of family financial situation. Financial assistance from a local American Legion Post and/or a sponsor are available to all applicants. Total costs to attend are \$600. Typically, an American Legion sponsor will pay \$300 of this cost automatically for each student; however <u>full financial aid will be provided upon request</u>.

Note: Completion of this document does not register you to attend the program. Once you have been selected to attend, you must submit your Registration Package via our online registration portal. A checklist should be provided to guide you thru the process. Contact us at office@evergreenboysstate.org for questions/assistance.

Delegate ID#



The American Legion Department of Washington, P.O. Box 3917 Lacey, WA 98509-3917 EvergreenBoysState.org

Evergreen Boys State Sponsorship Agreement

Post Name:	Po	ost #:	District #:
Post Boys State Contact Person:			
Phone #: E-Mail: _			
Delegate Name First:		_ Last:	
Delegate ID Number:			ir registration online)
Amount to be paid by your Post:	\$		
Amount to be paid by the Student:	\$		
Amount to be paid by an Outside Sponsor (if applicable)	r: \$		_
Total Fees to be paid:	\$6	600.00	

NOTE: This form is for information purposes. It is preferred for the Post Contact person to complete and submit it online at: https://tinyurl.com/EBS-Sponsor

If you are unable to submit the form online, you may complete and submit via email to Office@EvergreenBoysState.org.



EBS Sponsor Payment Transmittal Form

Post Name:	Post	#:	District #:	
Post Boys State Contact Person:				
Phone #:	E-Mail:			
Please select:				
\Box Enclosed is a check in the amoun	t of \$f	or the boy(s)	listed below.	
We do not wish to select boys for enclosed a check in the amount of (The EBS Office will choose boys on yo	of \$		·	3ve
 We wish to help with funding for & T-Shirts). We have enclosed a c 	•	-		plies

Please list the name, high school, and delegate ID # (if known) of the students your Post has agreed to sponsor along with the amount to be applied for each student. Additional students may be listed on the back of this form if necessary.

Student Name	High School	Delegate ID # (if known)	Amount to be applied

If you have any students your Post is not financially able to sponsor, please list them below, and attach their completed registration form. We will match them with another Post for funding.

Student Name	High School	Delegate ID # (if known)

Please send this completed form along with your check to: Evergreen Boys State Department of Washington PO Box 3917 Lacey, WA 98509-3917