



THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
P O Box 140527,
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714

January 1, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR POST ADJUTANT

ATTENTION: POST BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN

FROM: DEPARTMENT BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN

SUBJECT: **General Information**

1. The general information provided in this letter will be most helpful as you prepare your appointee(s) for THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS. This information will appear in the GENERAL INFORMATION section of the Boys State Manual. Manuals will be distributed at Boys State registration.

ABSENCES

During the program, no citizen is allowed to depart Boys State except for a medical reason or family emergency. The Director or Chairman must approve all emergency leaves of absence. Appointees must plan arrival no later than scheduled registration and departure no earlier than scheduled dismissal. Late arrivals, early departures, and excused absences from the program are not allowed.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

Citizens should bring personal athletic equipment such as supporters, shorts, socks, shoes, caps, etc. Some items, including towels, are available for purchase at Boys State.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Possession, purchase, consumption or receipt of alcoholic beverages is absolutely forbidden and will result in immediate dismissal.

CIGARETTES & TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Possession, purchase, consumption, or receipt of cigarettes or other tobacco products is absolutely forbidden and will result in immediate dismissal.

ATTENDANCE

After selection, if an appointee learns he cannot attend Boys State, he should immediately notify his sponsoring post. Failure to do so may require the appointee to reimburse the \$275 registration fee to the post. All Boys State information received should be returned to the post for issue to an alternate appointee. See REGISTRATION.

AUTOMOBILES

Citizens driving vehicles to Boys State, do so at their own risk. Upon arrival, the car must be parked in a designated area, locked, and the keys deposited in the Boys State Bank Safety Deposit. Designated area is the Brazos St. Parking garage next to Jester Center. The approx. cost is \$12 per day, payable in advance. Citizens are not allowed to drive their cars during the program. Although the University Police routinely patrol the parking areas, automobiles are vulnerable to vandalism, theft, and damage. The American Legion assumes no responsibility or liability for private vehicles belonging to Boys State citizens or staff members. Vehicles parked in the wrong areas will be ticketed and or towed at the "owners expense".

BAND

The Boys State Band is an intrinsic part of the program receiving very popular support from citizens, staff members, and guests alike. The band provides daily musical entertainment during flag ceremonies and evening general assemblies. Special concerts are also performed in the talent show and on the steps of the State Capitol. Approximately 100 members with musical talent ranging from the average to All-State quality are in the band each year. Members feel their involvement in the band is one of the highlights of their Boys State experience. Interested citizens may enroll during registration, and if possible, should bring their own instruments with lyres and portable music stands. A limited amount of equipment such as percussion and large brass instruments is available for issue.

BANK

The Boys State Bank, Jester West Second Floor Lounge, provides banking services from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m. daily. For security reasons, citizens must deposit car keys, transportation tickets, and all cash over \$25.00 during registration. Funds on deposit may be withdrawn according to the rules of the bank. The remaining balance is returned to the depositor at dismissal at the end of the program.

BOUNDARIES

The Boys State boundaries are well defined and explained during City orientation. Citizens are required to remain within them during the program. **Violation of the Boys State boundaries is absolutely forbidden and will result in immediate dismissal.**

BOYS NATION

Two delegates will represent Texas Boys State at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. Senior staff members will nominate candidates based on: general knowledge, motivation, leadership, adaptability to stress, oral/written communication, personal qualities, priorities, courtesy, and human relations. The Boys Nation selection committee will interview the nominees and select two primary delegates to attend the July conference.

CAMERAS

Citizens are encouraged to bring personal cameras to Boys State for recording special events and activities such as the Capitol visit. Precautions should be taken to protect against loss or theft as neither The American Legion nor The University of Texas assumes responsibility for lost or stolen property.

CAMPAIGN MATERIAL

Citizens may not bring campaign material to Boys State. Identical campaign materials are supplied to each political party. All material must be prepared and assembled during the program.

CAPITOL VISIT

All citizens will visit the State Capitol and the corresponding offices to which they have been elected on the last day of the program. The special visit will begin with a parade to the Capitol led by the Boys State band and color guard. After a concert on the Capitol steps, citizens are allowed to visit various State agencies including the offices of their own elected State House Chambers for a Joint Session of the Boys State Legislature and the final assembly. The memorable morning's activities will conclude by dismissal at Jester Center after the legislative session. Parents and families are welcome to attend all of the activities at the Capitol.

CITIZENSHIP

The Boys State staff supervises citizens from the Representatives. Following a choral musicale in the Capitol Rotunda, citizens will assemble in the time of their arrival until their departure. Any citizen violating the rules of Boys State, the directives of The University of Texas or the laws of the State of Texas may be dismissed from the program by the Director. Such dismissal is automatic revocation of Boys State citizenship and any awards, honors, or recognition received. The sponsor's fee will not be refunded for a citizen dismissed under these conditions.

FIREARMS

Possession of firearms is absolutely forbidden and will result in immediate dismissal.

CLOTHING

The Boys State Dress Code requires the wearing of the Boys State T-shirt, **casual sport slacks or jeans**, socks, and comfortable walking shoes. During recreation, the Boys State T-shirt or personal attire can be worn with the appropriate athletic apparel for the respective activity. Other acceptable (**no vulgarity or profanity**) T-shirts, shorts, and headgear **may be worn only** during athletics. Citizens are expected to be neat and well groomed at all times, and they should bring sufficient clothing including towels, bath soap, and other toiletries to last a full week.

(BED LINENS AND PILLOWS ARE FURNISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY.)

FACILITIES

All of the facilities used at Boys State belong to The University of Texas. Repair costs for damage to university property will be billed to the individual(s) responsible. Citizens should make a careful inspection of their rooms and report any damage discovered to their city counselors. Citizens are required to keep their rooms and personal possessions in order at all times.

ILLCIT DRUGS

Possession, purchase, consumption, or receipt of illicit drugs is absolutely forbidden and will result in immediate dismissal. Citizens must inform the Boys State Clinic during registration of any medication brought from home.

LAUNDRY

Because of the program's intense schedule, the time available for laundry is extremely limited. Citizens are encouraged to bring enough clothes to keep laundry requirements to an absolute minimum. Coin operated washing machines and dryers are available in several areas on each floor of Jester West. Laundry supplies may be purchased in the convenience store.

MAIL

Citizens' mail should be addressed as follows:

(Citizen's Name)
The American Legion Boys State
(Roster Number, Boys State City Name)
c/o University Station
Austin, Texas 78712-9998

MANUAL

The Boys State manual will be issued during registration. It contains general information about the program, a daily schedule of activities, and comprehensive descriptions of Texas and Boys State politics. It is invaluable as a tool in preparing for the program and as a handbook during the week's activities. A citizen will be charged \$10 to purchase a replacement manual.

MEALS

The first meal for citizens is served Sunday evening, after registration. The last meal is served Friday morning. A Boys State ID is issued to each citizen during registration. It is required for every meal and for signing out athletic equipment from Boys State Supply. Lost or misplaced ID's should be immediately reported to the city counselor.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

The Medical sections of the Boys State Application Card must be completed in detail and signed by the APPLICANT, the PARENT/GUARDIAN, and the PHYSICIAN. When signing, the parent grants permission to the furnishing of medical treatment and hospital services for the citizen. The parents are responsible for any medical charges incurred. The American Legion purchases Insurance coverage on an "excess" basis; that is, the policy will provide coverage only for those charges not covered by the citizen's personal group insurance.

MONEY

Citizens will need some spending money during Boys State and should bring sufficient funds to meet their anticipated requirements. No more than \$75 should be necessary for purchases such as extra T-shirts, toiletries, laundry supplies, photographs, refreshments, and souvenirs.

POST OFFICE

The Boys State Post Office is located in the Jester West Second Floor Lounge. Citizens may purchase postage stamps and Boys State postcards during business hours from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. and from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. daily. The post office provides Boys State stationery and stamps to city postmasters for distribution to citizens.

PHOTOGRAPHS

A professional photographer records the Boys State program on film.

PLEDGE

Each Boys State appointee must sign the Boys State Pledge before his application will be approved.

RECREATION

A supervised and comprehensive recreation program using university athletic facilities is scheduled each afternoon. Many athletic events including basketball will be conducted on a City against City basis. **Participation in the recreation program is compulsory for all citizens unless excused for other Boys State activities.**

Note

If for any reason an appointee cannot attend Boys State, he should immediately notify his sponsoring American Legion post.

REGISTRATION

Boys State registration is scheduled Sunday, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin. It is in the Jester Academic Area, corner of 21st and Speedway. Registering citizens receive their ID's, manuals, T-shirts, room assignments, and make deposits to the Boys State Bank. Appointees must plan their arrival before the end of registration; **late arrival requests will not be approved.** If an en route emergency will preclude arrival by 4:00 p.m., the appointee should immediately notify the Boys State Headquarters at **(512) 471-7527.**

REPORT

Upon return home, each citizen is expected to present a Boys State report to his sponsoring American Legion Post, cosponsoring organization(s), interested groups, and his school.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Each citizen is required to attend all Boys State functions including precinct and city meetings; county, district, and state conventions; and general assemblies. He is responsible for all duties and obligations pursuant to his elected Boys State office or position.

SUPPLY

Boys State Supply, open daily, is located adjacent to the Jester Ground Floor Fireplace Lounge. Boys State T-shirts and souvenirs are available for purchase.

TALENT SHOW

A talent show including comedy, music, and other entertainment is scheduled the last night of Boys State. Citizens wishing to participate should bring any material they may need for their performances. Adequate time for rehearsal is available during the week.

TELEPHONE

Because of the extremely fast paced schedule at Boys State, telephone calls to or from citizens should be restricted for emergencies only. Citizens have limited access to pay phones; long distance telephone calls may not be charged to The University of Texas nor The American Legion Boys State. For emergencies only, parents/guardians may contact the Boys State Headquarters at **512- 471-7527.**

STAFF

Each Boys State city is under the supervision of a senior and a junior counselor. Senior counselors represent a diversified background of professional experience and junior counselors are outstanding former Boys State citizens. The Boys State program is supervised by an administrative staff including junior and senior counselors, the Director, the Chairman, and the Boys State Committee.

TRANSPORTATION

All transportation arrangements and travel expenses between home and the University of Texas campus is the responsibility of the appointee's sponsoring American Legion Post and cosponsoring organization(s). Appointees flying or traveling by bus may require a taxi upon arrival in Austin. The one-way taxi fare to Jester Center from the airline or bus terminal is approximately \$25.00 for one to four passengers.

WEBSITE

Information on the Boys State program including the manual, daily updates, and photographs are available at <http://www.txlegion.org>

T-SHIRT

The Boys State Dress Code requires the wearing of the Boys State T-shirt at all times (with the exception of athletics). Each citizen is issued one (1) Boys State T-shirt free of charge during registration. Seven (7) T-shirts, one for each day of the program, are required. Sponsoring American Legion Posts, parents, or citizens may purchase additional T-shirts for \$5.00 each during registration.

VISITORS

All visitors should report to the Boys State Headquarters in the Jester West Second Floor Lounge. Because of the program's intense schedule, visits to citizens are highly discouraged and must be restricted to emergencies only.

2. You should become thoroughly familiar with this material in preparation to answer the inevitable plethora of questions you will receive from candidates, parents/guardians, school officials, and cosponsoring organizations. **Place particular emphasis on guidance about the possession, purchase, consumption, or receipt of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, CIGARETTES & TOBACCO PRODUCTS, and ILLICIT DRUGS.** If you require additional guidance, please contact the Department Adjutant or the Department Boys State Chairman.
3. **Cell Phones** and any other electronics **can not be used** except during approved times and their security **will not be the responsibility** of Texas American Legion Boys State.
4. It is recommended that each Boys State candidate be provided a copy of this information.
5. An insurance form from the University will be mailed with your welcome letter and must be brought with you to registration.

Robert L. Jackson
Chairman

cc:
District Commander
District Boys State Chairman