



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

DIRIGO STATE

5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

Phone: (207) 873-3229 FAX: (207) 872-0501

Email: legionme@mainelegion.org

DIRIGOSTATE.ORG

Thursday, April 1, 2021

School Administrator:

Each year brings new and exciting challenges related to the experience that we offer to the delegates, but I think it is fair to say that these past thirteen months have been unlike any other in regard to our preparations and planning.

The cancellation of both Dirigo Boys State and Dirigo Girls State last summer, gave The Legion Family an opportunity to enhance the experience for the delegates of Boys and Girls State youth leadership programs. Based on direct student feedback, professional educator guidance and to fully simulate Maine State government, the Legion Family created Dirigo State. Dirigo State is a comprehensive, experiential learning, youth leadership program. It is designed after Maine State government, where all students come together to create their own town, county, and state governing bodies. Simply put, Dirigo State is a combination of Boys State and Girls State, but that's just the start. Legion Family redesigned and strengthened both programs into a unique, first for the American Legion National Family, combined youth government leadership program. The Legion Family feels the union of Boys and Girls State will provide a better experience for all students and all for a more realistic simulation of Maine State government.

Regretfully, I have to inform you that Dirigo State 2021 has been cancelled. There will be no virtual program in its place. As such, the inaugural session has been postponed to 2022. Our host venue has decided not to hold summer programs due to COVID-19 concerns and we respect and support their decision. The Legion Family is saddened not to afford your student the opportunity to attend Dirigo State. Rest assured the Legion Family will continue to support youth programs and look forward to partnering with you in 2022.

I ask that you reach out to us if you have any questions or any reactions to anything expressed herein. We would be happy to speak with you. In the meantime, mark your calendars! Please join us for the inaugural Dirigo State, Sunday, June 19, 2022 - Friday, June 24, 2022. I realize that it seems so far away but I am sure that it will be here before we all know it!

Respectfully,

Matthew J. LeClair

Director

Dirigo State