

American Legion Post Packet

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State

June 10 – June 16

2012

Dear Adjutant/Children and Youth Officer,

Enclosed with this letter is information on The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS). ALMBS is an honors, leadership and citizenship academy which has existed since 1936 to teach “good government through participation” to the outstanding male Junior High School class members in the State of West Virginia.

Please take the time to review the enclosed materials and provide the requested response no later than March 1, 2012. You may visit <http://mountaineerboysstate.org> for additional information on the program. ALMBS has long been recognized as one of the most respected educational programs of government instruction for High School students.

It is our goal to have every High School, in the State of West Virginia, represented at the 2012 session; which is the 75th session of the program. We are very willing to work with you to assure that your High School is represented at the program.

Please do not hesitate to address any questions, regarding ALMBS to the point of contact for your area listed in the enclosed materials.

Sincerely,

Director Jim Davis



75th Annual

Response requested by March 1, 2012



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The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information related to the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program and to encourage you to begin identifying sponsors for the 2012 session. The program is capable of housing 420 boys at Jackson's Mill. Unfortunately, the number of boys attending over the past few years has declined to a low of approximately 300 in 2010. This decline is related to the inability of some posts to secure sponsors in recent years.

It is the goal of the program directors to fill all of the available 420 slots. This will be accomplished if your post is able to secure the recommended number of sponsors as identified later in this letter. The Board of Directors eliminated the quota that each post received based upon the post's membership. Consequently, you are limited only by your ability to secure sponsors, which can be your post, other civic clubs, churches, fraternal organizations, businesses, individuals and other groups. Enclosed is a copy of a sample sponsorship solicitation letter that you can modify and use as necessary.

It is recommended that you attempt to identify as many sponsors as you can for the 2012 Boys State. This letter is being sent to encourage you to begin identifying these sponsors now in order to avoid the last minute rush and because some sponsors require a timely request to work this sponsorship into their respective budgets. Many posts have already secured sponsors. If you need assistance or have any questions, call and check with the point of contact for your district.

You will find included in this packet a copy of the Application for the 75th Annual American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. Make as many copies of this application as needed; however, you must secure sponsorship for all applications sent to Department Headquarters. All applications sent to Department Headquarters must be accompanied with payment in the amount of \$200. If you cannot secure sponsorship in your area, contact Jim Davis or Department Headquarters to see if there are any sponsorships in other areas of the state. Another option is to give the parent the option to sponsor their own child to the program. This was approved by the ALMBS Board of Directors a few years ago, so long as the boy meets all the qualifications.

Last year, a DVD was provided to every Post in the state that included the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Orientation Video. You can utilize it to recruit sponsors and boys from your local high school(s).

This year at the Mid-Winter convention there will be an American Legion Mountaineer Boys State workshop that you or a representative from your Post is highly encouraged to attend. The workshop will include information on how to recruit boys, recruit sponsors, and spread the word about ALMBS. This workshop will also permit you and your Post the ability to ask any questions of the ALMBS staff that you may have.

If you or any members of your post are interested in serving on the staff, please let Jim Davis know. We are always looking for good volunteers. The directors of the program sincerely thank you for your efforts and if you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Jim Davis, your District point of contact or other members of the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program administration.



The American Legion Mountaineer Boys 75th Annual: June 10 – June 16, 2012 Sample Post Communication to Sponsors

Dear Sponsor,

Berkeley Post 14 is sponsoring qualified high school juniors from the county high schools to attend the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State at West Virginia University's Jackson's Mill Extension Campus.

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State is a one-week course in the operations of government and the political process. Each citizen, as they are referred to, can choose one of six career paths. These paths are: Legislative, Judicial, Financial, Law Enforcement, Journalism, and Homeland Security.

The objective of the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State is to have the young men run the 51st state of the United States. They will elect all positions for state, county, and city government, while learning the valuable life lessons in how government works.

West Virginia has the second oldest Boys State program in the nation. This American Legion program has been held in West Virginia since 1936, and produces fine Americans and patriots.

The cost for each citizen is \$200.00. We would like to send as many young men from our county as possible.

We are asking for your assistance in helping build the future of America by sponsoring a young man from our county. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Name

Berkeley Post 14



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PURPOSE: The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State (ALMBS) has been a program of The American Legion, Department of West Virginia since 1936. ALMBS participants are exposed to the rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county, and state governments operated by the participants elected to the various offices. Activities include executive, legislative, and judicial sessions, law enforcement presentations, assemblies with a variety of guest speakers, and Americanism presentations. There are also band, chorus, and recreational activities as part of the program.

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State was created to teach good government through participation. Participants receive instruction and hands on experience in the governmental, political, and legal processes and participate in a variety of “career paths” that include political, legal, banking, law enforcement, journalism, and homeland security.

BENEFITS: Attendees of ALMBS are eligible to apply for the Samsung Scholarship, if he is a direct descendant of a US wartime veteran, worth up to \$20,000 towards any higher education institution, including but not limited to, state, private, and technical institutions. All graduates are also eligible for \$30,000 in college scholarship to Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN. ALMBS attendees also receive extra merit points toward admission to all US Military Service Academies. Participants also have the ability to receive three (3) hours of college credit in leadership provided by Clemson University. ALMBS has verified with the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) that the credits will be accepted to all instate institutions of Higher Education. Attendees also become a member of an elite group of individuals that have graduated from “A Week That Shapes A Lifetime!”

TIME AND PLACE: The 2012 American Legion Mountaineer Boys State will be held at West Virginia University’s Jackson’s Mill State 4-H Camp, near Weston, West Virginia from Sunday, June 10 to Saturday, June 16. The first meal will be Sunday Lunch, June 10. The last meal served will be breakfast on Saturday, June 16. Registration will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 10 and continue until 12 noon. The final session will dismiss at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 16.



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OBLIGATION OF AMERICAN LEGION POSTS: The Post Commander or his designated representative in charge of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program shall check with the local high schools, interview boys recommended, ascertain those available, make final selection from the list provided by the high school principal as Boys State representatives of the post, and **RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION(S) AND FEES TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY March 1, 2012.** Every high school in the state received a letter requesting them to send a list of eligible boys to Department Headquarters and their local American Legion Post. Check your Post for the list from your high schools. If you have not received a list at your local Post, please contact Department Headquarters to see if your local high school has responded.

COST: The cost for each boy this year will be \$200.00 (**TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM BOYS STATE SHALL BE ARRANGED BY THE BOYS' PARENTS OR SPONSORING ORGANIZATION.** The boys selected to attend Boys State are not permitted to drive themselves.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT. AN APPLICATION IS CONSIDERED COMPLETE AFTER IT HAS BEEN VALIDATED BY THE POST COMMANDER AND SENT TO HEADQUARTERS WITH THE \$200 APPLICATION FEE ATTACHED.

SPONSORS: The American Legion Posts, civic clubs, churches, fraternal organizations, individuals, and other groups interested in cooperation with this youth program may sponsor a citizen to Boys State. Local American Legion Posts are responsible for contacting the various organizations in their respective community in regard to having such group act as sponsor or co-sponsor in sending boys to American Legion mountaineer Boys State. All American Legion Mountaineer Boys State applications must have the sponsor listed and payment attached in order for the application to be processed. In 2010, the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Board of Directors approved the ability for individuals to sponsor boys to American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. **It is also permissible for a boy's parent and or family to sponsor their boy to ALMBS, so long as the boy meets all of the qualifications.**



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QUALIFICATIONS: All eligible candidates must:

1. Be a member of the male enrollment of the Junior Class;
2. Have a 3.0 grade point average on a four-point scale or its equivalent OR a grade point average of no less than 2.75 AND have been determined to be *exceptionally outstanding* in the areas listed in item 3 below, (Note: schools should use the most current cumulative grade point average as of October 1, 2011);
3. Have demonstrated outstanding qualities in the areas of school activities, community activities, and character;
4. Have never attended a Boys State Program previously;
5. Be a citizen of the State of West Virginia OR attend a High School in West Virginia; and
6. Have no potential conflicts with the ALMBS dates of June 10, 2012 –June 16, 2012.

ALMBS is open to those meeting the above requirements regardless of race, creed, or national origin.

ORIENTATION SESSIONS: In order to address and hopefully reduce no-shows and better prepare those selected to attend, an effort is underway to conduct Orientation Session in each district of the state. Those selected, alternates, school officials, sponsors, parents, and Legion personnel are encouraged to attend. The programs will be presented by Legion personnel and current and past Boys State Staff Members/Citizens and will involve a video presentation and other information. A schedule of the District Orientation Sessions will be mailed to each selectee and posted on the Mountaineer Boys State Website. **If your Post conducts a separate Orientation, please contact Jim Davis (jim.davis@wvlegion.org) for a copy of the outline being used for the District Orientations so the boys will all receive the same information.** A copy of the Orientation video was provided in last years American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Post Packet.



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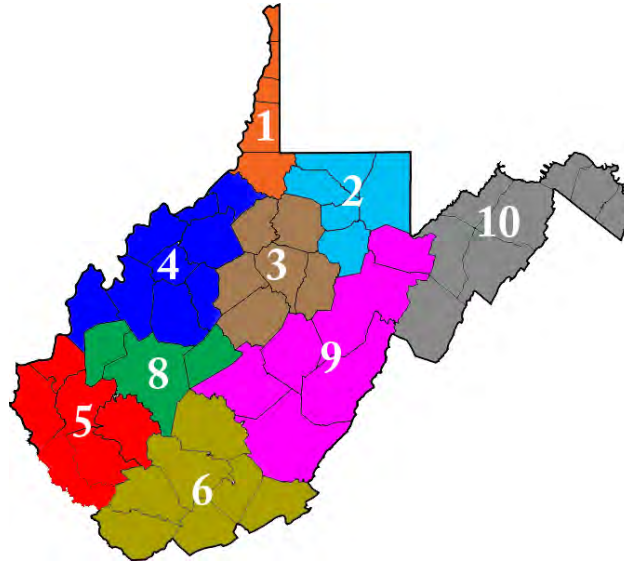
DEADLINE DATES: Completed application forms with fee attached, made payable to The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, should be mailed before March 1, 2012, to Jim Davis, Director, The American Legion Department of West Virginia, PO BOX 3191 Charleston, WV 25332. **THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS AND FEES AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IS March 1, 2012.**

- November 11** Schools respond to Post and Department Headquarters.
- February 16** Notify Department Headquarters how many applicants you foresee sending.
- March 1** Deadline for Post selections due to Headquarters.
- April** Boys' packets mailed.
- April/May/June** Orientation sessions held throughout districts
- June 10** Boys State Citizens should arrive at Jackson's Mill between 9:00 a.m. and noon for registration and assignment of cottage/county.
- June 16** Sponsors and parents should arrive at Jackson's Mill by 9:00 a.m. for the closing ceremony, which will conclude by 11:00 a.m.
- July/August** Work with your local newspaper and run an article about the boys from your community who attended ALMBS. Also include a thank you to the sponsors who helped send them to the program.
- July/August** Send a Thank You note or Certificate of Appreciation to your sponsors for supporting ALMBS. This will help you retain sponsors for next years program.



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POINTS OF CONTACT: If you have any questions please contact the individual(s) assigned to your area. The ALMBS website (<http://mountaineerboysstate.org>) may also provide useful information should you have any questions. The American Legion Department of West Virginia website (<http://wvlegion.org>) may also be used as a reference.



District 1: Director Jim Davis (304) 481-4021 or Gary Wolfe (304) 233-3338

District 2: Doug Robinson (304) 365-2080 or Neil Bolyard (304) 290-6684

District 3: Assistant Administrator Randall Kocsis (304) 672-9991 or Frank Nicholson (304) 592-5231

District 4: Robert Mayo (304) 375-6371 or Bob Cunningham (304) 295-4111

District 5: Betty Ann Williams (304) 542-8523 or George Sinkewitz (304) 429-5235

District 6: Truman Sayre (304) 787-5544 or John Hansany (304) 323-3699

District 8: Administrator Steve Sluss (304) 389-3190 or Bob Wines (304) 266-8717

District 9: Charles Reneau (304) 642-0501 or Barbara Burdette (304) 661-4979

District 10: Assistant Director Robbie Robinson (304) 582-3210 or Jacob McCarty (304) 376-2673



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Applicant # _____

Please type or print clearly and provide all information requested.

(Official Use only)

NAME	LAST:	FIRST:	MIDDLE:
ADDRESS	STREET:	CITY:	ZIP:
	PHONE:	DATE OF BIRTH:	T-SHIRT SIZE:
	E-MAIL ADDRESS:	HIGH SCHOOL:	
PARENT OR GUARDIAN:		PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE:	
Address <i>(If different)</i>	STREET:	CITY:	ZIP:
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:		SPONSOR PHONE:	
Sponsor Address	STREET:	CITY:	ZIP:

Applicant's Acknowledgement: I have not attended any Boys State previously. I am a member of the junior class at the high school listed above. If selected, I will abide by the rules and regulations of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State and of the Administrator, and will remain for the entire duration of the Mountaineer Boys State program. I pledge that I am not a member of, and do not subscribe to, the principles of any groups opposed to our form of government and I will pledge allegiance to the flag of our country during my stay at The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent's Authorization: I authorize my son to participate in The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program, including any travel to off-campus activities under the supervision of adult leaders of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. I authorize any photographs or images of my son taken at Mountaineer Boys State to be used on the Mountaineer Boys State website and on any promotional materials of the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. I further authorize the West Virginia Department of the American Legion to share my son's name, address, and e-mail information with educational or scholarship institutions. *(The American Legion does NOT sell its mailing lists!)*

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____

High School Principal's Rating of Applicant: The student recommended above is enrolled in the junior class and meets all of the requirements for acceptance to Mountaineer Boys State. I recommend this student for admission to Boys State as he is above average in school activities, community activities, leadership and character traits.

Principal's Signature: _____

I hereby certify that Post No. _____ **Boys State Committee** interviewed this applicant or that he has been interviewed by a Post representative, and certify that he is due consideration to be admitted to the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State.

Post Boy's State Chairman's Signature: _____

Approved for American Legion Post No: _____ **By Commander or Adjutant:** _____

**Attach fee of \$200.00 payable to American Legion Mountaineer Boys State and mail to:
Jim Davis, Director, PO Box 3191, Charleston, WV 25332-3191**



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Application Checklist

PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT POINT OF CONTACT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.
2. NOTIFY DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY FEBRUARY 16, 2012, HOW MANY APPLICATIONS YOU ARE WORKING TO FILL.
3. MAKE SURE ALL APPLICATIONS ARE FILLED OUT CLEARLY AND THOROUGHLY. PLEASE INCLUDE SPONSORS NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS.
4. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SECURE MORE SPONSORS AND CANNOT SECURE CITIZENS PLEASE NOTIFY DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO SPONSOR A BOY FROM ANOTHER AREA OF THE STATE.
5. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS AND MONEY IS MARCH 1, 2012. THE \$200 SPONSORSHIP CHECK PER APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATIONS; OTHERWISE, THE APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.
6. ATTEND THE WORKSHOP AT MID-WINTER CONVENTION.
7. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE ON STAFF NOTIFY JIM DAVIS.