BAND: Annually, Boys State has a 40-50 piece pep band under the supervision of a qualified musical director. If you play a band instrument, and are interested in being a part of this prestigious band, please read carefully the attached band form and mail the completed form to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Me. 04901-0727 by June 1, 2019. Interested Band Members Only: Anyone completing the Band Application should report to Thomas College on Sat., June 15, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. Band members must bring their own instrument to the program. A space is provided for this on the application.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

MAIL: Have your mail addressed to you in care of Thomas College, American Legion Boys State, 180 West River Rd., Waterville 04901. As Boys State closes on Thursday, no mail should be posted to you after Tuesday, June 18, except by special delivery.

CARS ON CAMPUS: Boy Staters are not allowed to use automobiles during the week of Boys State. Please have parents or some other member of your family, or a friend, drive you to Waterville and return to pick you up when Boys State is over at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 20. Students who do bring automobiles to Boys State will be required to leave the keys with the Boys State office.

ATTENDANCE: Due to the intensity of the program, late arrivals, early departures and any request for a delegate to be released temporarily and returning on the same day will be handled on a case by case basis with the Boys State Director and will be supported by the parent(s) of the delegate. Therefore, all delegates should be prepared to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the program.

CANCELLATION: If for any reason you will be unable to attend Boys State, please notify your school principal or guidance counselor immediately so that a replacement can be made.
CONGRATULATIONS!

The American Legion has received your name as one of those honored to become a delegate to the 2019 American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program. We believe, with a positive attitude, you will find this to be an exceptional program leaving you with fond, long-lasting memories and friendships.

Please read this brochure carefully, as it will provide you with the history and basic understanding of the Dirigo Boys State Program. It also includes the necessary materials you will need to bring to the program as well as important dates and times. For additional questions and information pertaining to Dirigo Boys State, please visit www.mainelegion.org or www.dirigoboysstate.com, or contact The American Legion, Dept. of Maine at 207-873-3229, or via email at legionanne@mainelegion.org.

FORWARD:

The American Legion, through its youth activities programs plays a leading role in the development of tomorrow’s informed, responsible citizens. Programs such as the American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation are our finest examples of citizenship instruction for youth. American Legion Boys State is a unique summertime educational program that does not emphasize classroom lecture and textbook learning. Instead, it focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of the State of Maine.

HISTORY:

In 1935, the late Alexander A. LaFleur of Portland, the Department Commander, laid the groundwork for the first Dirigo Boys State to be held at the campuses of the University of Maine at Orono. With the guidance and direction of the late James L. Boyle, then State Adjutant of the American Legion, the implementation and operations of the first Dirigo Boys State took form.

On July 11, 1947 Maine raised a new tradition of leadership. Today, we continue in the tradition of our excellence to teach Maine students the importance of our American way of life on the beautiful campus of Thomas College in Waterville, Maine.

NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

COURSES: As a citizen of the State of Dirigo, young men will participate in one of two political parties, either the “Federalists” or the “Nationalists”. Many citizens will campaign as candidates for town, county and state offices. Instruction will be given in electoral and governmental matters. (This is a course which goes to the state level only - federal offices will not be involved.)

BE A LOBBYIST: Not every citizen of Dirigo Boys State will be elected to an office. However, another rewarding opportunity for participation is available, as a lobbyist. A lobbyist provides knowledge and expertise in a particular area. Legislators in Maine, who are deluged with 1,000 or more different bills each session, rely upon others to advise and assist them in their decision making. It is the role of lobbyists to serve this very important function. In the real world of government, lobbyists are recognized as being among the most influential individuals in government.

Whether you serve as a legislator or a lobbyist, your time at Boys State will be more productive if you prepare yourself, prior to the session, by becoming knowledgeable about one or more issues which you would like to see passed by the Dirigo legislature.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

CERTIFICATES: Citizens completing the course will be presented graduation certificates.

SCHOLARSHIPS: The Boys State staff will select two individuals, each to receive a $500 scholarship. These scholarships will only be presented to boys accepted and enrolled at an accredited college or university or post high school vocational school following their graduation from high school. Additional scholarships from the Alumni Association will be offered year to year depending upon funding.

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP: To apply for the $1250 Samsung American Legion Scholarship, please visit http://www.legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application. The Samsung Scholarships are due upon the arrival at Dirigo Boys State on June 16, 2019. All Samsung applications must be submitted using the ONLINE applications system by this time. All entries will be judged, and the winner announced during the week of the program.

BOYS NATION: There will be two boys in attendance selected and sent, at Legion expense, to Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., where they will learn about the functioning of our federal government. For more information, please visit www.legion.org/boynation.

www.dirigoboysstate.com  www.dirigoboysstate.com

TIME AND PLACE

The 2019 session of Dirigo Boys State will be held at Thomas College, 180 West River Rd., Waterville, ME. Visit www.thomas.edu for directions. For those without a computer: From Interstate 95, turn off at Exit 127 (formerly 33) onto Kennedy Memorial Drive (Route 137). If you are coming from the North, it is a left turn off the exit and a right turn if you are coming from the South. In approximately 1.5 miles, turn right onto West River Rd. (Route 104 South). Thomas College is 1.5 miles on the left.

Registration: Registration will be 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 16, 2019. There will be signs directing you to the building. You will be assigned to rooms when you register.

Meals: The first meal at Boys State will be supper on Sunday, June 16. No meals will be served to registrants at noon on Sunday. All meals will be served at the Thomas College dining center. The last meal will be noon on Thursday, June 20. Band members only. The first meal will be supper on Saturday, June 15.

Duration: The first session will begin at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 16 and ends immediately after graduation on Thursday, June 20.

Graduation will be at 3:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium at Thomas College. Parents are invited, no RSVP needed.

Keys & Door Cards: Please check to make sure that all keys and door cards are passed into your counselor before leaving Boys State.