

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS NEWS RELEASE



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For God and Country

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2022 Arkansas Boys State to begin this Sunday...

Little Rock, AR - The 82nd annual session of [Arkansas Boys State](#) will begin this Sunday, May 29, 2022, on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Over 400 delegates are pre-registered for this year's session which begins at 1:00 p.m. on the U.C.A. campus, followed by this year's keynote address at 3:45 p.m. from James L. "Skip" Rutherford of Little Rock, Dean Emeritus of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, and media representatives are encouraged to attend.

Established in 1940, Arkansas American Legion Boys State gives young Arkansans a better understanding of how elections and state government work in their state. This honor is bestowed to only a choice few of upcoming Arkansas high school seniors, thus enhancing their experience with your presence to honor their selection to the entire State of Arkansas through your media coverage.

These youth learn by working together to form mock parties, divided up into groups of 16 cities in 8 counties. From campaigning in a mock party primary, to making sure they get legislation passed which benefits their mock cities, the young men who participate leave Boys State with a better idea of how democracy works in a state and local government. Some of the past Arkansas Boys State attendees have included: Former President Bill Clinton; U.S. Senators John Boozman and Tom Cotton; Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee; U.S. Army Gen. Wesley K. Clark, Sr.; Vice President for University Relations with the ASU System Shane Broadway; and Hayden Balgavy, TV Co-Anchor of *Wake Up Central* on KTHV- Channel 11 in Little Rock...just to name a few, as well as many other prominent government and business leaders from across Arkansas.

Arkansas Boys State is sponsored by the American Legion Department of Arkansas. Boys State is for high school boys which have completed their junior year. Boys State delegates represent the finest students in Arkansas and are leaders in their communities. Arkansas Boys State is a unique summertime educational program that does not emphasize classroom lectures 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 its respective city, county and state governments.

The participants are selected to attend Boys State by their local high schools and American Legion posts based on leadership and character. At the conclusion of the session, two delegates are chosen to represent Arkansas at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., which will be held in the latter part of July. Closing ceremonies will be next Friday, June 3, 2022, at the Ida Waldran Auditorium on the UCA Campus following a special VIP trip to and from the House and Senate Chambers at the Arkansas State Capitol.

For further information, contact media relations coordinator Kaleb Turner at: (501) 454-9651, or visit the American Legion Department of Arkansas website: www.arlegion.org, or contact the American Legion Department of Arkansas at (501) 375-1104. We look forward to seeing you there!

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