



**The American Legion  
Department of Washington  
Evergreen Boys & Girls State  
June 21-27, 2026**

**Recruiter's Handbook**

**[EBGS-WA.org](http://EBGS-WA.org)**



The American Legion Department of Washington  
*Evergreen Boys & Girls State*

Tony Morea, Chairman  
Evergreen Boys & Girls State Executive Board  
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**The American Legion  
Department of Washington  
Evergreen Boys & Girls State**

2026 Session  
June 21st through June 27th

Location:

Warm Beach Conference Center  
20800 Marine Dr  
Stanwood, WA 98292

Cost of the program is: \$700 total  
\$350 "tuition" to the sponsoring Post  
\$350 "registration" to each Student

Transportation to and from Evergreen Boys & Girls State  
is a Student/Post/District responsibility

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# Introduction

Dear Legion Family Members,

Big changes are coming to our program in 2026! Evergreen Boys State is launching a two-year pilot to transition into Evergreen Boys & Girls State – a co-educational civic leadership experience open to **all** high school juniors, regardless of gender. This exciting step forward reflects our commitment to inclusive excellence, providing every delegate with equal access to top-tier training in government, public speaking, and leadership.

While the program's name and eligibility are expanding, the quality and mission remain the same. Delegates will still form mock cities, run for office, pass laws, and build lifelong friendships. By mirroring real-world leadership environments and broadening participation, we're preparing more young citizens to lead with confidence in their communities and beyond. The Evergreen Boys & Girls State pilot will run in 2026 and 2027, with a full evaluation and next steps presented to the Department in 2027

We hear from delegates each year that the best way to get students' attention is for someone to visit their school and share information in person! If your Post sent one or more boys to Evergreen Boys & Girls State this past year, be sure to contact them and request their assistance in promoting the program to this year's Junior class at their school.

Please keep in mind that selecting an "ideal week" for Evergreen Boys & Girls State is no easy feat. Regardless of which week we choose, conflicts inevitably arise with school schedules, sports events, sports camps, speech and debate contests, ASB student government retreats, scouting activities, family vacations, and after-school or summer jobs. Some schools finish in early June, others finish their year in late June. Furthermore, the various Military Academies all offer their summer leadership programs for high school juniors in June, forcing students to make tough decisions regarding their participation.

We understand that some schools may adopt a strict stance against excusing students to attend; however, many have shown a willingness to accommodate students by allowing them to reschedule their finals or even take exams remotely while attending Evergreen Boys & Girls State. Students and their parents must take the initiative to coordinate such arrangements with their schools.

At the Department level, we will continue to focus on digital marketing and recruitment. Flyers and brochures are available for download on the Evergreen Boys & Girls State website and the Recruiters Toolbox. There are HUNDREDS of high schools in Washington state – the five Department-level committee members cannot reach out to each of them personally. You, the Legion Family members in the Posts and Districts, are the primary points of contact with schools and other youth organizations in your area. Please continue to think creatively about our recruitment efforts this year and consider innovative ways to connect with students virtually.

Your support is crucial in making this year's Evergreen Boys & Girls State a success. Together, we can overcome our recruitment challenges and ensure the 2026 program grows and thrives.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this program!

Respectfully,  
Your EBGs Staff and Committee Members

# Where Your Post Fits In

Let's begin by discussing the essential role of your Post in the planning and execution of the American Legion Evergreen Boys & Girls State program. Evergreen Boys & Girls State offers valuable suggestions on how your Post can contribute, when to take action, and some strategies for achieving success. The guidelines in this guide have withstood the test of time, as proven by the experience of Boys State programs nationwide.

Posts that follow the procedures for delegate selection and attendance are rewarded with the opportunity to send Washington's finest young talents to Evergreen Boys & Girls State, enriching the program and ensuring its success.

It's important to remember that all American Legion Posts are autonomous. You have the flexibility to choose the delegate selection process that aligns best with your Post's values and mission. Additionally, please note that you and your Post members retain the final say in selecting the delegates you choose to sponsor. While collaboration with schools is encouraged, the ultimate decision regarding sponsorship rests with your Post. Active involvement by your membership in this process is crucial.

Many American Legion Posts in Washington actively engage with their communities, seeking support from other civic organizations to provide young citizens with this invaluable opportunity. Why do they choose to do so? Because they recognize the positive impact of nurturing responsible citizens who return to their communities and support the local American Legion's programs wholeheartedly.

Your Post members' commitment and involvement are key to the success of the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program. Together, we can continue to empower the leaders of tomorrow.

## American Legion Post Commander

We recommend that you consider appointing a dedicated member as the Boys & Girls State Chairperson or establishing a Boys & Girls State committee. Encouraging active involvement from as many Post members as possible will help you better fulfill your duties as Post Commander.

When selecting the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Chairperson, it's crucial to choose a qualified individual for the role. The ideal candidate might not necessarily be readily visible within your meeting room. It could be someone who, while unable to attend meetings regularly, is committed to recruiting delegates for Evergreen Boys & Girls State.

To identify the right person for the role, review your membership roster and seek out individuals with excellent interpersonal skills and practical communication abilities with young people. This person could be a teacher, coach, scout leader, newspaper reporter, or anyone with the qualities required. Avoid merely looking for someone who might be willing to take on the role; instead, focus on someone you are confident will actively and effectively fulfill the responsibilities.

Personally reach out to them and extend an invitation to serve as the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Post Chairperson. Explain why you believe they are well-suited for the position and highlight the valuable contributions they can bring to the team.

By making a thoughtful selection and engaging a qualified Chairperson, you will strengthen your Post's involvement in the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program and help us continue our mission effectively.

## Post Evergreen Boys & Girls State Chairperson

You play a pivotal role in selecting high-quality delegates, which is essential for the success of the Evergreen Boys & Girls State session. You have a unique opportunity to shape the future leaders of your community, state, and nation. Many former Boys and Girls State citizens have gone on to become leaders in government, the military, business, and various professions, including the President of the United States.

Take pride in the responsibility you've been entrusted with for your American Legion Post. Effective planning and follow-up are key attributes for an Evergreen Boys & Girls State Chairperson. It's advisable to take swift action. Initiate personal contact with key individuals such as the high school guidance counselor, government teacher, superintendent, school board members, clergy, and leaders of Boy Scout troops within your community. Arrange meetings to introduce them to the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program and provide them with detailed flyers that explain the program. You may also seek their recommendations for potential students, but remember, you and your Post should have the final say in selecting the delegates.

Ensure that these individuals understand the program's purpose and what Evergreen Boys & Girls State entails. As the Post Chairperson, you must familiarize yourself with the program. Take the time to read this handbook and the Citizens Manual so that you can see the program from the delegates' perspective. Additionally, please review the registration timeline and don't hesitate to contact your District Chairperson, District Commander, or email [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org) if you have any questions. Wear your American Legion cap with pride, recognizing our organization's vital role in creating the national Boys State program!

Ultimately, YOUR POST will make the final delegate selections. Each student should express a strong commitment to attend the entire week. Selected delegates must have a basic understanding of the program's objectives and dates.

Evergreen Boys & Girls State recommends having a list of potential interviewees by March or April to allow ample time for interviews and final selections. [Even if you miss this time frame, it's never too late to get started!] An application form for information gathering is included in this guide, providing essential information for your Post Selection Committee to review before interviews at the Post or school. Additionally, a suggested interview and scoring form is provided for your committee's use.

When selecting individuals to assist with interviews, choose those who have an interest in working with young people and possess experience in interacting with them. Choose individuals who can make well-informed decisions about delegate selections and effectively evaluate the attitudes and responses of the potential delegates.

We recognize that some posts may have limited financial resources and may not be able to sponsor more than one or two students. If you find yourself with more students in need of sponsorship than your Post can accommodate, please don't turn them down. Reach out to us at [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org). We are here to help you secure additional funding for your students.

Please note that the online application on our website is not intended to replace your contact with schools in your local Post area. Don't solely rely on the website for applications; actively engage with schools. The online application has been a valuable tool for generating leads to identify interested students who may not have learned about Evergreen Boys & Girls State through traditional recruitment methods.

Remember, YOUR efforts are the linchpin for the success of this program. Your dedication and commitment are what make Evergreen Boys & Girls State thrive.

## **What Was Evergreen Boys & Girls State Like?**

### **A Post Follow-Up**

After the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program, it's essential to assess what you've achieved with the resources you invested. Your Post may have allocated more funds to Evergreen Boys & Girls State than any other program throughout the year. Equally important is understanding the enriching experiences and insights gained by the delegates sponsored by your Post. Sharing these experiences not only benefits your Post but also promotes the American Legion within your community.

We recommend hosting a dinner event in the Fall, shortly after school begins. Extend invitations to all your delegates and their parents, bearing in mind that these students have busy schedules that quickly fill up with other commitments.

Invite school officials, civic leaders, and any individuals who were involved in the delegate selection process. Extend invitations to the Mayor and the City Council, and consider reaching out to local news media outlets, including the local newspaper, radio stations, and, if available, local television stations.

Carefully plan the event to avoid scheduling conflicts with major community events, such as football games or other activities that could divert a significant portion of the community away from your event. If your Post or Auxiliary Unit also sent girls to Evergreen Girls State, consider inviting the young women to participate in the event as well.

When you contact your delegates about attending the dinner, explain that they will have the opportunity to share a brief report with the Post members about their experiences at Evergreen Boys & Girls State.

During the event, introduce your esteemed guests, but allow the spotlight to shine on the delegates. This event is dedicated to them, and they should take center stage. Everyone in attendance is there to celebrate the achievements of these young adults.

Your commitment to acknowledging and celebrating the Evergreen Boys & Girls State experience not only benefits your Post but also fosters a sense of pride and community involvement. We encourage you to make this event a memorable one.

### **Planning for the Future**

Now that your Post has selected outstanding delegates to represent you, and they have returned from Evergreen Boys & Girls State brimming with enthusiasm, your future Evergreen Boys & Girls State endeavors will be considerably smoother.

These delegates are eager to share their remarkable experiences and newfound knowledge with their friends, describing the incredible time they had at Evergreen Boys & Girls State where learning and fun harmonized. The more the word spreads about our program, the stronger our position becomes. And who do we have to thank for this positive momentum? It all started with you.

Consider involving your delegates from the previous years who reside and work in our community as part of your Post selection committee.

Your dedication and commitment have ignited this positive attitude, and we are confident that your continued efforts will keep the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program thriving.

Thank you for making it all possible!

# The History of American Legion Boys State

## What is Boys State (Nationally)

As a distinguished program of the American Legion, Boys State was conceived with the idea that our youth should gain a deeper understanding of how government operates in practice. It emphasizes that each individual plays an essential role and carries a corresponding responsibility for the character and success of their government. Consequently, Boys State stands as a program of immense educational significance, addressing the critical need for educating our youth in the practical aspects of citizenship.

American Legion Boys State can be aptly characterized as a leadership initiative. Here, accomplished high school juniors participate in an immersive government course tailored to foster a comprehensive understanding of governmental structures. This program serves to underscore the pivotal truth that government is a reflection of the collective efforts of its citizens.

Through Boys State and Girls State programs, we are molding future leaders, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to actively engage in and positively influence the course of our government.

## How and Why Boys State Started

Boys State emerged in response to a pressing concern during the 1930s. At that time, Fascist-inspired Young Pioneer Camps were influencing high school boys, advocating that democracy had become obsolete and should be replaced by Fascism. Fueled by this challenge to democratic values, two Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, both educators and members of The American Legion in Illinois, conceived the Boys State program.

Their vision was to create a counter-movement among American youth, one that would foster a deeper comprehension of our government system and instill a profound commitment to its preservation. Harold Card's experience in organizing and supervising a Boy Scout camp influenced the format of Boys State. With limited staff, he allowed the boys to take on self-governance, holding elections for roles like mayor and city council members. Appointments were made for crucial positions, including police, fire, health, and sanitation officials. What became evident was that the boys became genuinely engrossed in fulfilling their 'city' responsibilities, often to the point of overlooking their Scout duties. They were learning through active participation.

The inaugural Boys State took place at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois, in June 1935. Today, many decades later, the program continues to provide high school students with the opportunity to learn by doing. Over the years, well over one million young men have participated in Boys State. Our democratic way of life continues to face other challenges from government systems at odds with our democratic ideals and from apathy among our own citizens.

The American Legion remains steadfast in its sponsorship and execution of Boys State. We believe that young citizens who are well-informed about the functioning of our government system will be better equipped to uphold its principles and safeguard it for future generations.

Over the years, some Departments have adapted their programs to better reflect today's realities. In some states, Boys State and Girls State are held independently but take place concurrently on the same campus, often sharing speakers and resources. Other states, like California and Washington, have chosen to create a separate co-educational program, now called Boys & Girls State, which operates independently of the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State program.

# Evergreen Boys & Girls State Goals and Objectives

The Evergreen Boys & Girls State program, with its broad scope, encompasses a multitude of essential objectives. Among these, the American Legion places the utmost emphasis on the following:

1. **Fostering Civic Leadership and Pride in Young American Citizenship:** Our mission is to inspire students to become active, responsible citizens who take pride in their communities. At Evergreen Boys & Girls State, we encourage each participant to return home ready to lead, serve, and make a positive impact in their community.
2. **Cultivating a Passion for In-Depth Government Study:** We go beyond the basics to help students develop a genuine interest in how our system of government functions. Through hands-on experience, we aim to spark curiosity and a deeper understanding of our constitutional structure.
3. **Nurturing an Understanding of American Traditions and Belief in the United States:** We introduce students to the principles and traditions that have shaped our nation. By understanding our roots, they gain a clearer picture of the values that unite us and the responsibilities that come with freedom.
4. **Instilling a Determination to Uphold Our Form of Government:** We want every participant to leave with a strong appreciation for the privileges of American citizenship—and a clear understanding of the duty to protect and uphold our constitutional republic. Our goal is to instill a lasting respect for the system of government entrusted to us by the Founders.

The last two objectives are drawn from the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion:

5. **To Inculcate a Sense of Individual Obligation to the Community, State, and Nation:** We help students recognize that citizenship comes with responsibility. Our goal is to cultivate a personal sense of obligation to serve and contribute—locally, statewide, and nationally—as part of their role in maintaining a strong and free society.
6. **To Safeguard and Transmit to Posterity the Principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy:** We are committed to passing on the foundational principles that define our nation. Through education and experience, students gain a deeper appreciation for justice, liberty, and the enduring values that support our constitutional form of government.

These objectives reflect our unwavering commitment to cultivating responsible, informed, and patriotic citizens who will actively contribute to the betterment of our society.

## **Program Purposes**

Evergreen Boys & Girls State serves as a dynamic workshop, dedicated to imparting practical knowledge of citizenship to high school students. This educational program is conducted under the auspices of the American Legion, Department of Washington, with a clear mission: to instill constructive attitudes toward the American form of government among today's youth.

Through Evergreen Boys & Girls State, we demonstrate that our system of government remains vibrant and relevant. It underscores that a republic thrives with an enlightened citizenry and an administration that is transparent, honest, and responsive to the will of the people.

This program functions as a hands-on school of government, promoting education through active participation. It showcases the pivotal role each individual can play within our government system. Evergreen Boys & Girls State is more than just a theoretical exercise; it is an immersive experience that empowers high school students to understand and engage with our democratic processes.

## **Program Information**

The Evergreen Boys & Girls State program operates on a "learn by doing" principle, where selected citizens actively engage in simulating the operations of various levels of government, political parties, and a state legislature. Our program is designed to foster a more active and informed understanding of the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship. It serves as a vibrant workshop where democracy comes to life.

At Evergreen Boys & Girls State, our approach to education is hands-on and engaging. Young citizens work together to establish and operate fictitious cities, counties, and a state. They also form and manage political parties, oversee judicial systems, and convene a bicameral state legislature. The structure and governance of Evergreen Boys & Girls State simulate and emulate the constitution, statutes, and codes of the State of Washington.

Citizens of Evergreen Boys & Girls State arrive with pre-existing knowledge of political processes, parliamentary procedure, law enforcement, court systems, and legislative operations. During their time in office, they gain additional insights and skills from our experienced staff, who guide them in performing the actual functions of officeholders. Each Citizen is provided with text materials for reference during and after the program, explaining various government branches and procedures.

Upon registration, each Citizen is assigned to an Evergreen Boys & Girls State "city" and a "political party." These assignments are carefully made to ensure equal participation in all aspects of government and politics, encouraging each Citizen to collaborate with peers from across Washington State. Evergreen Boys & Girls State cities take names inspired by Washington trees, counties are named after mountain ranges or water bodies, and the state is aptly named "Evergreen."

Our curriculum commences with the official designation of each student as a Citizen of the Great State of Evergreen. They immediately begin forming city governments, followed by the creation of political parties and county and state-level offices. Aspiring political officeholders file and campaign individually, representing their respective parties. Primary and general elections are held, culminating in inaugural ceremonies. Following the installation of all officers, every facet of city, county, and state government springs into action.

Instructional staff, well-versed in the functions and procedures of state government and its political subdivisions, provide guidance and coaching to our youthful citizens. However, they are careful to allow the citizens to

function independently. Our overarching goal is to enable the citizens to experience and immerse themselves in the process fully.

From this immersive school of government, young citizens gain firsthand knowledge that their government is as effective as their active participation allows. They understand the importance of their roles within our system of government: each person can run for office, vote for their chosen candidate, and actively influence government policies.

**EVERY CITIZEN HAS A DEFINITE AND INTEGRAL PART IN THE PROGRAM.**

### **Non-Partisan**

The Evergreen Boys & Girls State staff take immense pride in our non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-military stance. Our program is designed to present citizens with problem-solving challenges that are entirely independent of any association with existing political parties and devoid of propaganda. Our sole aim is to empower young citizens to grasp the responsibilities they will one day assume as adults.

At Evergreen Boys & Girls State, the political parties are entirely fictional constructs used for educational purposes. We do not designate any party as 'conservative' or 'liberal', and no attributes of actual political parties will be attributed to the parties within Evergreen Boys & Girls State. Instead, the political positions of these two parties are determined by the citizens themselves. Citizens are randomly assigned to a political party by computer, and both parties have approximately the same number of members. Just as in real life, it is unlikely that a citizen will align perfectly with one party or the other. Once again, the primary focus is on their learning experience in understanding the political process, rather than reaching a specific political outcome.

Our unwavering commitment to non-partisanship underscores our dedication to providing a fair, impartial, and inclusive platform for young citizens to explore and engage with the fundamental principles of democracy.

# Eligibility and Attendance

Participation in Evergreen Boys & Girls State is open to high school students who meet the following two essential eligibility criteria:

1. **Grade-Level Requirement:** Citizens must have recently completed their Junior year in high school and be on the cusp of entering their Senior year when they attend Evergreen Boys & Girls State in June.
2. **Willingness to Attend and Engage:** Citizens must demonstrate a genuine desire and willingness to attend and actively participate in the program.

Additionally, please note the following important guidelines:

- Citizens must be between the ages of 15 and 18.
- Previous attendance at any Boys State or Girls State session disqualifies candidates.
- Candidates who have not completed the 11th grade will not be considered.
- Foreign exchange students will find this program highly challenging, as they may have limited or no pre-existing knowledge of Washington State government.
- Running Start participation is deemed equivalent to high school for eligibility purposes.
- High school Juniors are particularly valued, as they are poised to return home and assume leadership roles within their school and community during their Senior year.
- The responsibility for selecting Citizens rests with the local American Legion Post, Unit, District, Riders Chapter, or SAL squadron. Selection methods should prioritize fairness to all eligible candidates, with an emphasis on identifying the most representative Citizens who embody well-rounded citizenship, leadership, character, scholarship, and service. It's crucial to emphasize that eligibility and selection cannot be influenced by race or creed. There should be no request for applicants to provide photographs as part of the delegate selection process.

Please select only those Citizens who can commit to staying for the entire week, as late arrivals and early departures are not permitted. We are willing to make limited accommodations to allow students to briefly check in virtually for school-related testing or final assignments, if needed.

The Department of Washington reserves the right to accept or reject any application to Evergreen Boys & Girls State. The Chairman, or their designee, may admit delegates to attend Evergreen Boys & Girls State. During the program, the Director, or their designee, retains the right to dismiss any Citizen for violations of the rules, irrespective of sponsorship.

## Time and Place

We are excited to announce that the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program will take place on the campus of Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood, Washington, commencing on June 21st, 2026, at 3:00 PM and concluding on June 27th, 2026 at 10:30 AM. The starting and ending dates and times are inclusive.

To ensure a smooth experience for all participants, we ask that delegates adhere to the following arrival and registration details:

- Delegates should not arrive at Warm Beach Conference Center before noon on June 21st.
- We recommend delegates have lunch before their arrival.
- Registration will officially commence at noon on Sunday, June 21st, and conclude at 2:30 PM on the same day.

Please note that housing and meals will not be available before the registration period or after the program concludes. The first meal, dinner, will be served on Sunday evening, June 21st, at 5:30 PM.

## Tuition and Registration Fees

We are committed to making the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program accessible to all eligible students, regardless of their ability to pay. Below, you'll find information regarding program fees and options for financial assistance:

**Total Fees:** The total program fee for Evergreen Boys & Girls State is \$700 per delegate.

**Breakdown of Fees:** Traditionally, this total fee has been divided into two components:

- **Tuition Fee:** \$350 paid by the sponsoring Post
- **Registration Fee:** \$350 paid by the student

**Financial Assistance:** Students have the option to request financial assistance from their sponsoring American Legion Post. We suggest that Posts provide \$350 in assistance to any student requesting sponsorship. However, we understand that each situation is unique, and Posts may offer more or less funding based on individual circumstances. If a student's family is willing and able to cover the entire \$700 fee, they are welcome to do so.

**Payment Options:** Post sponsors will be allowed to pay via check or online via our payment portal. Once you have reported your sponsorship agreement via the form, students will be provided a link through which they can pay their portion of the fees via the payment portal (or check). During registration in Stanwood, any unpaid fees can be paid in cash, by check, credit card, or money order by each delegate who has not made other payment arrangements. All checks should be made payable to "Evergreen Boys & Girls State."

**Additional Students:** If a Post wishes to sponsor more students than it has financial resources, we urge that it not turn down the extra students. Please have them submit their registration form via the online portal. Afterward, please contact us at **Office@EvergreenBoysState.org** for further assistance as soon as possible.

We are dedicated to ensuring that financial considerations do not impede any eligible student from participating in this program. If you have any questions or need assistance with fees or financial support, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## Transportation

The responsibilities and arrangements regarding transportation to and from the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program are as follows:

**Delegate Responsibility:** Transportation to and from Evergreen Boys & Girls State is the ultimate responsibility of the delegate and their parent or guardian.

**Local Arrangements:** In certain Districts, the local American Legion Post recruiter or a District Chairperson may facilitate transportation arrangements for sponsored Delegates. The coordination and associated costs for such arrangements are managed at the local level. They are not the responsibility of the Department of Washington, Evergreen Boys & Girls State, or the EBGs on-site program staff.

We encourage delegates and parents to communicate with their local American Legion representatives to explore any available transportation options if needed. This could include options like connecting delegates from the same local area for carpools to and from Stanwood.

## Sponsorship

To ensure a successful and well-prepared 2026 Evergreen Boys & Girls State session, we emphasize the importance of early enrollment for qualified candidates. We ask that you submit required forms and fees online or via USPS to American Legion Department of WA, P.O. Box 3917, Lacey, WA 98509-3917, c/o EBGs Registrar, as soon as possible after the selection of your delegates.

### Early Enrollment Benefits:

- Early enrollment is essential to guarantee a reservation for qualified candidates at the 2026 Evergreen Boys & Girls State session.
- Reservations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Fees submitted after June 1, 2026, and up until the start of EBGs on June 21st, will continue to be accepted, provided space is available.

### Payment Details:

- Payment via the electronic payment portal is the preferred method of payment. Checks will be accepted if that is your preference.
- Please make all checks payable to "Evergreen Boys & Girls State" and put the delegate's name on the memo line so we can appropriately credit you for the sponsorship.

### Supporting Scholarship Opportunities:

The American Legion Department of Washington welcomes and extends an invitation to local civic, fraternal, educational, religious, labor, and other compatible organizations to consider funding tuition scholarships for deserving students. Citizen selections are typically made by an American Legion Post. In cases where a local American Legion Post is not available, applications can be made directly to the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Program Office. Tuition fees should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably by the local American Legion Post; however, individual sponsors are always welcome.

### Post-Program Reporting:

Upon their return home, we strongly encourage every EBGs Citizen to appear before their sponsoring organization and present a report to its members regarding their experiences and impressions of the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program.

Your support and timely contributions play a crucial role in the success of this program, and we are immensely grateful for your commitment. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## Physical Examination & Special Needs

**Physical Examination:** A physical examination by a physician is not mandatory for applicants. However, all applicants are expected to meet usual health standards and complete the medical form questionnaire.

**Special Needs Citizenship:** Evergreen Boys & Girls State welcomes applicants with special needs. We are committed to providing an inclusive experience for all citizens. However, it's essential to note that any arrangements and costs associated with special considerations or accommodations required for these citizens will be the responsibility of the sponsoring organization or the individual citizen and their family.

We encourage open communication to ensure that all citizens have the necessary support and resources to participate in the program. If you have any questions or require additional information regarding health requirements or special accommodations, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Health and Medical

Ensuring the health and safety of our participants is a top priority at Evergreen Boys & Girls State.

**Sanitation Measures:** The EBGs staff is diligently working in collaboration with the Warm Beach Conference Center to plan and implement appropriate sanitation measures as required by the county health department to address any lingering health concerns.

**Medical Assistance:** During EBGs, we have provisions in place to provide first aid and medical attention if required. Our staff will take every precaution to prevent accidents and illness.

**Over-the-Counter Medications:** EBGs staff do not administer over-the-counter medications such as ibuprofen or allergy relief products to delegates. Participants who may need these items should bring products from home.

**Participant Responsibility:** While we take comprehensive measures to ensure safety, Evergreen Boys & Girls State, Inc. cannot be held responsible for injuries or illnesses that may occur during the program.

**Local Healthcare:** Local healthcare facilities are available in case any medical assistance is required or requested. We have arrangements in place to address any health-related needs promptly.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together to create a safe and enriching environment for all participants. If you have any specific questions or concerns regarding health and safety measures, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## Student Safety

Please review the on-site rules outlined in the Citizens' Manual, which is published on our website.

**Prohibited Items and Activities:** It is strictly forbidden for any citizen to use or have intoxicants, tobacco products, vaping materials, illegal drugs, firearms, other weapons, or explosives during their time at Evergreen Boys & Girls State. Additionally, activities such as gambling, vandalism, property destruction, or leaving the EBGs campus area without permission from the On-Site Director or their designee are strictly prohibited.

**Cyberbullying Is Strictly Prohibited:** Evergreen Boys & Girls State maintains a zero-tolerance policy for cyberbullying. Use of digital devices or online platforms to harass, threaten, or target others will result in immediate disciplinary action. We are committed to creating a safe, respectful environment for all participants—online and in person.

**Dorm Safety and Supervision:** Male and female delegates are housed in separate dormitories, with strict supervision and clearly defined boundaries in place at all times. Access to dorm areas is limited to assigned delegates and staff. Any unauthorized entry into the dorms of the opposite sex is strictly prohibited. These rules are enforced to ensure the safety, privacy, and well-being of all participants.

**Consequences for Violations:** Any citizen found engaging in any of the above-mentioned prohibited activities will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program. Please note that there will be no recourse or refund in such cases, and the individual will be barred from further participation in the program.

We expect that all participants understand and respect these rules to ensure the safety and integrity of Evergreen Boys & Girls State. If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding our code of conduct, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## R&R / Free Time

**Program Emphasis:** While there will be designated times for relaxation, it's important to note that Evergreen Boys & Girls State is not a recreational camp. Participants will not have the opportunity to engage in typical recreational activities such as football, baseball, swimming, or the use of sports or recreational facilities on the Warm Beach Conference Center campus. The EBGs program is very intense all week and the emphasis during free time should be on rest and relaxation.

We also request that sponsoring groups and participants recognize that Evergreen Boys & Girls State is not a rehabilitative, disciplinary, or recreational camp. EBGs is a scholastic leadership program designed to provide an intensive experience in citizenship training.

## Selection Criteria

We encourage the selection of students who demonstrate strong qualities in citizenship, leadership, character, scholarship, and service, and who are genuinely interested in learning through an intensive civic experience. That said, academic performance alone should not be a deciding factor. Please don't overlook a student just because they have "average" grades. A motivated, engaged student who wants to attend will benefit far more—and contribute more—than a high achiever who isn't fully committed to participating in the program.

## Instructions for Boys & Girls State Citizens

For convenience, a handout packet for your delegates is included in a later section of this Recruiter's Handbook. Please feel free to copy and distribute it to the delegates you select. To access complete Citizen Instructions for Evergreen Boys & Girls State, please visit our website at [ebgs-wa.org](http://ebgs-wa.org). These instructions will not be mailed to each Citizen individually.

**Accessing Instructions:** To obtain the necessary information, please visit our website as mentioned above. Detailed instructions and important program information will be available online for your reference.

**Email Notifications:** Additionally, once we have received citizen registration forms, our office will send them – and their parents – important information as well as periodic program updates via email. Please remind citizens to check their email regularly for updates and instructions.

To ensure that citizens receive important updates and information from us promptly, we suggest that they add [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org) to their email contact list. This will help prevent our emails from being misrouted to their junk, promotions, or spam folders.

# Scholarship Opportunities at EBGs

We are pleased to offer several scholarship opportunities to exceptional participants at Evergreen Boys & Girls State. Please review the following scholarship programs:

**Samsung American Legion Scholarship:** This prestigious scholarship requires certified information from high schools and family military records for eligibility. The minimum scholarship amount awarded is approximately \$1,250. The state winner's application is forwarded to the National level, where they can compete for one of ten \$5,000 awards or one of ten \$10,000 awards. Please note that scholarship winners receive one of the following amounts: \$1,250, or \$5,000, or \$10,000 – they do not receive a combination of these amounts. Apply here: <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>.

*Important Note:* The Samsung Scholarship Application must be completed online before arriving at Evergreen Boys & Girls State on June 21st, 2026. No exceptions can be made for any reason; mailed or faxed applications and/or supporting documents cannot be accepted. Students should not bring hard copies of their application or supporting documents to EBGs, as any material not part of the online application can not be considered.

The **EBGs Women of Impact Scholarship**. Two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually to two female delegates who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, thoughtful civic participation, and a strong commitment to public service. These individuals have made a meaningful impact on the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program and serve as examples of integrity, initiative, and excellence.

The **Evergreen Boys State Foundation Governor's Scholarship**: A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to the elected Governor of the State of Evergreen.

The **Carl Wipperman Leadership Scholarship**: This \$1,000 scholarship is presented to an outstanding future leader based on their demonstrated commitment during attendance at Evergreen Boys & Girls State.

The **Harry L. Easley Outstanding Citizen Scholarship**: A \$500 scholarship is awarded to an Evergreen Boys & Girls State citizen who distinguishes themselves during the week as an outstanding citizen of the State of Evergreen.

The **Leonard Beil Speaker of the House Scholarship**: A \$500 scholarship is awarded to the Speaker of the House.

In addition to these scholarships, several Certificates of Recognition are presented during the week, including:

- Boys Nation Selectee
- City Outstanding Citizen Award Certificates (one per city)
- "City of the Day" Recognition Certificates
- "Expectations of Excellence" Recognition Certificates
- Bar Examination Ace Certificate
- Oratorical Contest Participant

We encourage all participants to strive for excellence and take advantage of these scholarship opportunities. For more information on the Evergreen Boys State Foundation and how to donate, please contact the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Director or Chairman.

A citizen's commitment and dedication during Evergreen Boys & Girls State could lead to these rewards and recognitions.



## Personnel Duties and Responsibilities

### District Chairpersons

1. Ensure that the Department Chairperson has your accurate contact information, including your name, address, phone/cell number, and email address. Send this information to [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org).
2. Before December 1st, reach out to each Post Commander in your District to gather contact information for each Post Boys & Girls State Chairperson. Forward this information to [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org).
3. Ensure that Post Chairpersons are familiar with and understand their responsibilities.
4. Attend your District's Conferences, as well as roundtable meetings.
5. Participate in all Boys & Girls State-related events within your District.
6. Assist in forwarding all Boys & Girls State student applications to Post Chairpersons.
7. Follow up with Posts to ensure that applications are being processed promptly and that registrations are submitted on time.
8. Provide advice and assistance to Post Chairpersons as needed.
9. Conduct a District Orientation for all delegates.
10. Serve as a member of the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Board of Directors.

### Post Chairpersons

1. Contact the high schools in your local area as soon as you receive this information.
2. From November to February, re-establish contact with all high schools in your Post's vicinity to ensure they are informed about Evergreen Boys & Girls State. Confirm that schools have received flyers and have your contact information.
3. Identify a contact person within each high school (Principal, Counselor, Teacher, Librarian, Coach, etc.).
4. Arrange for a speaker to discuss Boys & Girls State at schools during the fall or winter.
5. If necessary, organize Post fundraisers to sponsor one or more students.
6. Make delegate selections and submit the required forms and fees to the Department as soon as possible after the selections are made.
7. Promote and share program information with other community organizations to raise awareness and foster goodwill for the American Legion.

Note: If space is available, Evergreen Boys & Girls State will continue to accept registration forms from interested delegates up to and including the start date (June 21st). Contact [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org) for further details.

Post and District Chairpersons should be familiar with the website: [EBGS-WA.org](http://EBGS-WA.org)



## Post Chairperson Instructions

Thank you for accepting the role of Post Chairperson for the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Program.

The requirements for this position include:

- An understanding of The American Legion.
- Familiarity with the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Program.
- A willingness to collaborate with high school students, educators, and parents.
- Access to a phone and a computer.
- A friendly demeanor and a small amount of time.

So, what does the EBGs Post Chairperson do? Here's a breakdown:

- Collaborate with your Post leadership to secure funds to sponsor students for the Program.
- Establish contact with your local high school to ask them to nominate students to attend the program.
- Receive applications, either in printed hard copy or from online sources, or both.
- Evaluate Applications to ensure they meet qualifying standards, make selections, and seek additional funding if necessary.
- **IMPORTANT:** Please refrain from excluding qualified students due to funding constraints. Reach out to us at [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org) for funding assistance.
- Communicate with the selected student and their parents to inform them of their acceptance to Evergreen Boys & Girls State as soon as possible after the interview.
- Have the student fill out the online Registration form ASAP
- Submit the online Sponsorship Agreement form
- Submit payment to the Department of Washington via check or the electronic payment portal
- Maintain regular contact with the student and their parents until they are on their way to EBGs.

If you receive an email with an online application, follow these steps:

- Upon receiving an online application via email, start by acknowledging the sender. Reply to the email, confirming receipt of the application and the initiation of the processing.
- Immediately contact the student and parents and follow the same procedures as outlined for other applications.
- Review online Applications for qualifying standards, make selections, and seek additional funding if required.
- **REMINDER:** Do not exclude qualified students due to funding constraints. If your Post has already made selections and is out of funds, reach out to us at [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org) for funding ideas and assistance.
- Inform the student and their parents about their selection to attend Evergreen Boys & Girls State.
- Have the student fill out the online Registration form ASAP
- Submit the online Sponsorship Agreement form
- Submit payment to the Department of Washington via check or the electronic payment portal
- Maintain regular contact with the student and their parents until they are on their way to EBGs.

# Boys & Girls State Post Chairperson Timeline

1. Incoming Post Commander appoints a Chairperson
  - a. Must have Email
  - b. Should have a Legion Cap
  - c. Should enjoy working with teenagers
2. Post Commander and/or Post Chairperson should notify the District Boys & Girls State Chairperson of the appointment and provide the contact Name/Email/Phone number
3. Review the ebgs-wa.org website and learn all you can about the program
4. In the Fall, after school has begun, make an appointment to see the High School career counselor, the Junior Class advisor, or the Principal or Vice Principal. Also, reach out to JROTC instructors and club advisors!
  - a. Wear your Legion Cap
  - b. Dress in business casual attire and wear a Legion Polo shirt (if you have one)
  - c. Briefly describe the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Program and ask for a point of contact in the school, preferably a teacher or staff member who has been to either Boys State or Girls State.
5. Make an appointment with the previously arranged school point of contact
  - a. Review the EBGs program with the POC, giving dates and location
  - b. Give the POC application forms for potential candidates to fill out
  - c. Ask the POC to identify potential candidates for the program
  - d. Ask the POC to set up a meeting for you to meet the candidates and brief them on the program
  - e. Dress for success and wear your Legion Cap
6. Meet with candidates and brief them on the program
  - a. Have EBGs flyers available for each student.
  - b. Have application forms with you
  - c. Have students fill out application forms
  - d. Dress for success and wear your Legion Cap
7. Make individual appointments to meet with each student [and their parent(s) if possible] for interviews.
  - a. Notify students (and their parents) that they have been selected to attend ASAP after the interview
  - b. Provide the selected student with the Delegate Registration Checklist
  - c. Ask that they immediately fill out the Registration form online
8. Talk about possible arrangements for transportation to EBGs
9. Personally contact each student and their parent(s) at least once per month until the program starts on Father's Day (June 21st).

Please submit the forms and payment to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. It is okay to send the check for \$350 (or agreed upon amount) per student later if you are recruiting multiple students, but please submit the sponsorship form online ASAP so we know how much your Post will be paying and how much the delegate needs to pay. **If a Post has more students than it can afford to send, please DO NOT turn down students for lack of funding! Interview them and have them submit their online registration form via the registration portal! Please get in touch with us at [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org) to assist with finding other funding sources.**

Remember, many teenagers plan their summertime activities several months in advance, so successful recruiting means getting to them early!

At the Department level, we have TWO goals: at least one EBGs Citizen per Post and one EBGs Citizen per High School.

# EBGS Recruitment Process

In preparation for the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program, it is essential to understand the recruitment process:

## Step 1: Outreach to Post, Schools, and Partners

- Begin by reaching out to your local American Legion Post, schools, and your sponsoring partners immediately.

## Step 2: Application Distribution

- Utilize the Application in this packet as an information-gathering tool for recruitment.
- Schools can distribute these Applications to students interested in participating in the program, and they should be returned to you as the local recruiter.

## Step 3: Online Application (ebgs-wa.org)

- The online application process is designed to complement your recruitment efforts and is not intended to replace personal contact with local schools.
- Interested students may submit online applications. These applications serve as informational resources for you.
- Online applications will be forwarded to District or Local Post Chairpersons for contact purposes.
- The online application form alone does not fulfill the program registration requirements. The official registration form must be completed and all additional forms and payment must be received for the registration to be considered complete.

## Step 4: Local Interview & Selection Process

- Conduct interviews with each student to assess their suitability for attending EBGS.
- Notify selected students of their participation in the event ASAP after the interview.
- Provide students with all necessary information, including event details, dates, and expectations
- Stay in contact with the students and their parents until the start of Evergreen Boys & Girls State!

## Step 5: Registration Distribution

- Provide the **Delegate Registration Checklist** document to the student, as it contains all required steps for them to complete the registration process.

## Step 6: Completing the Registration

- Registration is considered complete when:
  - Registration form submitted online
  - Additional parent forms are submitted to the upload portal.
  - The Selecting Post Chairperson has completed the Sponsorship Agreement Form.
  - Full payment has been received
- Submit all checks (utilizing the Check Transmittal Form) to:  
Evergreen Boys & Girls State  
American Legion Department of WA  
PO Box 3917  
Lacey, WA 98509-3917

Following these steps ensures a smooth and efficient registration process for Evergreen Boys & Girls State. We appreciate your dedication to the program.

# Utilizing the Online Application System Effectively

The online application system is designed to complement, not replace, the crucial role of Post Chairpersons in personally reaching out to schools and recruiting delegates for Evergreen Boys & Girls State. As the Chairperson, you may receive data from the EBGs website indicating which students in your area have submitted online applications to attend EBGs. It's essential to proactively engage with these students promptly to maintain their interest and ensure they remain committed to attending the program.

When you receive this initial information from the EBGs website, it serves as your first indication of an application within your District or local Post area. Timely contact with the student is of utmost importance. Failing to do so might lead the student to explore other summer program options, potentially resulting in the loss of valuable candidates. We must act swiftly to avoid this situation, which regrettably occurs far too often each year.

Your urgency in reaching out to prospective delegates is vital to the success of our recruitment process. Your proactive engagement makes all the difference, preventing the unfortunate loss of potential participants.

EBS Website Application via shr.prod.phx3.secureserver.net		Oct 5 (2 days ago)
Name:	Jim (fictitious Name )	
Street Address	POB 77	
City	Big	
State / Province / Region	WA	
Postal / Zip Code	98756	
Phone:	509 777 7777	
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:Big4@gmail.com">Big4@gmail.com</a>	
Age:	16	
Year in school for the 2015/2016 school year:	Junior	
Preferred T-Shirt Size:	Large	
Parent/Gaurdian Name:	June Smith	
High School:	Big High School-Full-time Running Start student at Wenatchee Valley College	
H.S. Counselor/Advisor Name:	Steven Jones	
H.S. Counselor/Advisor Email Address:	<a href="mailto:Extra@wednet.edu">Extra@wednet.edu</a>	
Any information relevant to your application you would like us to know :	<p>I have been a member of Boy Scout Troop 77 for five years and am planning on completing my Eagle Rank by next summer. This Troop is chartered through the American Legion Post #77, and my Scout Master, Walt Hart is a Legion Member. He has recommended I apply for Boys State. I am also a youth supervisor with Patrol Explorer's Post 77. I am always looking for ways to improve my leadership abilities, and know that Boys State is a unique opportunity and only a possibility the summer after my junior year in high school.</p> <p>The field for H.S. Counselor will not allow me to put in the correct email of <a href="mailto:Big@wednet.edu">Big@wednet.edu</a></p>	
How did you hear about Evergreen Boys State:	Local American Legion program volunteer	
Application Type		
I understand and accept these expectations :	Agreed	
I understand the local selection process may require more action/information from me:		

# Guidelines for Selecting EBGs Delegates

Post Chairpersons play a crucial role in selecting students to attend Evergreen Boys & Girls State. It's important to emphasize that this selection process isn't about comparing students against each other; rather, each student should be evaluated on their own individual merit to determine if they'd be a good fit for the program. There's no limit to the number of students a Post can select to attend. If your Post has more qualified students than available funding, don't hesitate to reach out to your District Chairperson and/or the EBGs office at [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org) for assistance in finding additional funding sources.

## Desirable Characteristics of Prospective Evergreen Boys & Girls State Citizens:

- **Passion for the Program:** A student should have a genuine understanding of the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program and a strong desire to attend.
- **Positive Attitude:** They should exhibit a positive outlook on life and demonstrate good citizenship.
- **Academic Performance:** While not a strict requirement, having a higher-than-average Grade Point Average is beneficial.
- **Recommendation:** A positive recommendation from a High School Advisor, Teacher, or Principal is a plus but is not mandatory.
- **Grade Level:** Students should be currently enrolled in the eleventh grade (Junior year) in high school and be returning as a Senior the following year.
- **First-time Attendee:** They must not have attended any previous Boys State or Girls State Program.

## Other General Characteristics to Consider:

- **Patriotism:** Demonstrates a strong sense of patriotism and a willingness to participate in their community, state, and nation actively.
- **Community Involvement:** Participation in community service and youth activities outside of school, such as Scouting, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H, FFA, Church, and other youth service organization programs.
- **School Activities:** Active participation in school activities, including student government, clubs, class projects, school publications, and sports.
- **Leadership Potential:** Exhibits leadership skills or shows potential for leadership roles and upholds strong moral and ethical standards.
- **Poise and Presentation:** Present themselves well and demonstrate poise.
- **Motivation:** Displays motivation and has both short-term and long-term goals, including plans for higher education and scholarship searches.
- **Work Experience:** Is or has been employed.
- **American Legion Affiliation:** Special consideration should be given to individuals with a family affiliation to the American Legion.

Please remember that the above are *suggested* guidelines. Keep in mind that individuals with a wide range of abilities shape the world. If you have an average student who genuinely seeks to attend Evergreen Boys & Girls State to learn and grow, we encourage you to consider their application with an open mind. Our program thrives on diversity, and every student brings unique qualities that contribute to its success.

# HANDOUT PACKET FOR DELEGATES

# General Information for Delegates

All essential information for selected Delegates will be accessible via the email address they provide and on the Evergreen Boys & Girls State website at ebgs-wa.org. This information will become available after we have received your completed Evergreen Boys & Girls State Registration Form via the online registration portal.

Once we have received your registration form, our office will send you (and your parents) important information and periodic program updates via email. Please ensure that you check your email regularly for updates and instructions. To ensure that you receive important updates and information from us promptly, we request that you add [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org) to your email contacts list. This will help prevent our emails from being misrouted to your junk or spam folder.

Stay connected and informed through our website and email notifications to ensure you have access to all necessary details.

## What to Bring to Evergreen Boys & Girls State

### Recommended Personal items:

To ensure a comfortable and productive experience at Evergreen Boys & Girls State, we recommend the following personal items:

**Toiletry Articles:** Soap, deodorant, washcloth, two bath towels, drinking cup, toothpaste, toothbrush, and shaving supplies. Maintaining personal hygiene is essential.

**Clothes Hangers:** To keep your clothing organized.

**Plastic Bags:** Useful for storing soiled laundry and damp articles.

**Sunglasses:** To protect your eyes from wind and sun.

**Eyeglasses:** If you wear contact lenses, it's advisable to bring your glasses and extra cleaning solution due to the windy conditions in Stanwood.

**Reusable Water Bottle:** Please help us reduce the number of disposable cups sent to the landfill!

**Religious Materials:** Feel free to bring any religious material for your personal use.

**Note-taking Materials:** A Citizens' Manual will be provided for your reference, and it has limited space for note-taking. If you value the act of note-taking on paper as a vital part of your learning process, it is advisable to come prepared with a notebook and pens or pencils for your personal use.

Please be prepared for the typical weather conditions in western Washington, which may include occasional wind and rain. As you will be living in a casual business setting and aspiring to hold high office within the State of Evergreen, you are expected to dress appropriately. You should dress in a manner that reflects the professionalism expected of public officials in similar circumstances. Depending on your role and responsibilities, you may need to adhere to specific dress codes as required by the program.

We want your experience to be enjoyable and successful, so please bring the following items and dress accordingly.

## Dress Codes

To ensure that you are appropriately dressed for various program events, Evergreen Boys & Girls State has established the following attire codes:

**Code "C" (Casual):** This attire is suitable for approximately 80% of your time at program events. It includes casual clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for most activities.

**Code "D" (Dress):** You will be required to wear dress clothing for at least two program events: the Friday Banquet and any time you wish to be on stage addressing your fellow delegates during the course of Evergreen Boys & Girls State. Dress attire should reflect the importance and formality of these occasions.

**Code "R" (Rest and Relaxation):** Approximately 10% of your time will be designated for rest and relaxation. During these periods, you are free to wear comfortable, casual clothing suitable for unwinding and leisure activities.

### Definition of Attire Codes

#### Code "C" (Casual Clothing)

- Long pants such as jeans, Dockers-style, and slacks.
- Dress or semi-dress shirts and sweaters.
- Dress walking shorts (knee-length with hems, not sports or athletic-style shorts) with an appropriate shirt for warm weather.
- Sweatshirts in their original condition for appropriate casual dress times.
- Casual jackets and sweaters for evening wear.
- Consider bringing a rain jacket.
- Adequate underclothing and extra socks.
- Comfortable, casual shoes suitable for walking.
- Slippers or shower shoes for use inside or outside dorm rooms or buildings; barefoot walking is not allowed. Open-toe footwear (e.g., sandals/flip-flops) should remain within the dorm area.
- Do not bring T-shirts that advertise any restricted products of Evergreen Boys & Girls State, gang-related shirts or colors, shirts with inappropriate content, worn-out or torn clothing, or old military attire.

#### Code "D" (Dress Clothing)

Semi-formal attire is expected for certain occasions, such as when performing official duties on stage or participating in campaigns for higher office. Please pack more than one set of appropriate clothing. For male delegates, this would include dress shirts, slacks or dress pants, a tie, a sport coat or suit, and dress shoes. Female delegates should bring equivalent business-style attire suitable for these settings.

Note: If students do not have dress clothing, they should not feel restricted from attending. Please don't feel like you need to go out and purchase expensive dress clothing! We suggest checking out local thrift stores, such as Goodwill or Value Village. Additionally, the sponsoring Post may provide financial assistance if needed. Wearing a dress shirt, tie and dress slacks with casual shoes is acceptable (or similar for females).

#### Code "R" (Rest and Relaxation, Free Time Dress)

During designated rest and relaxation times, various types of gym or sports clothing, including sweatpants and athletic wear, are allowed. Shirts must always be worn outside of the buildings.

## **Money**

During the week at Evergreen Boys & Girls State, Citizens will only require a small amount of cash – we suggest bringing no more than \$25. All Citizens are provided an Evergreen Boys & Girls State T-shirt during in-person registration.

At Warm Beach Conference Center vending machines will be accessible to Citizens throughout the week. These vending machines offer a variety of options, including sodas and snacks, for those who wish to enjoy refreshments outside our regularly scheduled meal times. Please bring small-denomination currency, as the change machine can only dispense change for \$5 bills.

## **Smartphones, Tablets & Laptop Computers**

While there is no specific requirement for smartphones, tablets, or laptop computers to participate in the program, most Citizens find having these devices extremely handy during the week. They can provide access to the internet and assist with various tasks such as research or note-taking. Internet access is free during the week.

Please note that while we take security seriously throughout the conference center, Evergreen Boys & Girls State cannot assume responsibility for any lost personal electronic equipment, including smartphones, tablets, or laptop computers.

Citizens are encouraged to use these devices responsibly and take necessary precautions to safeguard their personal belongings.

## **Valuables & Personal Items**

For your convenience and safety, we strongly advise against bringing valuable items, including jewelry, to Evergreen Boys & Girls State. Please refrain from bringing anything of significant value.

Evergreen Boys & Girls State does not assume responsibility for any lost personal articles, clothing, jewelry, electronics, or money during the program. We do not offer item check-in or safekeeping services throughout the week.

## **Insurance Information**

At Evergreen Boys & Girls State, we prioritize the health and safety of all participants. We take every precaution to minimize the risk of accidents and illness.

For participants who do not already have group accident, sickness, or medical insurance coverage, we provide coverage through a group policy for this event. It's important to note that this policy serves as excess coverage, meaning it complements any other valid and collectible group insurance plans that participants may have. (Please note that this exclusion does not apply to individual accident and sickness policies.)

If unforeseen circumstances necessitate the use of this insurance program, you will receive more detailed information directly from Evergreen Boys & Girls State at that time.

Your well-being is our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring a safe and secure experience for all participants.

## Dining at Warm Beach Conference Center

Warm Beach Conference Center is dedicated to offering nourishing meals served buffet-style in their dining facility. These meals are intended to cater to a diverse range of dietary needs and preferences. While individualized meal plans are not available, guests with specific dietary restrictions are more than welcome to bring supplementary food items to complement the provided menu. In some instances where cross-contamination is a significant concern, guests are requested to provide their own food, as Warm Beach Conference Center may be unable to accommodate these situations.

The facility has designated areas equipped with refrigerators, microwaves, and ample counter space where you can prepare and store your supplemental items. Peanuts are not used in the preparation of any foods by the conference center, nor are they available in the vending machines on the premises.

If you'd like to get a better sense of the menu options, a sample menu can be provided upon request. We are committed to ensuring that your dining experience at Warm Beach Conference Center is both satisfying and accommodating to your dietary needs.

If you have any specific dietary concerns or require further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

## Emergency Contact Information During the Week

If you need to contact the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Office, you have several options to reach us:

Through Warm Beach Conference Center: You can visit our website at [ebgs-wa.org](http://ebgs-wa.org) for contact details. The Warm Beach Conference Center can assist you in reaching us at any time.

**Emergency Messages:** For emergency messages, rest assured that they will be promptly forwarded to the Director twenty-four hours a day.

**Email Contact:** You can send inquiries or messages to [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org). Our email mailbox is actively monitored between 6am and 11pm throughout the week, and we aim to respond promptly.

**Phone Contact:** During the week of the Evergreen Boys & Girls State program, we will have a dedicated phone line in the Evergreen Boys & Girls State office. The phone number will be published on our website so you can reach us during this time.

Your feedback and questions are important to us, and we are committed to providing timely assistance and support. Please feel free to utilize any of the above methods to get in touch with us.

## Citizen Mailing Address

{Citizen's Name}  
c/o Evergreen Boys & Girls State  
Warm Beach Conference Center  
20800 Marine Dr  
Stanwood, WA 98292

# Advance Preparations Suggested

To ensure a productive and fulfilling experience during Evergreen Boys & Girls State week, we strongly encourage each Citizen to take advantage of the following opportunities for advanced preparation:

**Preview the Citizen's Manual:** The Citizen's Manual for the prior year, an essential guide to the program, is available for preview on our website before the start of Evergreen Boys & Girls State. The current year's manual will be posted about a week before the beginning of the program in June. We highly recommend that each Citizen takes the time to review this resource.

**Familiarize Yourself with Parliamentary Procedure:** As an integral part of the program, understanding parliamentary procedure is essential. We recommend Citizens acquaint themselves with the basics of how it works.

**Explore Opportunities for Public Office:** Citizens will have the chance to run for public office at various levels of government, including city, county, and state, as well as the judicial system. To prepare, consider contacting current elected officials to gain insights into their roles and responsibilities.

**Learn About Local Political Parties:** Discover the local political party system in your area. You can reach out to members of political parties to understand their functions and how the political party system operates locally.

**Stay Informed on Current Political Issues:** To engage actively in discussions and debates, it's beneficial to stay informed about current political issues. You can do so through various sources like television news, magazines, newspapers, and online news services.

By proactively engaging in these activities, you will be well-prepared to participate actively in Evergreen Boys & Girls State and make the most of this unique experience.

## Additional Suggested Preparation

As part of your preparations for Evergreen Boys & Girls State, consider these additional items to enhance your understanding and participation:

**Glossary of Terms:** Familiarize yourself with the Glossary of Terms provided online. Understanding these terms will be valuable during discussions and debates.

**How a Bill Becomes a Law:** Study the process of how a bill becomes a law. Online materials are available to help you grasp this fundamental aspect of governance.

**Draft a Bill:** Utilize the provided Bill form to draft your own bill. Ensure you use the proper bill-enacting clauses for a comprehensive understanding of the legislative process.

## Calling Trumpet/Bugle Players!

We are always looking for talented musicians interested in participating in playing for our opening and closing flag ceremonies each day. If you have a knack for playing the trumpet or bugle and would like to contribute to these ceremonies, please contact us at [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org).

## National High School Oratorical Program

Evergreen Boys & Girls State hosts an abbreviated version of the Constitutional Speech Contest, inspired by the American Legion's National Scholarship Contest. This program offers a platform for those with an interest in public speaking to showcase their talents. It's an excellent opportunity to exercise your skills and make your voice heard.

### Samsung Scholarship Application

Please take time to verify your eligibility and apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. The information can be found here: <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>. The State Samsung winner will receive – at a minimum – an award of approximately \$1,250. The State winner's application will be forwarded to compete for a National Scholarship Award of \$5,000 or \$10,000.

If you are eligible to apply, you will want to start working on this now as it is a very involved application. Attention to detail is very important as ultimately you are applying for a \$10,000 scholarship. Also please note that if you are directly related to a Korean War veteran you will want to utilize their documentation for your eligibility as it provides a few extra points on the application.

## Family Day and Closing Ceremonies

Your family is invited to join us for the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Family Day and Closing Ceremonies event, scheduled for approximately 8:00 a.m. on Saturday (subject to revision). We welcome all attendees, including families of EBGs Citizens, members of sponsoring organizations, school officials, alumni, and the general public, to the Family Day breakfast.

- **Family Day Breakfast:** A breakfast meal will be served and will require an admittance fee, as charged by Warm Beach Conference Center. Public attendees may purchase breakfast tickets beginning in June by using the link on our website. Please note that there is no cost for attendance at the graduation portion of the event for those who do not wish to partake in breakfast.
- **After the Closing Ceremonies, Citizens will have a City Meeting attendance obligation.** This is the final gathering of your city where Evergreen Boys & Girls State Certificates and Pins will be awarded to those attending the final City Meeting on Saturday morning.

FORMS

# The American Legion Department of Washington

## Evergreen Boys & Girls State Selection Evaluation Guidelines

This evaluation tool is offered as guidance for the Recruiters. The evaluation process remains at the discretion of the individual American Legion Post Selection Committees. This is offered only as a guideline to assist in your selection process.

**Name of candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

It is recommended that scoring be on a 10-point basis. 1 being unacceptable, 5 being average, and 10 showing high understanding, each group should have one spokesperson to ask the questions and give information about the program. All committee members should score each applicant at the same time. Plan a selection process of 10 to 15 minutes for each candidate.

### Observations

1. The **Application Form** itself can tell you a lot. Is the form properly filled out? Is it legible? Is it downloaded, and on appropriate paper? **(Score \_\_\_)**
2. **Personal appearance** - How are they dressed? Are they well groomed? (*Taking into consideration current fashion styles and fads*) Do they appear to fit into what should be considered as normal high school student dress? Are they respectful to you as an adult, and the adults around them? (*Have you created an atmosphere of respect for them to react to?*) **(Score \_\_\_)**
3. Are parents present at the selection process? **(Y/N)** (Where possible, parents should be invited to student interviews.)

### **Important Teaching Questions**

1. How did you find out about Evergreen Boys & Girls State? What do you think you do at Evergreen Boys & Girls State? Why do you think you should be selected and sponsored to attend Evergreen Boys & Girls State? **(Score \_\_\_)**
2. **Can you stay for the entire week if selected?** (June 21st thru June 27th, 2026, noon till noon is required) If the answer to this question is NO, explain the requirements. **(The only acceptable answer here is YES)**

### **Student General Information**

1. What school activities are you involved in? **(Score \_\_\_)**
2. What activities are you involved in outside of school? **(Score \_\_\_)**
3. What is your high school GPA? (Grade Point Average) **(Score \_\_\_)**
4. What have you considered doing after high school? College, Military, job, etc. **(Score \_\_\_)**
5. Are you going to apply for Evergreen Boys & Girls State Scholarships? **(Y/N)**
6. Define leadership? What leadership activities are you involved in? **(Score \_\_\_)**
7. Define Patriotism? Have you ever been involved in any patriotic activities? **(Score \_\_\_)**
8. Explain Citizenship? Are you a good Citizen? **(Score \_\_\_)**
9. Have you ever been involved in student government? **(Score \_\_\_)**
10. Why are you a good representative of your school? **(Score \_\_\_)**

### **Committee Scored Questions** (scored after interview)

1. Is this the kind of student that is representative of our local school district? **(Y/N)**
2. Is this student willing to be part of Boys/Girls State and work within the system of the program? **(Y/N)**
3. Is this the student that I want to represent me, their school, and the membership of our Post? **(Y/N)**
4. Is this student going to be disruptive and influence others to follow their disruptive characteristics? **(Y/N)**

**YES, I recommend we send this student to Evergreen Boys & Girls State.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Score** \_\_\_\_\_



## Quick Reference for American Legion Evergreen Boys & Girls State 2026

### Dates

- Program Dates – June 21st through June 27th, 2026
- Registration forms must be submitted online
- The deadline for the Samsung Scholarship application is June 21st, 2026 (application is online and more info can be found at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>)

### Location and Time

- Location – Warm Beach Conference Center, Stanwood
- Registration times – June 21st from Noon-2:30 pm
- Family Day Breakfast – June 27th at 8:00 am (cost \$15/person)
- Graduation Celebration – June 27th at 9:00 am (no ticket required)

### Cost

- Cost per delegate – \$700 (total)
- Tuition – \$350 (usually paid by the sponsoring Post/District/SAL/Riders Chapter/Unit)
- Registration fee – \$350 (usually paid by the delegate at time of registration – this may be paid in advance as well)
- Financial aid is available up to the full cost to attend
- Please do not turn down a student due to a lack of funding – we will find funding to sponsor them!

### Website Links

- <https://ebgs-wa.org>
- <https://EvergreenBoysState.org/post-chairmen-and-recruiters-resources/> (resources page)
- <https://EvergreenBoysState.org/volunteer-application/> (volunteer to help out on site!)
- <https://tinyurl.com/EBS-EGS> (EBGS recruiters toolbox)
- Also find us on Facebook (@EvergreenBoysState, Instagram (@EvergreenBoysState) and Twitter (@WA\_BoysState)!

### Contact information

- **Chairman:** Tony Morea [Chairman@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Chairman@EvergreenBoysState.org)
- **Director:** <Director Name> [Director@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Director@EvergreenBoysState.org)
- **Administrative Officer:** Carol Reed [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org)
- **Evergreen Boys & Girls State Contacts:**
  - **East:** Mike Montaney [mmontaney@gmail.com](mailto:mmontaney@gmail.com)
  - **West:** Carol Reed [cmreed98058@hotmail.com](mailto:cmreed98058@hotmail.com)
- **Department Administrator/Registrar:** [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org)  
EBGS Registrar P.O. Box 3917, Lacey, WA 98509-3917



The American Legion Department of Washington  
*Evergreen Boys & Girls State*

[EBGS-WA.org](http://EBGS-WA.org)

**Tony Morea, Chairman**

Dear Evergreen Boys & Girls State Citizen and Parents,

On behalf of the Evergreen Boys & Girls State Board of Directors, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you and your family. You have been handpicked, sponsored, and are now officially REGISTERED as a 2026 CITIZEN of the Great State of Evergreen. This is a significant achievement, and we are thrilled to welcome you to our program.

In our illustrious 86-year history, Evergreen Boys & Girls State has played a pivotal role in the lives of more than 30,000 high school students. Many of them attribute their ongoing success to the invaluable experiences gained through this elite American Legion program.

The 2026 session of Evergreen Boys & Girls State will be held on the campus of Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood, Washington. The program officially kicks off with registration beginning at Noon on June 21st and concludes at 10:30 am on June 27th, 2026. You must arrive on time and remain actively engaged throughout the entire week. If you haven't prepaid your fees in advance, you'll need to settle the balance upon arrival and registration at Warm Beach Conference Center.

We encourage both parents and delegates to visit our website at [EBGS-WA.org](http://EBGS-WA.org). There, you'll find a wealth of information that will help you prepare for this remarkable event. In the lead-up to Evergreen Boys & Girls State, our office will also provide additional guidance to ensure you're well-prepared. Familiarizing yourself with the program's rules and requirements is crucial, so please take the time to review the provided materials. Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your sponsoring Post, your designated representative, or email us at [Office@EvergreenBoysState.org](mailto:Office@EvergreenBoysState.org).

We strongly encourage you to explore your eligibility to apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship, an excellent opportunity for financial support. You can find all the details here: <https://legion.org/scholarships/samsung>. The Washington State Samsung winner is guaranteed to receive an award of approximately \$1,250. Furthermore, the Washington State winner's application will be submitted for consideration in the National Scholarship Award competition, where awards of \$5,000 or \$10,000 are available. Evergreen Boys & Girls State also offers several other local scholarship opportunities during the program. You can stay updated on these through our website. Generally, about one in twenty students attending Evergreen Boys & Girls State this year will be awarded a scholarship from the program.

We eagerly anticipate meeting you in person this June, knowing that you'll relish the experience of becoming a member of the distinguished Washington State citizens' group, known as Evergreen Boys & Girls State Alumni.

Once again, congratulations on your selection, and we can't wait to embark on this incredible journey with you.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Morea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Morea, Chairman  
Evergreen Boys & Girls State  
American Legion Department of Washington



# Please Join Us For Family Appreciation Day

**Saturday, June 27th, 2026**

**Warm Beach Conference Center, 20800 Marine Dr, Stanwood, WA 98292**

**8 a.m. – Breakfast (ticket required)**

**9 a.m. – Awards and Graduation Ceremonies (no ticket required)**

Followed by the Citizens' final City meeting, Citizen and City Fellowship, Wrap-up (Pins and Certificates), and Dismissal

**Parents, Educators, and Legion Family Members Welcome to Attend**

## **Evergreen Boys & Girls State Breakfast**

**All guests MUST have pre-paid tickets to attend the breakfast.**

**Cost: \$15 per person**

Tickets are \$15 per person (to cover the cost of breakfast). Tickets may be purchased in advance online (below) starting in June, with a purchase deadline of 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24th, or in person at EBGs Site Registration on June 21st. All breakfast tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets bought online will be held at the door for pick-up on Family Day. Sorry, NO refunds of unused breakfast tickets.

**[EBGS-WA.org](http://EBGS-WA.org)**