

**WHAT DELEGATES SHOULD
BRING TO BOYS STATE**

BEDDING ARTICLES such as two blankets or sleeping bag, sheets, pillow and pillow case.

BATHROOM ARTICLES including enough towels for the week, all identified as yours, shower shoes, (flip flops recommended), usual toilet articles, including soap, shampoos, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING for a week including shirts, 1 pair of long pants or slacks (not jeans—for general assemblies), casual pants or jeans for other activities, shorts, sweater or jacket (no suits or sport jackets needed), athletic wear, underwear, socks, and coat hangers. It is recommended that you bring more than one pair of shoes and that they be comfortable for walking.

OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS: Fan, Watch, Alarm clock, calculator, notebook/paper, pencils/pens.

MONEY: A small amount of money for snacks or drinks available for purchase at the Dirigo Boys State store.

CELL PHONE: You will not be allowed to use your cell phone during scheduled activities except for free time.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT: Dirigo Boys State will supply softball bats, balls, etc., but you should bring your own glove. Delegates may also bring Frisbees, volleyball, soccer ball, football, etc.

COMPUTERS: Campus computers and internet access is not available. Delegates are welcome to bring laptops.

ART SUPPLIES: Delegates are encouraged to bring art supplies, such as colored pencils, sketch pads, etc.

CAMPAIGN MATERIAL: Delegates planning to run for office may bring poster paper, magic markers, masking tape or any other materials to aid in a campaign.

BAND: Annually, Boys State has a 20-30 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, 2020 *Interested Band Members Only: Anyone completing the Band Application should report to Thomas College on Sat.. June 20, 2020 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 23, 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 25. **Delegates 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.

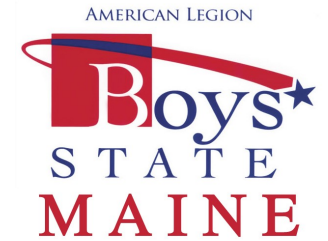
The American Legion, Department of Maine, believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic and state than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American Government. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate the basic principals involved in the successful management of a democratic society, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations.



**The American Legion
Dirigo Boys State**

5 Verti Drive
Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

Phone: 207-873-3229
Fax: 207-872-0501
Email: legionme@mainelegion.org
www.mainelegion.org
www.dirigoboystate.com



**The American Legion
Department of Maine
73rd Annual
Dirigo Boys State**

June 21-25, 2020

**Thomas College
180 West River Rd.
Waterville, Me. 04901**

**www.mainelegion.org
www.dirigoboystate.com**

**DELEGATE
INFORMATIONAL
BROCHURE**

CONGRATULATIONS!

The American Legion has received your name as one of those honored to become a delegate to the 2020 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.dirigoboystate.com, or contact The American Legion, Dept. of Maine at 207-873-3229, or via email at legionme@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 experiential learning 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 imple-

mentation and operations of the first Dirigo Boys State took form. On July 11, 1947 Maine students enrolled in a new tradition of learning. Today, we continue in 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: Participation in Dirigo Boys State will strengthen leadership attributes, teamwork and compromise, and lead the next generation to become informed and responsible citizens. As a citizen of the State of Dirigo, students will participate in one of two political parties, either the Federalists or the Nationalists. Delegates will learn how to campaign and complete petitions to run as candidates for town, county, and state offices across all branches of government. (Federal officers are not part of the program). They will learn to lobby their peers for nominations and support for the legislation they will debate for the State of Dirigo. Instruction will be given in the electoral process to assist delegates seeking these offices or appointments. Delegates also learn about Maine government from a variety of keynote speakers. Guests from previous years have included the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Maine's constitutional officers, judges, military personnel, and many others. Although federal government is not part of the program, members of Maine's Congressional Delegation often make an appearance to talk about their journey to Congress. Because this program relies on active participation and experiential learning, the volunteer staff guide, facilitate, and teach the course material, which allows the delegates to proactively run the program themselves based on what they have learned.

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, based on their performance during the program, each to receive a \$500 scholarship. These scholarships will only be presented to delegates 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 21, 2020. 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 delegates in attendance selected, based on their performance, 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/boysnation.

TIME AND PLACE

The 2020 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 begin at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 21, 2020. 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 21. 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 25. Band members only: The first meal will be supper on Saturday, June 20.

Duration: The first session will begin at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 21 and ends immediately after **graduation on Thursday, June 25.**

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

Keys and Door Fobs: Please check to make sure that all keys and room fobs are passed into your counselor before leaving Boys State.

