

**STATEMENT OF INTEREST TO ATTEND
SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE**

ABOUT BOYS STATE

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. This is a participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county, and state government. American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State. At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs. Your local American Legion Post selects high school juniors to attend the program. In most cases, a sponsoring American Legion Post, and or a local business or other community-based organizations pays individual expense to attend.

PURPOSE

South Dakota American Legion Boys State has a two-fold purpose. First, to better help youth understand and appreciate the American system of government and our way of life, including the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Secondly, it helps to give a better knowledge of the fundamental principles of government within the state of South Dakota. These objectives are sought to be achieved by the establishment of a *mythical* 51st State of the Union, comprised of counties and cities, giving American Legion Boys Staters actual experience in the control and operation of these units of government. The American Legion wants the boys of South Dakota to understand the problems of government as well as how it functions.

You have been identified as one of its students who meet the requirements and qualifications for attendance at South Dakota American Legion Boys State. This determination does **NOT** signify that you **MUST** attend or even that you will be selected to attend.

The South Dakota American Legion are concerned that selections be limited to only those who are genuinely interested in participating in this week of intensive citizenship training and in studying and practicing the operation of government at the city, county, and state levels. Please complete this form and return it to the local American Legion Post.

STUDENT NAME _____ HIGH SCHOOL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____
(Street, Route or Box No.) (City) (Zip Code)

PHONE NO. _____ PARENT'S PHONE NO. _____

EMAIL ADDRESS. _____

PARENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS. _____

Would you like to have the opportunity to attend SD American Legion Boys State this year? *(yes or no)* _____

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT BOYS WHO ARE ACCEPTED FOR SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE ON THE CAMPUS OF NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY IN ABERDEEN ON MONDAY, MAY 27th, BETWEEN 12:00-2:30 PM, AND REMAIN IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE ENTIRE WEEK, CONCLUDING ON FRIDAY, May 31st. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!

If you are interested in attending SD American Legion Boys State, please write a brief statement on the back/next page, stating why you would like to attend South Dakota American Legion Boys State and how you could make use of this experience and training.

In the space below, please write a brief statement on why you would like to attend South Dakota American Legion Boys State and how you could make use of this opportunity.