



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland, Inc.

The War Memorial Building, Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-752-1405

November 13, 2024

Dear 11th Grade Counselor,

The American Legion 2025 MD Boys State Program will be held at **McDaniel College**, Westminster, Maryland from **June 15 – 21, 2025 (date and location are subject to change)**. Our program is a Nationally recognized program in leadership, government, and political sciences. Tuition for the program for accepted Boys is fully funded by The American Legion, Department of Maryland Posts and sponsors. We ask that the school counselors make distribution as appropriate of the flyers attached.

Please consider sending this information to Social Science Departments, Student Government Associations, NHS, JROTC, and other areas interested in leadership, governance, and political studies.

The application process is online at <https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/> and is available now. Any student that may be interested should fill out Boys State application completely on-line. Please feel free to duplicate the flyers or send electronically to parents and students. The schools may also contact us for additional copies of the Flyer. The electronic version can be found at www.mdlegion.org/boysstate. There is a sheet that the young men will print to get Guidance Counselor recommendation (also attached), which they can upload once signed. The local American Legion Posts are still the sponsors for this program, and the students should contact their local American Legion Post to arrange funding. If there is no local American Legion Post, send the completed application to Department Headquarters, 101 N. Gay Street, Room E, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. For questions concerning the program or additional information contact The American Legion, Department of MD at boysstate@mdlegion.org or at 410-752-1405.

The program's aim is to expose current high school juniors to the United States Constitutional form of government. The program will emphasize the necessity of their future active participation as a citizen in the government process to insure continuing freedoms and rights.

The experienced instructors at Boys State offer the students an opportunity of a lifetime to immerse themselves into the creation of a government among equal citizens selected from the finest young men in MD high schools. The challenge to create a functioning City and State government allows the young men to focus their talents in areas seldom explored in a normal classroom environment.

Presenters include politicians and elected leaders from the local and State levels of government, and many special interest topics to young adults. Highlights of the week include a trip to the State Emergency Management Agency, sports, and political simulations, along with City, State, and National elections, where 2 young men earn the right to represent MD at Boys Nation in Washington, DC.

The events this year will feature our General Assembly simulation program. This unique program explores the differences between the State Constitution of Maryland and the Federal Constitution, with written source material spotlighting issues of current legislation pending before Congress and the previous State Legislative sessions.

The students are required to work as a team under close supervision. The students are encouraged to produce and create on their own initiative within their assigned political parties as potential leaders and candidates for future elective public office. We consider this a week of learning and group participation. The experiences gained at Boys State stay with the student their whole life.

Enclosed is a program book from a previous year's program for your reference. A sample handbook and more resources are located at our website <https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/>.

The need to obtain a college education to compete in the modern world with changing technologies is emphasized by our guest speakers. Boys State is an excellent addition to any college application and is a highly coveted entry on applications to Service Academies.

Attendees at MD Boys State have 2 exciting opportunities offered by McDaniel College. For a small fee (2 credits for a total of \$400.00) any graduate of MD Boys State can receive 2 College Credits for the week from McDaniel College by registering with McDaniel College and completing a few requirements in addition to full attendance and participation at MD Boys State. Also, McDaniel College is offering MD Boys State 2025 graduates that are accepted and enroll in McDaniel for the Fall 2026 semester \$15,000 per year (\$60,000) for four years in scholarship funds. See the attached flyer for more information.

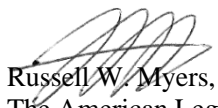
Boys who attend in 2025 and meet the requirements may apply for the Samsung Scholarship grant, which last year amounted to \$1,100 for our State winner. There is an opportunity to receive up to \$20,000 in the Samsung Scholarship if selected as the National winner. More information and the application can be found at www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung. The 2025 application is available now for completion at <https://register.legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application>. Note: Please remind students that only COMPLETE ONLINE SUBMISSIONS will be considered, so plan early and make sure the required school official certification form is completed before the end of the school year. Please advise your students that proof of military eligibility by their parents, grandparents, great grandparents or legally adopted parent who served during a period of war is required for the Samsung Scholarship. If the applicant needs to obtain a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214 or proof of service go to the website www.NARA.gov.

Additionally, the MD Boys State program offers opportunity for MD Boys State 2025 graduates to apply for the Robert O. Allen Memorial Scholarships. This scholarship is for \$500.00 and is awarded in June of 2025 to 10 applicants from the 2024 MD Boys State graduating citizens. The application is available on the MD Boys State website now at <https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/>.

Posts and districts usually conduct orientations for those selected to attend in the May to early June timeframe, so submission should give sufficient time to process and fund the tuition at the Post for submission to Department Headquarters.

Completed Boys State Application must be received at The American Legion, Department of Maryland Headquarters no later than May 1, 2025.

Sincerely,



Russell W. Myers, Jr, Director
The American Legion
Maryland Boys State Program

Enclosures: Boys State Information Flyer
Boys State Promotional Flyer
Application Instruction Sheet
Previous year's Boys State Program Book
School Certification Form
Financial Responsibility form for late cancellation
Physician Statement in lieu of physical
Medication Administration Authorization Forms
McDaniel College opportunities Flyer and Registration Form

Note: There is a companion program named MD Girls State conducted by The American Legion Auxiliary for young women completing their Junior year in high school. For more information on that program contact the Auxiliary at hq@alamd.org or 410-242-9519. Their website is <https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/> and their Facebook page for information on the application process is: <https://www.facebook.com/ALAMDGS>. McDaniel College Credit and McDaniel College Scholarship opportunities above also apply for MD Girls State.

Applications for MD Girls State can be found at <https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/>.

Electronic copies of this letter and more information can be found at our website at <https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/>

Maryland Boys State Application Process

Step 1: Visit our site and review our orientation at

<https://mdlegion.org/Forms/MD%20Boys%20State%20Citizen%20Orientation.pdf>

Step 2: Once you have reviewed the orientation and want to apply; visit our website at

<https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/> and click on “Apply now” button to be directed to our online application portal on CampDoc link to go directly there <https://app.campdoc.com/register/mbsmgs/mbspparticipant>

Step 3: Register as a participant for our 2025 Session Sunday June 15, 2025 – Saturday June 21, 2025

Step 4: Complete the Health profile in full. (In addition to answering all the questions, this task requires four forms to be downloaded, signed and then uploaded) Please email boysstate@mdlegion.org for assistance with any part of application.

Form 1: School Certification is to be signed by School Counselor or Official

Form 2: Doctor Statement is to be completed by family Dr. or medical provider, NOTE: A valid physical within the last 12 months can be uploaded in the place of this form.

Form 3: Financial Responsibility for Late Cancellation Form is to be downloaded, and the parent/guardian is to sign the form before it is uploaded to the portal.

Form 4: Boys State Waiver Form is to be downloaded, and the parent/guardian is to sign the form before it is uploaded to the portal.

Step 5: Print the completed application and contact us, your School Counselor, or local American Legion to secure sponsorship for the week. If issues exist, or questions arise, please email boysstate@mdlegion.org for assistance once application is complete.

Our phone number is 410-752-1405

Russell W. Myers Jr

MD Boys State Director

**MD BOYS STATE OR MD GIRLS STATE
SCHOOL CERTIFICATION/RECOMMENDATION**

We recommend this student of the Junior Class as a candidate for the Boys State or Girls State Program. We believe the student has the qualifications of character, integrity, leadership, intelligence and interest that would allow for successful participation in the program.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDING FOR: _____

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION NAME: _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDING: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COUNSELOR'S/OFFICIAL'S SIGNATURE: _____

TITLE IF OTHER THAN COUNSELOR: _____

DATE: _____

Please have form signed by High School Counselor or Official, and then upload to application as a pdf, jpg, gif, or png file

Are you a current 2024-2025 HS Junior Interested
in Leadership, Government, Politics???

Maryland Boys State

Apply Online Today at mdlegion.org/boysstate

Click **APPLY TODAY**



Sponsored and Conducted By The American
Legion, Department of Maryland, Inc.
Veteran led and Government Leader
taught for the future generation of leaders.

June 15-21, 2025 at McDaniel College

Tuition is free to the student and family

A Local American Legion Post will sponsor your application

If you are interested in Government, Politics, Leadership, attendance at Military Academy,
College ROTC, or just a challenging **Academic program** this is the experience for you
MD Boys State is a week long practical exercise in Government that will have a positive
influence on your life!!

Application Deadline May 1, 2025

For a local help or sponsorship, contact:

*For Additional information or help finding a
sponsor Post call 410-752-1405 or email
boysstate@mdlegion.org*



Are you a current 2024 -2025 HS Junior Interested in Leadership, Government, Politics???



Testimonials

WHAT OUR PARENTS AND STUDENTS SAY ABOUT MD BOYS STATE...

KYLE HAYWARD - 2017 (HARFORD TECH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2018)

I would like to thank Boys State for such a empowering week. The counselors were great mentors especially (Flag City). I made new friends and learned important lessons. It was a hard week but a life changing week. I would like to thank the American Legion for all their hard work and contributions. I have come away with new tools to help me continue on my life's journey.

MATTHEW GEIGER - 2019 (SOUTH CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020) For many individuals, Boys State was a way for them to learn about civics and government. For me, however, I learned how to be productive. You have five full days to elect a dozen-plus positions, participate in those roles, and still find time to sleep and eat. As soon as I got back home, I applied that mentality (besides the sleeping and eating part) to my daily life, and I've been much more productive. I'm working every day to

better myself and those in my community; it's become my fixation.

I thank Boys State for that; they've showed me that if you really, really, want something, you can get it. There is absolutely nothing out of reach in your life if you work for it.

MISSY SHEPPARD BAJADEK - PARENT OF SEAN BAJADEK (2019)

(MOUNT ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020) A simple "thank you" somehow seems inadequate to express the gratitude my husband and I have for the staff at Maryland Boys State 2019- You are all amazing and the impact you had on the boys is tangible. Thank you for sharing your time and talent...it is truly appreciated!!!

MD AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
MCDANIEL COLLEGE
JUNE 15-21, 2025

✉ BOYSSTATE@MDLEGION.ORG



WWW.MDLEGION.ORG/BOYSSTATE



410.752.1405

Testimonials and Famous Alumni



The summer of 1963...was one of the most formative in my life. I was seriously considering a life in public service at the time I attended Boys State a program sponsored by The American Legion....

Boys State and Boys Nation helped to teach me from a young age that democracy requires us to get off the sidelines and into the arena. Imperfect as it may be we can't take this system of ours for granted and if we want to make it better and make a difference in peoples lives we need to stand up, show up, and speak up day after day, and year after year.

William Clinton
42nd President
AR Boys State '63
Quote from: Apple Podcast
"Why am I Telling You This? with Bill Clinton"

Some Famous Alumni of Boys State programs around the country:

Sen. Tom Cotton (AR)
Gov. Mike Huckabee (AR)
Sen. David Pryor (AR)
Gov. Bruce Babbitt (AZ)
Ron Rivera (Former NFL Coach) (CA)
Sen. Joseph Lieberman (CT) Sen. Chris Murphy (CT)
Joseph R. Biden III (Beau) (DE)
Gov. Charlie Crist (FL)
Gov. Lawton Chiles (FL)
Sen. Sam Nunn (GA)
Hines Ward Super Bowl MVP (GA)
Sen. Mike Crapo (ID)
Lou Dobbs (ID)
Sen. Richard Lugar (IN)
Gov. Mitch Daniels (IN)
Sen. Charles Grassley (IA)
Sen. David Vitter (LA)
Gov. Buddy Roemer (LA)
Thurl Bailey (NBA) (MD)
Sen. Trent Lott (MS)
Stan Kroenke (Owner Multiple Sports Franchises) (MO)
Gov. Matt Blunt (MO)
Gov. Robert Holden (MO)
OR Gov. Ted Kulongoski (MO) Sen. Max Baucus (MT)
Gov. John Hoeven (ND)
Sen. Ben Sasse (NE)
Michael Jordan (NBA) (NC)
Gov. James Hunt (NC)
Gov. James Martin (NC)
Gov. Richard Riley (NC)
Sen. Robert Menendez (NJ)
Gov. Chris Christie (NJ)
Justice Samuel Alito (NJ)
Jon Bon Jovi (NJ)

James Gandolfini (Actor) (NJ)
Bruce Springsteen (NJ)
Sen. Cory Booker (NJ)
Gov. George Pataki (NY)
Neil Armstrong (NASA) (OH)
Roger Ailes (Fox News) (OH) Sen. Tim Scott (SC)
Tom Brokaw (NBC News) (SD)
Sen. Larry Pressler (SD)
Sen. Tom Daschle (SD)
Sen. John Thune (SD)
Sen. Lamar Alexander (TN)
Sen. Mike Lee (UT)
Sen. Angus King (VT)
Gov. James Scott McCallum (WI)
Gov. Scott Walker (WI)
Nick Saban (former NCAA Coach) (WV)
Vice President Richard Cheney (WY)

"You learn how to lead"
Fmr. Sen. Lamar Alexander

"A real hands-on civics lesson"
Sen. Bob Menendez

"I learned the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship"
Sen. Chuck Grassley

"I still stay in touch with the friends I made"
Sen. Roger Wicker

"The valuable lessons of democracy and community engagement that are instilled through these programs will last a lifetime and help these young men and women make meaningful contributions to our nation."
Sen. Cory Booker

Enhance your MARYLAND BOYS STATE experience by earning 2 college credits from McDANIEL COLLEGE



Scholarship Opportunity

All participants in MD Boys State 2025 are guaranteed an annual scholarship of \$15,000 or \$60,000 total over four years at McDaniel College if they are admitted and enroll. Please note that if you are eligible to receive any other scholarships awarded by McDaniel College, the College will apply the scholarship that carries the largest monetary value.

College Credit Opportunity

To register: Complete the attached form and

- 1) bring the form and a non-refundable fee of (\$400) when you check in at McDaniel for Boys State, **or**
- 2) mail the form and your payment in advance to:

McDANIEL COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC LIFE
2 COLLEGE HILL
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157

Questions

Questions about the credit opportunity?

Contact Academic Life
academiclife@mcdaniel.edu or 410-386-4674

Questions about applying or the scholarship opportunity?

Contact McDaniel Admissions:
admissions@mcdaniel.edu or 410-857-2230



Registrar's Office
regoffice@mcdaniel.edu

Non-Degree Registration Form Maryland Boys & Girls State

Name (First, Middle, Last): _____

Summer: _____ (year) Personal Email Address: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ * Social Security Number: _____
*Optional

Ethnicity:

Are you Hispanic or Latino? (of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race)
☐ Yes ☐ No

Race:

Please indicate your race by selecting one or more of the following categories:

- ☐ **American Indian or Alaska Native** (having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.)
- ☐ **Asian** (having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam)
- ☐ **Black or African American** (having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa)
- ☐ **Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander** (having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands)
- ☐ **White** (having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa)

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

HS Name: _____ Anticipated HS Graduation Date: _____

BOYS STATE'S COURSE INFORMATION & COURSE FEE

GNI-1198: Leadership, Citizenship & Service, 2 credit hours, graded

Course fee is **\$400**. Payment by check is due with the submission of this non-degree application.

REGISTRATION

Send completed non-degree registration form and payment to: **McDaniel College, Office of Academic Life, 2 College Hill, Westminster, MD 21157-4390.**

*To the best of my knowledge, the information provided on this form is complete and accurate.
By proceeding with this registration, I agree to abide by the McDaniel College Honor Code and all other college policies.*

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____