

# In just one week experience...



### Leadership

Strengthen your leadership, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills.



### Brotherhood

Forge lasting friendships with peers who inspire and challenge you.



### Competition

Build and lead a simulated government, then bring that same drive to intense athletic competition.



### Distinction

Gain an edge in college admissions, scholarships, and military appointments.



...with the  
**American Legion Boys State of Kansas.**

## Scholarships

### Samsung Scholarship

Eligible participants can apply for a Samsung Scholarship through The American Legion. The scholarship is meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during the Korean War.

Scholarship applications are submitted online and are due by 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2026.

- Ten National Scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region)
- Ten national Runners-Up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region)
- One Department (State) finalist will be awarded \$1,250



### Jared Tucker

delegate from West Elk High School was the 2025 Department recipient of a \$1,250 Samsung scholarship.



For more information, eligibility, and rules visit [www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung](http://www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung).

### Director's Scholarship



### Conner Harris

delegate from Arkansas City High School was the recipient of the \$1,500 Director's Scholarship.

Remember to search for additional American Legion scholarships that you qualify for. These sometimes go unclaimed because there are no applicants.

• [www.legion.org/get-involved/scholarships](http://www.legion.org/get-involved/scholarships).

## Let's Connect

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# 2026

## 88th Session

May 31 – June 6  
Kansas State University | Goodnow Hall  
1825 Claflin Rd  
Manhattan, KS 66502

## WHAT IS BOYS STATE?

Boys State is a learning-by-doing exercise that simulates elections, political parties, and government at state, county, and local levels. The program provides opportunities to lead under pressure, showcase character, and work effectively within a team. It is also an opportunity to gain pride and respect for government, and the price paid by veterans to preserve democracy.

Attending Boys State of Kansas is a distinct honor. This premier program seeks leaders, such as yourself, for this opportunity. This is a week that will change your life.



## SPONSORS

Sending a delegate to Kansas Boys State is a two-fold investment. First, it is an investment in a young man with plans for college and beyond. It is also an investment in the future of your community, state, and nation. Boys State has provided tens of thousands of young Kansans a powerful introduction into civic responsibility. It is an opportunity to pass the torch of leadership to the next generation.

In addition to American Legion Posts, families, civic organizations, businesses, clubs, and other interested individuals can sponsor delegates. Sponsor fees can be split among organizations.

# WHAT PAST PARTICIPANTS are saying:

*To come out of Boys State having given it your all is to undergo a metamorphosis. Now, I know how corny and cheesy that is, but it's true. Boys State is a baptism by fire, a chance to test your mettle and to improve your knowledge and skill while being in a safe space to take risks and make mistakes.*

*Not only have I taken opportunities to lead but opportunities to listen and learn from my peers. I believe my ability to learn and grow from other perspectives sets me apart from bosses and is what makes me a leader.*

*At Boys State, you get out what you put in, and after putting my heart in, I can confidently say it was worth it. I got knowledge and experience that I can put to use in the real world. Not only has Boys State had a lasting impact on me, but it has inspired me to be the impact in my school and community.*

*Boys State has affected me on a personal level. I went into Boys State with certain ideas about certain types of people. However, because I met and befriended people with different perspectives, my preconceived notions were thrown out the window.*



*I also gained more experience in the areas of: Networking, negotiation, compromising, and listening skills.*

*I liked the fact that I was able to take an Intro to Political Science course for three hours of college credit. I am an Eagle Scout so one thing I really liked this year was the opportunity for participants to earn Scout badges.*



*The leadership skills I started developing at Boys State have already benefited me! For example, when I attended NAYLE (National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience) in Philmont, NM for Scouts I used the public speaking and leadership skills I was working on at Boys State to be elected as the Search and Rescue Chief for the Wilderness Training exercise we had to "save" the "injured" citizens.*

*I believe that the leadership skills I have developed this summer will allow me to: Be a better participant in Social Studies class debates, be a better student advocate/representative in my school's Student Council, and to be a better mentor to younger Scouts in my community.*



## College Credit Available

Earn three transferable hours of college credit while attending Boys State. There is an additional fee, payable to K-State, but the \$366 fee is significantly less than regular tuition. K-State enrollment is not required. The course (POLSC 110) will be taught by Dr. Nate Birkhead. Course work is assigned by the instructor and completed in the weeks following Boys State. Signup will be through your school guidance counselor.

## Conditioning

Fulfill your varsity sport conditioning requirements and stay in peak condition while crushing it at Boys State. A limited number of dedicated weightlifters can hit the racks during recreation time. Sessions are supervised, with attendance tracked, but lifts are self-directed to meet your specific needs. Please select this option on your application.



## Scouting Badges

During the week Boys Staters can earn seven merit badges – many required for the Eagle-Scout Rank. Merit badge activities are guided by American Legion counselors, registered adult BSA leaders, and experts in communications, education, public service, government, and law.

## College and Career Fair

All delegates will attend a College and Career Fair on Friday, June 5. More than 30 institutions are represented including universities, colleges, technical, vocational schools, law enforcement, military academies, Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Kansas National Guard. Delegates can communicate directly with admissions personnel and learn more about programs and scholarship opportunities.

## How to Apply



1. Scan the QR Code
2. Enter your information (you will receive an email confirmation)
3. Enter payment information (skip this if someone else is paying)
4. Future correspondence between the application date and the session will be by email and text.
5. Show up ready on May 31, 2026 for a week that will change your life!

## Fees

The Fee for Kansas Boys State is \$375. This primarily pays for the week of food and lodging. In most situations a delegate of their family pays \$50, and the sponsoring organization pays the remaining \$325.



## EARLY BIRD

Apply by January 31, 2026 and earn Boys State SWAG.

