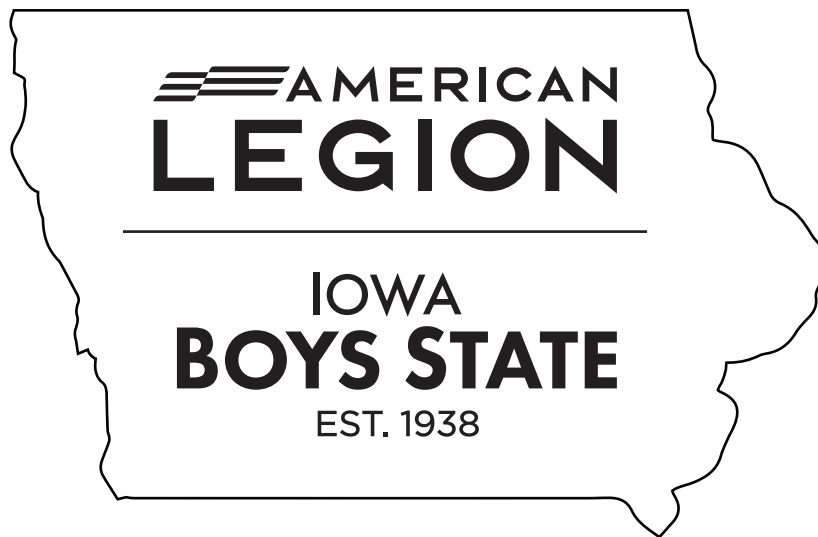




2026

IOWA BOYS STATE

CITIZEN'S MANUAL

JUNE 21-26, 2026

CAMP DODGE
JOHNSTON, IA

NAME: _____

CITY: _____

COUNTY: _____

LEADERSHIP | SERVICE | LEGACY

HISTORY OF BOYS STATE

A Legacy of Leadership

Boys State began in 1935 when two Illinois educators and veterans, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, launched a program that would teach democracy not through lectures, but through action.

With support from The American Legion, the inaugural Boys State was held on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Its mission was simple but powerful: To build better citizens by immersing young men in the structure and function of American government.

The model proved so effective that it quickly spread. Today, Boys State programs are held in 49 states and have impacted over one million participants, many of whom have gone on to serve as elected officials, military leaders, CEOs, and community change makers. (Including President Bill Clinton, Astronaut Neil Armstrong, and Basketball Legend Michael Jordan)

Founded in 1938, Iowa Boys State is one of the oldest and most respected Boys State programs in the nation. Each June, several hundred rising high school seniors from across Iowa gather for a week of immersive, hands-on learning.

They build entire cities, run for office, debate laws, argue court cases, and form political parties. They meet face-to-face with elected officials, visit the Iowa State Capitol, and hear from judges, journalists, and public servants. Delegates leave with a deeper understanding of how government works — and a stronger belief that they can shape it.

Fun Facts:

- It is the only Boys State conducted on an active military installation — Camp Dodge, the headquarters of the Iowa National Guard in Johnston, Iowa
- Iowa Boys State has only paused twice in its 88-year history: during World War II and the COVID-19 pandemic
- Iowa Boys State is fully funded by The American Legion and the veterans who make up the organization. These veterans believe in investing in the next generation of leaders — young people who will carry forward the ideals they fought to protect.



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IOWA BOYS STATE

iowaboysstate.org

SOCIALS



iowaboysstate



iowaboysstate



American Legion of
Iowa Boys State



Boys State Iowa



Photo / Video Content
Submission Form

WELCOME!

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to the 86th Session of the American Legion Iowa Boys State Program!

For 86 years, Iowa Boys State has served as a launching pad for young leaders across our state. From city halls to courtrooms, from legislative chambers to campaign trails, Boys State has empowered generations of Iowans to better understand and engage in the democratic process - and now, it's your turn.

You were chosen to attend this program because of the leadership qualities and academic standards you've already demonstrated. That's no small honor. This week, you'll join a community of outstanding students from across Iowa as you work together to build a government from the ground up. You'll elect leaders, pass laws, argue court cases, and learn firsthand how our system of government works.

But Iowa Boys State is more than a simulation. It's a challenge - to lead with character, to listen with respect, and to serve with integrity. As you get involved, find your voice, and step into roles of leadership, remember that this is your chance to grow—not just as a citizen, but as a person. The lessons you learn here will serve you far beyond this week.

We hope this experience inspires you, challenges you, and stays with you for a lifetime. Get involved. Be curious. Stand for something. And most of all, enjoy the journey.

Here's to a week of purpose, progress, and lasting memories.

With pride and anticipation,

Michael Vaughn

Director, Iowa Boys State

Jordan C. Pope

Deputy Director, Iowa Boys State



Mike with nephews, Patrick (IA Boys State '23) and Sean (IA Boys State '24).



Jordan accepting the Director's Appreciation Award.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

Dear American Legion Boys State Citizen,

Congratulations, and welcome to American Legion Boys State! On behalf of The American Legion, I am honored to welcome you to one of the most respected and selective citizenship programs in the nation. Your decision to participate places you among a distinguished group of young leaders who have chosen to step forward, learn, and lead.

American Legion Boys State is more than a program it is an experience. Here, you will engage in a hands-on approach to government, gaining a deeper understanding of how it functions and, more importantly, how it depends on the involvement of its citizens. This is a leadership action program designed to challenge you, stretch you, and equip you with skills that will serve you for a lifetime

You will quickly discover that government is not something distant or abstract it is shaped by those who participate. This program will show you that leadership, responsibility, and service are not just ideals, but actions. While the experience may be demanding at times, it will also be rewarding, memorable, and impactful in ways you may not fully appreciate until years from now.

Since 1935, American Legion Boys State has developed generations of young men who have gone on to serve their communities and nation with distinction. Among Boys State alumni are leaders in government, business, education, medicine, technology, and beyond. As you begin this journey, understand that the same opportunity lies before you.

Whether your future leads you into public service or another path, the relationships you build here and the lessons you learn will stay with you long after the program concludes.

As National Commander, I extend my very best wishes for a meaningful, engaging, and life-changing 2026 American Legion Boys State experience.

Dan Wiley
National Commander



Dear Boys State Delegate,

On behalf of The American Legion Department of Iowa, it is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the American Legion of Iowa Boys State program.

Congratulations on being selected to attend one of the most respected and impactful leadership programs in our nation. Your participation in Boys State reflects the confidence your school, family, community, and local American Legion Post have placed in your character, leadership potential, and commitment to citizenship.

For generations, Boys State has shaped young men into leaders by teaching the principles of government, democracy, public service, and civic responsibility. During your time at Boys State, you will have the opportunity to build friendships, engage in leadership activities, participate in mock government, and gain a deeper understanding of the freedoms and responsibilities we enjoy as Americans.

The American Legion believes strongly in investing in the next generation of leaders. As veterans who have defended our nation and its Constitution, we are proud to support programs like Boys State that help preserve the ideals of freedom, patriotism, and service to others.

I encourage you to take full advantage of every opportunity this week provides. Step outside your comfort zone, participate actively, ask questions, and challenge yourself to grow as a leader. The experiences and lessons you gain here can have a lasting impact on your future.

Most importantly, remember that leadership is not about titles or recognition—it is about service, integrity, and the willingness to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in your community.

Thank you for attending Boys State and for your commitment to becoming an informed and engaged citizen. We are excited to see what you will accomplish both during this program and in the years ahead.

Welcome to Boys State, and best wishes for a successful and memorable experience.

For God and Country,

Darrin Alderson
Department Commander
The American Legion Department of Iowa



STATE OF IOWA
KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR

June 2026

Congratulations on being selected to attend this year's Iowa Boys State! Over the course of this week, you will be provided with an incredible opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for government and the importance of being involved, informed, and engaged.

I am honored to reach out to you as the future entrepreneurs, leaders, and public servants who are ready to conquer the challenges that will shape the world in which live. The skills, network, and leadership that you acquire at Boys State will serve you well down the road. Especially as you emerge as the next generation of influential men.

I would also like to thank the American Legion of Iowa for sponsoring Boys State. They have been instrumental in inspiring young men like you to become the leaders who will pave the way for others to follow.

As Governor, it brings me such joy to know that there are so many young people in our state excited to learn more about and become involved in government. I hope this program is a truly memorable experience for you, one that fosters lasting friendships and a continued passion for politics. I wish you the very best and cannot wait to see which of you becomes Iowa's next U.S. Senator, Congressman, or Governor!

Sincerely,


Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa

STATE CAPITOL, DES MOINES, IOWA 50319 515.281.5211 FAX 515.725.3527 WWW.GOVERNOR.IOWA.GOV

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721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2106
(515) 288-1145

111 7TH AVENUE, SE, BOX 13
SUITE 6800
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

June 21, 2026

120 FEDERAL BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860

210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657

201 WEST 2ND STREET
SUITE 720
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817
(563) 322-4331

2146 27TH AVENUE
SUITE 550
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-6985
(712) 322-7103

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 86th annual session of the American Legion of Iowa Boys State. Congratulations on being among 300 of your fellow peer leaders participating in this historic tradition of civic enrichment.

As an Iowa Boys State alumnus, I was honored to represent New Hartford High School and soak up the week-long immersion exploring how government works. As a delegate, I discovered the importance of building coalitions to turn an idea into a solution. I also learned valuable lessons from defeat in my failed bid for elected office that week.

I hope each of you comes away from your experience like I did: hungry for more. I was inspired with an insatiable appetite to make government work better through civic engagement and citizen participation. I chose to answer that calling by running for elected office and went on to represent Iowans at the state and federal levels of government. From my decades of public service, I'd like to share two pieces of advice to carry with you during your week at Boys State and beyond.

First, outwork everyone else. And secondly, you can't be a leader without followers. And the best way to become a leader is to listen and then put in the work.

This year America is celebrating its 250th year of independence. It's more important than ever for Americans to learn from history and appreciate the hard-fought sacrifices that secured our God-given rights to pursue life, liberty and happiness. We cannot afford to take our freedoms for granted. From one generation to the next, beloved family members have answered the call to defend our cherished blessings of freedom and liberty. On Memorial Day, we honor the sons and daughters who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country, including four Iowans deployed to the Middle East who lost their lives this past year in the line of duty. We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the men and women who put their lives on the line to preserve our way of life.

Thanks to the sacrifices and support from veterans of the American Legion, the Boys State program continues to fulfill the bold mission started 90 years ago when a regime of tyranny threatened freedom in Europe and around the world. Nearly a century later, we see Russia's effort to resurrect the Soviet empire, conflict in the Middle East and American society challenged by divisive political polarization that undermines civic cohesion closer to home.

That's why programs like Boys State are more important than ever. It reinforces the tenets of citizenship, collaboration and civic responsibility that sow the seeds for better leaders to build stronger communities.

Have a great week. Keep in touch,


Chuck Grassley, Your Senator
Iowa Boys State alumnus 1950

Committee Assignments:

CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY

BUDGET
FINANCE

AGRICULTURE

JONI K. ERNST
IOWA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
260 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
PHONE: 202-224-3254
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WWW.ERNST.SENATE.GOV

United States Senate

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION
AND FORESTRY
SMALL BUSINESS
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CHAIRMAN
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

June 21, 2026

Dear Delegates,

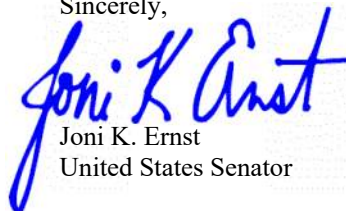
Congratulations on your selection to participate in the 86th annual session of Iowa Boys State! You are joining a proud tradition of leadership development and civic engagement that has shaped generations of young Iowans.

As a proud combat veteran, Iowan, and someone who has dedicated my life to service, I commend all of you for working to become informed, responsible, and engaged citizens. By taking part in this immersive camp, you are learning not only how government works, but why it matters and how you can get involved.

As a former member of the Iowa Army National Guard, I spent many meaningful days at Camp Dodge, and now, to see it serve as the training ground for tomorrow's leaders is both humbling and inspiring.

Thank you for stepping up and believing in something larger than yourselves. Our state—and our country—are better because of young leaders like you.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

Paul D. Pate
Iowa Secretary of State



State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

June 21, 2026

The American Legion of Iowa
Boys State
720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2026 Boys State program. The six days that you will spend in Iowa's capital city represent a unique opportunity in your life. Boys State is an immersive experience in civic education and leadership. As Iowa's Commissioner of Elections, it is my privilege to emphasize the vital roles that civic engagement, voting, and community involvement play in our democracy. You will often hear that you are the leaders of tomorrow. I submit that you are already living examples of leadership today. You are leaders now – in your homes, your schools, your communities, and your places of worship. Your selection as Boys State delegates is another example of that leadership.

In Iowa, you can register to vote at age 17 and cast your first ballot at age 18. When that day comes, I know you will take it seriously. You will be putting your leadership into practice in one of the most meaningful ways possible. You will have the opportunity to choose who represents you in government – from your local school board, city council, and mayor to representatives at the State Capitol and in Washington, D.C.

While you are in Des Moines, I hope you will stop by my office in the Iowa State Capitol to see Iowa's original 1857 State Constitution. This historic document is the foundation upon which all of our state laws rest. It is a powerful reminder that civic engagement is something that Iowans have taken seriously for generations.

Once again, welcome to the 2026 Boys State program. I hope this week challenges you, inspires you, and sends you home with a deeper commitment to civic engagement, our representative government, and the power of your vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul D. Pate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

Paul D. Pate
Iowa Secretary of State

515-281-6230

sos.iowa.gov

paul.pate@sos.iowa.gov

BRENNA BIRD
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ZACH HOFFMAN
CHIEF OF STAFF



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

1305 E. WALNUT ST.
DES MOINES, IA 50319
Main: 515-281-5164 • Direct: 515-281-5166
Email: zach.hoffman@ag.iowa.gov
www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov

June 2026

Dear Delegates,

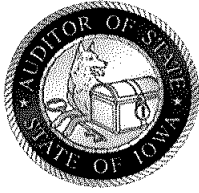
It is an honor to celebrate the tradition of the Boys State program. Congratulations to each of you for being a delegate—you will learn valuable tools that prepare you for life and leadership just as I did when I attended Girls State as a student.

I want to say a big thank you to the American Legion. It is because of the nearly 600 posts and 50,000 veteran members here in Iowa that we celebrate you today. The Legion has an outstanding history—because of it they are truly committed to our future. You are here because they are investing in the next generation of American leaders—people who will carry forward the patriotism and honor they fought to protect.

Sometimes we talk about big issues like patriotism and honor as if they are only theoretical, but they aren't. They are principles that push us into action. Justice is one of those principles, one I've always believed in strongly. Our country needs a justice system that is accessible, equally, to every citizen. As Attorney General of Iowa, my team and I work to uphold our state and federal laws and Constitution. We fight to keep criminals off the street and in prison where they belong. We work to bring victims of crime the restitution they need. We work to educate and protect Iowans against fraudsters and criminals. We back the blue and protect the freedom that our farmers and small businesses need to operate and contribute to our economy.

Thank you for your belief in the guiding principles of patriotism, honor, and justice. It is the reason men and women serve in our military, work as first responders, and commit to public service. Maybe it is the reason you speak up and serve in your school or community. I'm so grateful you do, and I'm even more grateful you are investing your valuable time to become the leaders Iowa needs in our future.

Brenna Bird



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0004

Telephone (515) 281-5834
www.auditor.iowa.gov

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

The American Legion of Iowa
Boys State
720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Delegates,

I was thrilled when I heard that you would be visiting your state capitol as part of this year's American Legion Boys State delegation! As a member of Iowa's elected leadership, I appreciate your willingness to engage and serve your community. Boys State is an important experience emphasizing civic engagement, public service, and commitment to our democracy. Your week in our capital city will be an experience you'll carry with you for years to come. As America celebrates 250 years, your presence here is a testament to its continued legacy in shaping future leaders.

Young leaders like you are the lifeblood of Iowa's communities, each with your own path to leadership and service. For me, my journey to public service is directly linked to the Sermon on the Mount, which reminds us to treat others the way we want to be treated. That's why you've stepped up to be a leader in your respective roles, and why I'm sure you'll continue to do good work as you continue to make your mark on our state and nation.

I hope you enjoy the experience of visiting your state capitol, and always remember that you belong in places where decisions are being made—regardless of your background or station in life. I hope you take the time to visit the State Auditor's Office during your visit to the Iowa State Capitol, as the State Auditor's role is unique among Iowa's elected officials. As a constitutional official, the State Auditor is beholden to the people of Iowa as the taxpayers' watchdog—rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars—that's why the seal of our office depicts a watchdog guarding a key next to a treasure chest.

Once again, welcome to this year's Boys State program! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff if there is anything we can do to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Rob Sand
Iowa Auditor of State



Roby Smith
Treasurer of State

Capitol Building
1007 E Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

June 21, 2026

The American Legion of Iowa
Hawkeye Boys State
720 Lyons Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Boys State Delegates,

On behalf of the State of Iowa and the Treasurer's Office, I want to welcome you to 2026 Hawkeye Boys State and Iowa's capitol city. Throughout the next six days, you will be challenged to build local, county and state governments while immersing yourself in activities that will challenge you, just like your elected officials at all levels are challenged each day.

Gentlemen, you are about to embark on an experiment 250 years in the making. As you begin to establish the Hawkeye Boys State Government, I encourage you to be fiscally responsible and transparent as you establish your respective offices. As you take on roles in Boys State throughout the next week, your constituency will hold you accountable – and that is something you will want to remember as you move forward leading the future.

Once again, congratulations and welcome to this year's Boys State program. I hope you are able to make friendships that last a lifetime and that this week's experience will inspire your civic engagement for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roby Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly legible.

Roby Smith
State Treasurer of Iowa

June 22, 2026

Boys State Delegate
The American Legion of Iowa
720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Delegate,

Congratulations on being selected by your local American Legion Post to be a delegate to the 2026 Iowa Boys State program! You have an incredible opportunity before you to learn about the structure and function of American government while making new friendships that can last a lifetime. Boys State has had lasting impact on many young men across Iowa, and I trust it can do the same for you.

While you participate in this week's activities, I encourage you to reflect on our country's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. More than two centuries ago, young men not much older than you played critical roles in founding our nation. Thomas Jefferson was 33 years old when he drafted the Declaration of Independence, and many even younger than him gave their lives fighting for American freedom during the Revolutionary War. Their legacy continues to inspire each new generation of Americans, shaping our lives today.

The future of America as well as Iowa depends on leaders willing to serve, solve problems and give back to their communities. The lessons you learn this week will help prepare you for future responsibilities and opportunities. Congratulations again on this well-deserved honor. It is my hope that your Boys State experience will help inspire a strong desire to serve your community, Iowa and our great nation.

Sincerely,



Mike Naig
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

Civic Engagement and Citizenship at Iowa Boys State

At Iowa Boys State, we believe leadership is more than just a title, it's a mindset. That's why we've built our program around LEADS, a guiding acronym that reflects the core values we aim to develop throughout the week: **Learn, Engage, Accept, Do, and Share**. As a delegate, you'll experience each part of LEADS through hands-on activities, discussions, and real-world simulations. Whether you're running for office, working with your city, or stepping into a new challenge, LEADS will help you grow into the kind of leader your community needs.



BOYS STATE **LEADS** TOMORROW'S LEADERS



L

LEARN

Boys Staters learn about the different offices / roles and about other delegates

E

ENGAGE & ELECT

Boys Staters meet one another and share why they desire the different roles and campaign on why they are the best candidate

A

ACCEPT

Boys Staters accept their roles and learn more about their importance in the governing process

D

DO

Boys Staters enact their roles to the best of their ability

S

SHARE

Boys Staters present their week to their communities, posts, and help recruit future Boys Staters while supporting the program monetarily and through service

IOWA BOY'S STATE PLEDGE

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW

As citizens of The American Legion of Iowa Boy's State, I voluntarily make the following pledge:

1. I will conduct myself with dignity becoming a citizen of Iowa Boy's State; and reflect the values of the American Legion and Boy's State at all times.
2. I will endeavor to adopt the mindset of the Iowa Boy's State LEADS leadership mantra (Learn, Engage & Elect, Accept, Do and Share).
3. I will act in a fair and honest manner with my fellow Boy's State citizens, accepting and respecting individual thoughts and ideals contrary to my own.
4. I will at all times respect the Flag of the United States of America and the service personnel/ veterans who serve/served to protect our Country's freedom.
5. I will respect the judgment of Iowa Boy's State and Iowa National Guard staff. I recognize I am a guest of the Iowa National Guard and will treat Camp Dodge's grounds and facilities with utmost care.
6. I will be attentive and respectful to all speakers and presenters throughout the week.
7. I will take a serious and conscientious interest in discharging my duties as a citizen of Boy's State. If I am elected to office, I will serve that office to the best of my ability.
8. I am not a member and do not subscribe to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government.
9. I will stay in the designated Camp Dodge boundaries assigned to Iowa Boy's State, except if escorted by Iowa Boy's State staff, during the length of the Boy's State program.
10. I will make a formal report, written or oral, of my impression of the Iowa American Legion Boy's State to the Post which sponsored my attendance.
11. I will challenge myself to be a more engaged citizen in my school and home community, seeking opportunities to positively impact others based on my Boy's State experience. This includes speaking to my school's junior class and thoughtful consideration of supporting future Boy's State programs and activities.

DELEGATE NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 | Building a Brotherhood

“You’ve just stepped into a new world—one where your voice matters, your choices count, and your story begins.”

Time	Activity	Location
09:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Check in for Delegates	C31-H
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Optional Band Practice	Starship
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Delegates move luggage to Starship	Starship
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch - With Your City	C31A
12:15 PM - 01:30 PM	Choir Practice	C31-H
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM	County Counselor Meeting	County Counselors Direct
01:30 PM - 03:00 PM	City Meeting - Orientation	See Map
03:00 PM - 03:15 PM	Moving as a Unit	Cities to C31-H&G
03:15 PM - 04:45 PM	General Assembly	C31-H&G
04:45 PM - 06:00 PM	City Party Meetings	See Map
04:45 PM - 06:00 PM	State Patrol/Lawyers/MSP Meet	As Assigned
05:30 PM - 06:00 PM	Color Guard Meeting	C31-H&G
06:00 PM - 09:30 PM	Boys State Fair	C31-H&G / Activity Space
06:00 PM - 07:15 PM	Dinner	C31A
07:00 PM - 08:00 PM	State and County Special Committees (Credentials/Rules)	C23
08:30 PM - 09:30 PM	Junior Counselor Program	C23
09:30 PM - 10:30 PM	Settle into Barracks	Starship
10:00 PM - 10:30 PM	Athletic Captains Meet	Starship Dining Hall
10:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Daily Recap	Starship
11:00 PM	Lights Out	B Buildings

MONDAY, JUNE 22 | Government in Action

“The foundation of leadership is knowledge—because you can’t lead what you don’t understand.”

Time	Activity	Location
06:00 AM	Wakeup	Starship
06:10 AM - 06:15 AM	Color Guard Meeting	Starship
06:15 AM - 06:30 AM	Flag Raising / Calisthenics / Sick Call	Starship
06:30 AM - 06:40 AM	All Staff Meeting (City & County Counselors Meet)	Starship
06:40 AM - 07:40 AM	Breakfast (Wear your Khakis & Boys State Polo)	C31A
07:00 AM	Band Bus to Capitol	Outside S70
07:45 AM - 08:00 AM	Load Buses to Capitol	Outside S70
09:00 AM	Arrive at the Capitol + Camp Photo	Iowa State Capitol
09:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Time at the Capitol	Iowa State Capitol
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Depart from Capitol to Camp Dodge	Drop off at S70
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM	Photographs	C31-G
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM	Lunch - With Your City	C31A
12:30 PM - 01:00 PM	Choir Practice	C31-H
01:30 PM - 03:00 PM	Athletics	See Map
03:30 PM - 06:00 PM	State Patrol/Lawyers/MSP Meet	As Assigned
03:30 PM - 06:00 PM	State Caucus & Conventions by Party / Campaign Planning	C31-H&G
06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Dinner	C31A
06:15 PM - 07:00 PM	Band Practice	C31-H&G
07:00 PM - 08:00 PM	City Meeting	As Assigned
08:10 PM - 08:20 PM	Color Guard Meeting	Starship
08:20 PM	Flag Lowering	Starship
08:30 PM - 09:30 PM	Lawyers / MSP / State Patrol	As Assigned
08:30 PM - 09:30 PM	Junior Counselor Program	TBD
09:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Party PAC Meetings	C31-H&G
10:00 PM - 11:00 PM	State Primaries	C31-H&G
11:00 PM - 11:30 PM	Daily Recap	Starship
11:30 PM	Lights Out	Starship



TUESDAY, JUNE 23 | Hometown Highlights Day

*“You don’t have to be the loudest voice—just the most authentic one.
Lead with your why.”*

Time	Activity	Location
06:00 AM	Wakeup	Starship
06:10 AM - 06:15 AM	Color Guard Meeting	Starship
06:15 AM - 06:30 AM	Flag Raising / Calisthenics / Sick Call	Starship
06:30 AM - 06:40 AM	All Staff Meeting	Starship
06:40 AM - 07:40 AM	Breakfast	C31-A
06:55 AM - 07:40 AM	Choir Practice	C31-H
07:40 AM - 08:00 AM	City Rooms Inspection	In Cities
08:00 AM - 09:00 AM	City Meeting - Voting for House and Senate	In Cities
08:30 AM - 10:30 AM	State Candidates prepare for Meet & Greet	C23
08:30 AM - 09:00 AM	County Rules & Credentials Committees Meet	C31-A
09:00 AM - 10:30 AM	State Patrol/Lawyers/MSP Meet	As Assigned
09:00 AM - 10:00 AM	County Conventions by Party	As Assigned
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Select Mayor and Treasurer Candidates	In Cities
10:30 AM - 11:50 AM	Meet the State Candidates	C31-H&G
12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Lunch	C31-A
12:30 PM - 01:15 PM	Band Practice	C31-H&G
01:15 PM - 03:45 PM	College and Career Fair / Athletics (Group 1)	S70 Lobby / Athletics
01:15 PM - 03:45 PM	Athletics / College and Career Fair (Group 2)	Athletics / S70 Lobby
01:15 PM - 03:45 PM	Campaigning and Speech Prep (County & City)	C31-A / Cities
03:45 PM - 04:15 PM	Meet the County Candidates	C31-H&G
04:15 PM - 05:30 PM	State Patrol/Lawyers/MSP Meet	As Assigned
04:15 PM - 05:30 PM	Senate, House & Judicial Nominating Committee	As Assigned
04:15 PM - 05:30 PM	Campaign Time for City & County Position	As Assigned
05:30 PM - 05:40 PM	Color Guard Meeting	Starship
05:40 PM - 06:00 PM	Flag Lowering	Starship
06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Dinner	C31-A
06:15 PM - 07:00 PM	Band Practice / Debate Prep	C31-H&G
07:00 PM - 08:00 PM	PAC Meeting	As Assigned
08:00 PM - 09:00 PM	General Assembly - Hometown Highlights	C31-H&G
09:00 PM - 09:30 PM	Gubernatorial Debate	C31-H&G
09:30 PM - 10:30 PM	Junior Counselor Meeting	As Assigned
09:30 PM - 11:00 PM	City Meeting	In Cities
11:00 PM	Lights Out	Starship



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 | Legionnaires' Day

“A title is just a word—what matters is what you do with it.”

Time	Activity	Location
06:00 AM	Wakeup	Starship
06:10 AM - 06:15AM	Color Guard Meeting	Starship
06:15 AM - 06:30 AM	Flag Raising / Calisthenics / Sick Call Election Results!	Starship
06:30 AM - 06:40 AM	All Staff Meeting	Starship
06:30 AM - 07:40 AM	Prepare Barracks for Inspection	Starship
06:40 AM - 07:40 AM	Breakfast	C31-A
07:40 AM - 11:30 AM	Lawyers to Justice Building	Judicial Branch Bldg.
08:00 AM - 09:00 AM	School of Instruction & Swear-in	Various Locations
08:00 AM - 12:00 AM	State Patrol/MSP Meet	As Assigned
09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Elected Officials at Work	Various Locations
12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Lunch	C31-A
12:15 PM - 01:00 PM	Choir Practice	C31-H&G
01:00 PM - 01:30 PM	Why Taxes? Explanation & Tutorial on Taxation	C31-H&G
01:30 PM - 03:00 PM	City Meeting (Taxes and Deeds)	In Cities
03:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Officials at Work / State Patrol / Lawyers / MSP	As Assigned
03:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Legionnaires Visit Officials	Meet in C3
05:00 PM - 05:30 PM	Joint Session of House and Senate (Governor's Address)	C23
05:30 PM - 05:45 PM	Color Guard Meeting	Starship
05:45 PM - 06:00 PM	Flag Lowering	Starship
06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Dinner - Governor's Mayoral Reception	C31-A
07:00 PM - 08:30 PM	Athletics	Athletics
08:30 PM - 09:00 PM	Band Practice	C31-H&G
08:45 PM - 09:00 PM	Color Guard Meeting	C31-H&G
09:00 PM - 10:30 PM	General Assembly	C31-H&G
09:00 PM - 10:30 PM	Junior Counselor Program	TBD
10:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Daily Recap	Starship
11:00 PM	Lights Out	Starship



THURSDAY, JUNE 25 | Working Together

“True leadership doesn’t wait for permission—it rises to the moment and does the work.”

Time	Activity	Location
06:00 AM	Wakeup	Starship
06:15 AM - 06:20 AM	Color Guard Meeting	Starship
06:20 AM - 06:30 AM	Flag Raising / Morning Announcements / Sick Call	Starship
06:30 AM - 06:40 AM	All Staff Meeting	Starship
06:40 AM - 07:40 AM	Cleanup Barracks	Starship
06:40 AM - 07:40 AM	Breakfast (Barracks Inspection while away)	C31-A
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM	National Guard Activities	As Assigned
12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Lunch	C31-A
12:15 PM - 01:00 PM	Band Practice	C31-H&G
01:00 PM - 05:30 PM	Elected Officials at Work	Various Locations
01:00 PM - 05:30 PM	State Patrol/Lawyers/MSP Meet	As Assigned
02:00 PM - 03:00 PM	City Room Inspections	In Cities
02:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Junior Counselor Session	As Assigned
05:30 PM - 05:45 PM	Color Guard Meeting	Starship
05:45 PM - 06:00 PM	Flag Lowering	Starship
06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Dinner	C31-A
06:15 PM - 07:00 PM	Choir Practice	C31-H&G
07:00 PM - 07:15 PM	Color Guard Meeting	C31-H&G
07:15 PM - 08:15 PM	General Assembly	C31-H&G
08:30 PM - 09:00 PM	Elected Officials in Office (Closing Offices)	As Assigned
08:30 PM - 09:00 PM	State Patrol/Lawyers/MSP Meet	As Assigned
09:15 PM - 10:45 PM	Talent Show	C31-H&G
10:45 PM - 11:15 PM	Daily Recap	Starship
11:15 PM	Lights Out	Starship



FRIDAY, JUNE 26 | Leaving a Legacy

“A title is just a word—what matters is what you do with it.”

Time	Activity	Location
06:00 AM	Wakeup	Starship
06:15 AM - 06:20 AM	Flag Raising / Calisthenics / Announcements	Starship
06:30 AM - 07:40 AM	Packing and Cleaning Barracks	Starship
06:40 AM - 07:40 AM	Breakfast	C31-A
08:00 AM - 09:00 AM	Final Cleanup of City Rooms	In Cities
09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	SHARE ACTIVITIES	In Cities
12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Lunch	C31-A
01:00 PM - 02:30 PM	General Assembly	C31-H&G
02:30 PM	Grab Belongings & Dismissal	In Cities



Civic Engagement and Citizenship at Iowa Boys State



The Role of Citizens in a Democratic Society

At Iowa Boys State, citizenship is more than just holding office—it is about actively engaging in government, society, and leadership. A strong and effective government relies on its citizens to be informed, involved, and dedicated to the common good.

The Foundations of a Thriving Society

A well-functioning government depends on key principles that every citizen should uphold:

- **Active Participation** – Every citizen at Iowa Boys State has a responsibility to contribute by voting, debating, and participating in discussions that shape the future of their city, county, and state.
- **Civic Responsibility** – Government functions best when its citizens take their roles seriously, whether by serving in office, upholding the laws, or ensuring ethical governance.
- **Respect for Law and Order** – A society can only prosper when its members follow the laws and work through proper channels to create change.
- **Engagement in Public Discourse** – Thoughtful discussion and debate lead to informed decision-making and progress.
- **Volunteerism and Service** – True leadership comes from serving others, whether through government, public service, or acts of kindness.

The Power of the Vote

Elections are the cornerstone of representative democracy. Every citizen has the right—and responsibility—to vote in elections at Iowa Boys State. Just as in real government, the legitimacy of elected leaders depends on broad participation. Citizens should take elections seriously by researching candidates, engaging in debates, and casting their ballots with confidence.

The Importance of Constructive Leadership

Leadership at Iowa Boys State is not just about holding office—it's about setting an example, building consensus, and striving for the betterment of society. Effective leaders listen, collaborate, and find solutions to the challenges their communities face.

Leaving a Legacy

Your time at Iowa Boys State is an opportunity to experience firsthand how government works and how leadership shapes a community. The lessons you learn here—about teamwork, decision-making, and civic engagement—will stay with you for a lifetime. Whether you serve in office or as an active citizen, you have the power to make a difference.

Democracy only thrives when its citizens are engaged, responsible, and committed to progress. At Iowa Boys State, you are not just learning about government—you are shaping its future.

NOTES:



Constitution of Iowa Boys State

PREAMBLE

We, the citizens of Iowa Boys State, in order to form a more perfect program, establish justice, ensure order, promote civic engagement, and uphold the principles of democracy, do ordain and establish this Constitution for Iowa Boys State.

ARTICLE I – BILL OF RIGHTS

- **Rights of Citizens** – All citizens are entitled to freedom, equality, and the pursuit of knowledge and leadership.
 - **Political Power** – The authority of Iowa Boys State is derived from its citizens, who have the right to self-governance and participation.
 - **Freedom of Speech & Press** – Citizens shall have the right to freely express their thoughts and ideas, subject to respect for others.
 - **Due Process** – No citizen shall be removed from Iowa Boys State without just cause and a fair hearing.
 - **Elections & Representation** – All citizens shall have the right to vote in free and fair elections.
 - **Assembly & Petition** – Citizens may gather to express concerns and propose initiatives to improve Boys State.
-

ARTICLE II – STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Iowa Boys State shall mirror the democratic government structure of Iowa, with three branches:

SECTION 1 – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- The legislative authority shall be vested in a General Assembly, composed of a Senate and House of Representatives.
- Legislators shall draft, debate, and enact laws in accordance with the values of Iowa Boys State.
- Laws passed by the General Assembly shall take effect upon approval by the Executive Branch or by override of a veto.

SECTION 2 – EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- The executive power shall be vested in a Governor, elected by the citizens of Iowa Boys State.
- The citizens shall also elect the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Secretary of Agriculture, and State Auditor.
- The Governor shall enforce laws, oversee the budget, make appointments and ensure the proper administration of Iowa Boys State.
- The Governor shall have the power to veto legislation, subject to legislative override.

SECTION 3 – JUDICIAL BRANCH

- The judicial authority shall be vested in a Supreme Court of Iowa Boys State.
 - The Governor shall appoint Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges.
 - The Supreme Court shall interpret laws and ensure justice in accordance with due process.
 - The court shall have jurisdiction over legal disputes arising within Iowa Boys State.
-

ARTICLE III – ELECTIONS & POLITICAL PARTIES

- Citizens shall be randomly assigned to one of two political parties: Federalist and Nationalist.
 - Elections shall be conducted for city, county, and state offices in an orderly and democratic manner.
 - Candidates may campaign and engage in debates to present their policy platforms.
 - No election shall be influenced by bribery, coercion, or other unfair practices.
-

ARTICLE IV – DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Citizen Responsibilities** – Every citizen is expected to engage in governance, participate in activities, and uphold the integrity of Iowa Boys State.
- **Government Officials** – Elected and appointed officials shall serve with integrity, ensuring that their actions reflect the values of the program.
- **Legislative Duties** – The General Assembly shall draft and enact laws that contribute to the betterment of Iowa Boys State.

- **Executive Duties** – The Governor and Executive Branch shall enforce laws and manage the administration of Iowa Boys State.
 - **Judicial Duties** – The Supreme Court shall resolve disputes and uphold the Constitution.
-

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

- Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any citizen of Iowa Boys State.
 - Amendments shall be debated and require a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly to be ratified.
 - The Governor must sign the amendment into effect unless overridden by a legislative vote.
-

ARTICLE VI – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- The Constitution of Iowa Boys State shall be the supreme law of the program.
- This Constitution shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of democracy and civic education.
- Any issues not explicitly covered in this document shall be resolved in a manner consistent with the spirit of the program.



Statutes of Iowa Boys State



1.01 AN ACT REGARDING IOWA BOYS STATE ATTIRE

All citizens of Iowa Boys State must wear the designated program shirt when required, as outlined in the Iowa Boys State Handbook.

1.02 AN ACT TO SPECIFY STATE BOUNDARIES

No citizen of Iowa Boys State is permitted to leave the premises occupied by Iowa Boys State during the session without permission from the Director of Iowa Boys State.

1.03 AN ACT TO SPECIFY CITIZEN EXPECTATIONS AND TO PROMOTE CITIZEN SAFETY

- All citizens must check in their car keys with Iowa Boys State staff and are not permitted to use their vehicles during the session unless approved by the Director.
- All citizens must respect the facilities, barracks, and personal property of others.
- Violence, bullying, harassment, or abuse of any kind will not be tolerated.
- In the event of an emergency situation such as a fire, tornado, or active threat, citizens should inform nearby staff and follow emergency protocols.
- All citizens must immediately notify Iowa Boys State staff in the event of a medical emergency.
- Violations of this Act may result in removal from Iowa Boys State.

1.04 AN ACT REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CITIZEN LAWS

Members of the Iowa Boys State Staff and program guests are exempted from Iowa Boys State citizen laws but must comply with all laws of the United States, the State of Iowa, and Camp Dodge/Iowa National Guard regulations.

1.05 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE SIZE OF CITIES AND COUNTIES

- All counties within Iowa Boys State shall have exactly two cities.
- All counties shall be of approximately equal size, to the extent space permits.
- All cities shall be of approximately equal size, to the extent space permits.
- No county shall be permitted to secede from Iowa Boys State unless approved by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor.
- No city shall be permitted to secede from Iowa Boys State or from their respective county unless approved by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor.

1.06 AN ACT TO REGULATE POLITICAL PARTIES

- Two political parties shall be recognized by Iowa Boys State: the Federalists and the Nationalists.
- No citizen may be nominated for office in Iowa Boys State on any party ticket other than the two authorized by this Act.
- The division of the citizens of Iowa Boys State into two political parties shall be determined by a randomized process. No change in party affiliation shall be recognized.

1.07 AN ACT REGARDING CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

- Only materials issued by the Iowa Boys State staff may be lawfully used by any political party or candidate in a campaign.
- All campaign materials must be returned to the respective counseling member following the conclusion of the election.
- All campaign signs and posters must be removed within twenty-four hours after the election.

1.08 AN ACT REGARDING CAMPAIGN ENDORSEMENTS

Any candidate for office may endorse another candidate for any office. However, no adjustments can be made to the ballot after initial approval.

1.09 AN ACT TO OUTLINE ELECTION PROCEDURES

- No citizen at Iowa Boys State may be denied the right to vote for any reason.
- There shall be no campaigning within ten feet of a polling place. Violations may result in disqualification.
- Elections shall be administered by the Iowa Elections Commission, composed of Iowa Boys State staff. Results are automatically audited and cannot be contested.

1.10 AN ACT TO BREAK ELECTION TIES

In the event of a tie in any election, the winner shall be determined by a coin flip conducted by Iowa Boys State staff in the presence of the tied candidates.

1.11 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE OFFICERS REQUIRED TO PASS THE BAR EXAMINATION

- Citizens elected to serve as District Court Judge, Court of Appeals Judges, and Supreme Court Justices must be admitted to the Iowa Boys State Bar to qualify for office.
- Citizens elected to serve as City Attorney and County Attorney must be admitted to the Iowa Boys State Bar to qualify for office.

1.12 AN ACT TO DETERMINE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be selected by the elected members of the Supreme Court.

1.13 AN ACT REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

- Participants in extracurricular activities such as Band, Choir, and Color Guard are eligible to hold any elected or appointed office.
- Members of the State Legislature may not hold any city or county office but may be elected Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Secretary of Agriculture, State Auditor, or Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Citizens may hold one elected office at the city level or one at the county level but may not hold multiple elected offices.
- Any vacancy must be filled via appointment by the respective executive office within twelve hours of learning of said vacancy.



The Three Equal Branches of Government at Iowa Boys State



A Tripartite Government System

Iowa Boys State is governed through a tripartite system, meaning it is divided into three separate but equal branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. This system ensures that no single branch has absolute power, and each branch has specific responsibilities and powers that balance the others.

- **The Legislative Branch** makes the laws and represents the people.
- **The Executive Branch** enforces laws and manages government operations.
- **The Judicial Branch** interprets laws and ensures justice is upheld.

This separation of powers ensures fairness, accountability, and democracy in Iowa Boys State, just as it does in real-world government.

City Government

Legislative Branch

- **City Council** – Works with the mayor to draft and pass local ordinances.

Executive Branch

- **Mayor** – Serves as the chief executive of the city, overseeing all city operations.
- **City Treasurer** – Manages city funds and budgeting.
- **City Attorney** – Provides legal guidance and representation for city matters.

Judicial Branch

- **City Magistrate (Appointed)** – Oversees minor legal disputes and ordinance violations.

County Government

Legislative Branch

- **Board of Supervisors** – Establishes county policies and regulations.

Executive Branch

- **County Sheriff** – Serves as the chief law enforcement officer.
- **County Attorney** – Acts as the chief prosecutor and legal representative for the county.
- **County Treasurer** – Manages county funds and tax collection.
- **County Recorder** – Maintains property records and official documents.
- **County Auditor** – Oversees elections and financial accountability at the county level.

Judicial Branch

- **District Court (Appointed Judges)** – Handles local legal matters and county disputes.
-

State Government

Legislative Branch

- **State Senate and House of Representatives** – Draft, debate, and pass state legislation.

Executive Branch

- **Governor** – Serves as the chief executive of Iowa Boys State.
- **Lieutenant Governor** – Assists the Governor.
- **Secretary of State** – Manages elections and official state records.
- **Attorney General** – Acts as the chief legal officer.
- **Treasurer of State** – Manages state finances.
- **Auditor of State** – Ensures accountability and transparency.
- **Secretary of Agriculture** – Oversees agricultural policies and programs.

Judicial Branch

- **Appointed by the Governor, Supreme Court (Justices), Court of Appeals (Judges)** – Interprets laws and ensures legal fairness.

Separation of Powers in Action

Each branch checks and balances the others to prevent any single entity from holding too much power.

Laws are proposed and enacted by the Legislative Branch, enforced by the Executive Branch, and interpreted by the Judicial Branch.

Citizens elected to government offices work within this framework to ensure fair and effective governance.

This system ensures that all levels of Iowa Boys State government function efficiently, reflecting real-world democratic principles in action.

NOTES:

Offices and Positions at Iowa Boys State

Iowa Boys State operates a fully functional government at the city, county, and state levels. Citizens have the opportunity to run for and be elected to a wide range of offices that reflect real-world government structures. Below is a breakdown of the positions available.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Mayor	The chief executive officer of the city. Presides over city council meetings, appoints City positions, including the Chief of Police (with council approval), supervises city officers, and has emergency powers to maintain order.
City Council	Elected representatives who pass city ordinances, set policies, and oversee city functions. Appoints the City Clerk and other positions, and approves department budgets.
City Treasurer	Manages city funds, maintains records of transactions, and provides financial reports to the city council.
City Attorney *	Provides legal counsel for the city and represents it in any legal matters.
Chief of Police *	Oversees city law enforcement, maintains order, and ensures compliance with city ordinances. Appointed by the Mayor with council approval.
City Fire Chief *	Leads emergency response efforts and manages fire safety regulations.
City Health Officer *	Ensures sanitation and health regulations are followed within the city.
City Emergency Management Director *	Coordinates disaster preparedness and emergency response within the city.
City Clerk *	Maintains official records, documents, and city proceedings. Appointed by the City Council.

Positions marked with an asterisk (*) are appointed rather than elected.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Board of Supervisors	The legislative body of the county. Sets budgets, levies taxes, and oversees county policies.
County Sheriff	Chief law enforcement officer of the county. May appoint deputy sheriffs and oversee county jails.
County Attorney	Prosecuting attorney for the county, responsible for enforcing laws and representing the state in court cases.
County Treasurer	Collects and manages county funds, including taxes, licenses, and registration fees.
County Recorder	Maintains public records, including deeds, mortgages, and vital statistics.
County Auditor	Oversees financial accountability, audits county operations, and supervises elections.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor	Chief executive officer of Iowa Boys State. Oversees state operations, enforces laws, and has veto power.
Lieutenant Governor	Assists the Governor. Takes over duties if the Governor is unable to serve.
Secretary of State	Manages elections, maintains official state records, and registers businesses.
Attorney General	Chief legal officer of the state. Represents Iowa Boys State in legal matters and advises government officials.
Treasurer of State	Manages state funds, investments, and financial transactions.
Auditor of State	Conducts audits of state agencies to ensure financial accountability.
Secretary of Agriculture	Oversees agricultural policies, rural development, and land stewardship.
State Senators	Represent their districts in the legislative branch, propose and vote on laws.
State Representatives	Serve in the House of Representatives, working on legislation and state policies.
Supreme Court Justices *	Appointed by the Governor. Interpret laws and oversee judicial proceedings.
Court of Appeals Judges *	Appointed by the Governor. Interpret laws and oversee judicial proceedings.

Positions marked with an asterisk (*) are appointed rather than elected.

PARTY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Party Chair	Leads the political party, organizes meetings, and directs campaign efforts.
Party Secretary	Manages party records, documents meetings, and communicates party decisions.
Party Campaign Manager	Oversees campaign strategy and messaging for party candidates.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND SELECTED POSITIONS

State Patrol Officers	Train in law enforcement practices and assist in maintaining order during Boys State. Selected by city delegates
Law School Participants	Study the legal system, participate in mock trials, and qualify for judicial positions. Selected by city delegates.
Military Service Program Members	Participate in military training exercises and learn about armed service careers. Selected by city delegates.



APPOINTMENT BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Some positions at Boys State are appointed rather than elected. These roles ensure the government functions efficiently and provide key administrative support.

City Council Appointments	Mayor Appointments
City Clerk	Chief of Police
City Health Physician	City Street Commissioner
Fire Chief	
City Planning Commission (5-7 Members)	

Board of Supervisor Appointments	
County Engineer	County Medical Examiner
County Surveyor	County Assessor
County Compensation Board (5 Members)	District Court Judge
Clerk of the District Court	District Court Bailiff
County Extension Director	County Board of Social Welfare (3 Members)
County Care Facility Administrator	County Board of Veteran Affairs (3 Members)



Governor State Appointments	
Secretary to the Governor	Adjutant General
Assistant Adjutant General (Army)	Assistant Adjutant General (Air)
Commissioner of Public Safety	Industrial Commissioner
Labor Commissioner	Civil Rights Commissioner
Director, Dept of Commerce	Director, Dept of Corrections
Director, Dept of Cultural Affairs	Director, Dept of Economic Development
Director, Dept of Education	Director, Dept of Employment Services
Director, Dept of Human Services	Coordinator, Dept of Human Rights
Director, Dept of Inspection & Appeals	Director, Dept of Natural Resources
Director, Dept of Health	Director, Dept of Revenue and Finances
Director, Dept of Transportation	Job Service Commissioner
Lottery Commissioner	Superintendent of Banking
Superintendent of Credit Unions	Superintendent of Savings & Loans
Administrator of Veteran Affairs	Administrator of Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Other State Appointments	
Executive Director of Ag Development (Secretary of Agriculture)	Consumer Advocate (Attorney General)
State Geologist (Secretary of Agriculture)	DNR State Meteorologist (Secretary of Agriculture)
Deputy Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary of Ag)	Deputy Treasurer of State (State Treasurer)
Deputy Auditor of State (State Auditor)	Deputy Secretary of State (Secretary of State)

The Purpose of Political Parties

The Importance of Political Parties at Iowa Boys State

Political parties serve as a framework for elections, but their real power comes from citizen involvement. It is up to the delegates of each party to define their policies, support their candidates, and engage in healthy debate throughout the program.

Through this experience, Iowa Boys State citizens will gain a deeper understanding of political organization, campaign strategy, and leadership in a democratic system.

The purpose of a political party is to organize individuals who share similar views on issues so that they can persuade voters to elect their candidates, influence government policies, and enact legislation favorable to their platform.

While the Democratic and Republican parties are the most commonly known in the United States, Iowa Boys State operates under a two-party system consisting of:

- **The Federalist Party**
- **The Nationalist Party**

These party names have no predetermined platform or meaning. Instead, throughout the week, party members at the city, county, and state levels will define their own party ideologies, campaign priorities, and policy stances.

Party Organization

Each political party will form an internal leadership team to guide its members, create a platform, and support candidates for office. Leadership positions include:

Party Chair – Organizes and presides over party meetings, sets agendas, and ensures smooth operations.

Party Vice Chair – Assists the Chair in leading the party, oversees campaign strategy and messaging, and steps in when the Chair is unavailable.

Party Secretary – Keeps an accurate record of party proceedings, maintains records, and helps organize events.

These positions are selected during the Party Caucus held early in the week.

The Party Convention and Candidate Selection

During the Party Convention, members of each party nominate candidates for public office. The process differs slightly depending on the level of government:

City and County Offices: Nominated through a party convention, where party members in each city and county decide on their candidates.

State Offices: Candidates for statewide positions are determined through a State Primary Election, ensuring broad support from party members.

Once candidates are selected, parties begin full campaign operations, engaging in debates, speeches, and voter outreach.

Developing the Boys State Platform

A strong Boys State Program must develop a clear platform to inform its delegates and showcase what Boys State stands for. Delegates should carefully consider their ideals and principles when designing a platform.

A non-exhaustive list of issues that Boys Staters may consider includes:

- Education Policy
- Economic Development
- Public Safety and Law Enforcement
- Taxation and Government Spending
- Energy and Environmental Policies
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Health and Social Services
- Military and National Security
- Campaign and Election Procedures

Delegates are encouraged to develop clear, persuasive positions on these and other issues relevant to Iowa Boys State.

Sample Boys State Platform Issues

Issue	Position
Education	Ensure high-quality education for all students and promote funding for public schools.
Public Safety	Implement crime prevention policies and strengthen local law enforcement.
Elections	Advocate for fair and transparent election processes with voter accessibility measures.
Environment	Promote clean energy initiatives while balancing economic growth.

Delegates must work together to finalize their platform before the program ends, ensuring that their delegates have a consistent message.

If there is an idea or bill you are passionate about consider lobbying for it to be included in the Boys State platform. Raising awareness and convincing others to support these ideas is what makes Boys State fun and challenging at the same time. Share your passion with others, it can be helpful when you are campaigning during the week.

Parliamentary Procedure at Iowa Boys State

Parliamentary procedure is a proven set of rules that guide legislative meetings. It ensures order, protects minority voices, and promotes quick action. At Iowa Boys State, using these rules helps keep meetings fair, organized, and democratic.

Below are common motions, how to make them, and what rules apply.

TO DO THIS...	YOU SAY THIS...	INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	NEED A SECOND?	CAN IT BE DEBATED?	CAN IT BE AMENDED?	VOTE NEEDED?	CAN IT BE RECONSIDERED?
Adjourn a meeting	"I move to adjourn."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
Call an intermission	"I move to recess for..."	NO	YES	NO	YES	MAJORITY	NO
Complain of heat, noise, etc.	"I rise to a question of privilege..."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NOT USUALLY
Set aside consideration	"I move to table the motion."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
End debate and amendments	"I move the previous question."	NO	YES	NO	NO	$\frac{2}{3}$	NO ¹
Postpone consideration	"I move to postpone the motion until..."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES
Give closer study	"I move to refer the matter to committee."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES ²
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..."	NO	YES	YES ³	YES	MAJORITY	YES
Introduce business	"I move that..."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES

The motions listed above are in order of precedence. There is no order for those motions listed below.

Protest breach of rules	"I rise to a point of order."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO ⁴	NO
Vote on a ruling of the chair	"I appeal from the decision of the chair."	YES	YES	YES	NO	MAJORITY ⁵	YES
Suspend rules temporarily	"I move to suspend the rules so that..."	NO	YES	NO	NO	$\frac{2}{3}$	NO
Object to consideration of an improper matter	"I object to consideration of this motion."	YES	NO	NO	NO	$\frac{2}{3}$ ⁶	- ⁷
Verify a voice vote by a rising (standing) vote	"Division!"	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NO
Request specific information	"Point of information." "Point of inquiry."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NO
Take up a matter that was previously tabled	"I move to take from the table..."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
Reconsider a hasty action ⁸	"I move to reconsider the vote on..."	YES	YES	YES ⁹	NO	MAJORITY	NO

1 Unless vote on question is not yet taken

4 Except in doubtful cases

7 Only if main question/motion not considered

2 Unless committee has taken up this subject

5 Majority negative voted to revert ruling

8 Must be prevailing party to introduce motion

3 Only if the motion to be amended is debatable

6 $\frac{2}{3}$ negative vote to prevent consideration

9 Only if motion to be reconsidered is debatable

Selecting a Voting Procedure at Iowa Boys State

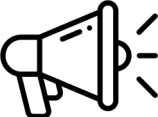


When we think about voting in the United States, the most familiar image is that of casting a ballot in a voting booth or by mail. This process is known as the secret ballot—a method that ensures each person’s vote is private and anonymous. This protects voter privacy and shields citizens from retaliation or social pressure.

At Iowa Boys State, a secret ballot can be conducted using slips of paper, an anonymous online form, or delegates raising their hands while others have their eyes closed.

In legislative bodies like the Iowa General Assembly or the United States Congress, public ballots or roll call votes are used instead. These make each vote a matter of public record. This allows the public to hold leaders accountable for their votes on legislation. But public votes can also be influenced by external pressure or peer expectations. At Iowa Boys State, public ballots can take the form of a visible hand raise, alphabetical roll call voting, or public online forms.

When speed is essential, a voice vote can be used. Delegates call out “aye” or “yes” if in favor and “nay” or “no” if opposed. The presiding officer then determines the outcome. While this is efficient, it may be imprecise, particularly in large groups. If there is any doubt about the outcome, a division of the house (such as a rising vote or public ballot) can be requested.

VOTING PROCEDURE	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
SECRET BALLOT 	1. Protects the privacy of all voters 2. Allows citizens to vote without fear of retaliation 3. No bias induced by the order in which votes are cast	1. May be difficult to hold public officials accountable without knowing their vote 2. May appear less transparent 3. May take time to count and report all votes
PUBLIC BALLOT 	1. Helps citizens hold public officials accountable for unpopular votes 2. Establishes clear order in which votes are cast 3. Unfolds in real-time and allows results to be immediately revealed	1. May bias results in favor of those who vote earlier in the process 2. May induce the possibility of retaliation for voting in opposition 3. May take more time to receive all votes
VOICE VOTE 	1. Helps to expedite procedural votes 2. Remains accurate for smaller groups 3. Allows results to be immediately known in a short period of time	1. May bias results in favor of louder voices 2. May not be accurate for larger groups 3. May lead to division and require a different process be used to confirm the results

Remember: This Is Your Boys State

It is the responsibility of the delegates at Iowa Boys State to decide which voting method is most appropriate for each situation. Whether at Party Caucuses, City Council meetings, or during legislative sessions, you and your fellow citizens choose how to vote. Each method has its pros and cons, and the best method depends on your group size, purpose, and need for transparency or speed.

The Role of Counselors at Iowa Boys State



Counselors are vital to the success of Iowa Boys State, serving as mentors, administrators, and role models for delegates throughout the program. Nearly all counselors are alumni of Iowa Boys State, returning to ensure the next generation of leaders gains the same meaningful experience.

Key Responsibilities

Supervising and Mentoring Delegates:

Counselors are assigned to oversee cities and counties, providing guidance on government functions, leadership, and teamwork. They help delegates understand procedures for elections, legislative sessions, and judicial activities.

Enforcing Program Rules & Maintaining Order:

Counselors ensure that delegates adhere to program policies, including attire, curfews, and facility rules. They serve as the first point of contact in case of conflicts or violations of Boys State laws.

Guiding the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Processes:

Counselors work with the legislative branch, guiding debates, bill drafting, and voting. They assist delegates in understanding executive roles such as Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State. For the judicial branch, they help oversee mock trials and legal proceedings.

Facilitating Elections & Campaigns:

Counselors explain the election process, ensuring fairness and encouraging full participation. They monitor campaign activities, ensuring compliance with campaign laws. Counselors also provide feedback and coaching on public speaking and leadership strategies.

Leading Daily Meetings & Discussions:

Counselors hold city and county meetings to review daily activities and prepare delegates for upcoming events. They provide a space for team-building and leadership development.

Assisting with Special Programs:

Some counselors specialize in programs such as:

- State Patrol and Law Enforcement
- Athletics and Recreation
- Military Service Program (MSP)

These specialized counselors ensure that each delegate has an opportunity to participate in the area that best fits their interests.

Supporting Emergency Situations:

Counselors are responsible for the health and safety of delegates. In case of emergencies (medical issues, inclement weather, or other concerns), counselors take immediate action, reporting to senior staff as needed.

Types of Counselors

City Counselors – Work directly with a city of delegates, helping them establish a local government.

County Counselors – Oversee multiple cities within a county, coordinating larger-scale legislative and judicial functions.

Senior Counselors – Act as mentors to younger staff members and ensure smooth program operations.

Specialty Counselors – Focus on specific programs (Law School, Military Service Program, Athletics, Band & Choir).

Conclusion

The role of a counselor at Iowa Boys State is a combination of mentorship, leadership, and administration. They ensure that every delegate has a transformative experience, learning about government and leadership in a hands-on way.

Meeting Participants

- All City Party Members Attend
- All persons attending actively participate and vote on action items

Meeting Purpose

- To introduce the delegates to each other, provide a brief orientation and overview of the goals for the week, and select candidates for special service positions representing the city.

Note: if you seek out and are selected to be a member of the following Special Programs: Highway Patrol, Military Service Program, you will be unable to run for an elected position and your job for the week will be as a participant in the special program. Law School participants are eligible to run for office.

- This is a City Meeting, the purpose of which is to organize policy and procedures within the City.
- The party's nominees for the various city offices will be chosen later at the city party convention.
- Citizens may hold both a leadership position within the city party and elected position at the city level.
- Meeting will end as a political party caucus.

Learning Objectives

- Citizens will understand the purpose and goals of Iowa Boys State.
- Citizens will understand how to organize and operate a meeting.
- Citizens will understand how to elect representatives of their city.

Agenda

TASK	ACTION ITEMS	PROCESS
1. Call to Order	The City Counselor signals the start of business	City Counselor, as presiding Chair, calls the meeting to Order. <i>"I call this meeting of the City of _____ to order"</i>
2. Introductions	Introduction of all City Members to each other	City Counselor coordinates the introduction of Delegates within the City to each other using the State of Iowa Map.

TASK	ACTION ITEMS	PROCESS
3. General Rules for the Week	Operating Procedure for the Week	City Counselor Staff reviews expectations and general rules for the week provided in the Counselor Handbook.
4.1 History of Iowa Boys State	Members report out on assigned topic	City Counselor asks for report from citizens assigned this topic.
4.2 Political Parties	Members report out on assigned topic	City Counselor asks for report from citizens assigned this topic.
4.3 Civic Engagement & Citizenship	Members report out on assigned topic	City Counselor asks for report from citizens assigned this topic.
4.4 Elected vs. Appointment Positions	Members report out on assigned topic	City Counselor asks for report from citizens assigned this topic.
4.5 Constitution	Members report out on assigned topic	City Counselor asks for report from citizens assigned this topic.
4.6 Parliamentary Procedure	Members report out on assigned topic	City Counselor asks for report from citizens assigned this topic.
4.7 Voting Procedure	Members report out on assigned topic	City Counselor asks for report from citizens assigned this topic.

AGENDA CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

5. Election of Temporary Chair	Temporary Chairman will conduct necessary business of the City until a permanent Chair is elected. Temporary Chairman position for each meeting will be rotated until a Mayor is elected.	Presiding Chair opens Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of Presiding City Chair”</i> Nominate interested candidates <i>“I nominate _____ for the position of Presiding City Chair”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) City Counselor closes nominations at the proper time. <i>“Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of Presiding City Chair”</i> Nominees are allowed and opportunity to speak. A 45 second time limit enforced by the Chair (or Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines the party chair.
6. Election of Temporary City Secretary	Temporary Secretary will record the results of business conducted until a permanent Secretary is selected.	Presiding Chair opens Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of Temporary Secretary”</i> Nominate interested candidates <i>“I nominate _____ for the position of Temporary Secretary”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) City Counselor closes nominations at the proper time. <i>“Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of Temporary Secretary.”</i> Nominees are allowed and opportunity to speak. A 45 second time limit enforced by the Chair (or Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines the party chair.

7. Election of Special Programs Participants	Presiding Chairmen lead the election of the following positions within the City: City Mailman (1 per city) Highway Patrol (2 per city) Lawyer (2 per city) Military Service Program (3 per city) Athletic Captains (1 per city) City Ops Team (2 per city) • Enforces Lights Out • Ensures delegates are present and lined up when traveling as city • Ensures delegates wearing appropriate attire for activities	Chairs open Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of ____.”</i> Nominate interested candidates. <i>“I nominate ____ for the position of ____ .”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) Chairs close nominations at appropriate time. <i>Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of ____.”</i> Nominees are allowed an opportunity to speak. A 30 second time limit enforced by Chair (or Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines. Election process repeated until all positions are filled.
8. City Party Caucus Elect City Party Chair	At this time the Delegates should split into their respective parties for the election of Party Leadership within the City. The Party Chair shall, after their election, preside over this and future party meetings.	Presiding Chair opens Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of Party Chair.”</i> Nominate interested candidates. <i>“I nominate ____ for the position of Party Chair.”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) City Counselor closes nominations at the proper time. <i>“Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of Party Chair.”</i> Nominees are allowed and opportunity to speak. A 45 second time limit enforced by the Chair or (Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines the party chair.

9. Elect City Party Vice Chair	The Party Vice Chair supports the Chair and may stand in for the Chair when action items are moved to committees or the Chair is absent.	Repeat the process from Task 8 for the Party Vice Chair.
10. Elect City Party Secretary	The Party Secretary takes notes at all party meetings and begins doing so immediately following their election.	Repeat the process from Task 8 for the Party Secretary.
11. Elect City Election Commission (2 per party)	The Election Commission collects, counts and submits election results to Party Chair and Secretary for proper recording and reporting.	Repeat the process from Task 7 for the 2 Party Election Commissioners.
12. Adjourn	Officially end the meeting	Vice-Chairs entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. <i>“I move we adjourn.”</i> A second to this motion is required Vote to adjourn. All in favor adjourning, signify by saying <i>“AYE”</i> All opposed, signify by saying <i>“NAY”</i> A simple majority is needed to adjourn.
13. Results Recorded and Submitted to Headquarters	Secretaries ensure all results of Party Caucus, special programs selection, athletic captains are recorded and reported to City Staff	Paperwork needed will be submitted to City & Party Secretaries as specific business is opened and closed during the election process

Meeting Participants

- City Members not selected as Members of Highway Patrol, Lawyers, Military Service Program
- All persons attending actively participate and vote on action items

Meeting Purpose

- This is a party convention to elect representatives to attend Special Committees
- This convention will also start the discussion of your Boys State Platform within the city.

Special Committees:

Each party in each City will select 2 citizens as delegates to the State Special Committee and 2 Citizens as delegates to the County Special Committee. The same citizens should not be elected to both Committees (State and County). One member of these delegates will be named as a member of the **Rules and Order of Business Committee**, the other on the **Credentials Committee**.

The duties of the **Rules and Order of Business Committee** will be to set up rules under which the convention will function, such as how long and how many times a delegate may speak on any subject, length of time given to any nomination speech, length of time and how many seconding speeches each nomination may have, number of votes necessary for the election of any candidate, etc.

The **Credentials Committee** will determine whether the duly elected delegates are in attendance and report to the convention the total number of votes that may be cast and such other matters as the committee may prescribe.

These convention committee members should prepare material to present at the meeting of their committee which will take place right after the General Assembly this evening.

THERE SHOULD BE 2 MEMBERS FROM EACH PARTY ASSIGNED TO ATTEND THE COUNTY CONVENTION AND 2 MEMBERS FROM EACH PARTY ASSIGNED TO ATTEND THE STATE CONVENTION. ALL MEMBERS WILL ATTEND A GENERAL INFORMATION SESSION AND THEN SPLIT INTO STATE AND COUNTY DELEGATIONS BY PARTY. EACH MEMBER SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO A RESPECTIVE COMMITTEE TO BE ADMITTED TO THE CONVENTIONS.

Agenda

This meeting will be by Party within the City, so each Party should have their designated meeting space from previous meeting in which to conduct business.

TASK	ACTION ITEMS	PROCESS
1. Call to Order	The Party Chair signals the start of business	The Party Chair calls the meeting to order <i>“I call this meeting of the (Federalist/ Nationalist) Party to Order”</i>
2. Special Committees	Members read background information on Special Committees	Party Chair asks members to alternate reading paragraphs on previous page.
3. Nominate State Representatives to Respective Committees	Members must nominate and select candidates to fill the roles of State Special Committees	Chair opens Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of _____”</i> Nominate interested candidates <i>“I nominate _____ for the position of _____”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) Chair closes nominations at the proper time. <i>“Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of _____”</i> Nominees are allowed and opportunity to speak. A 30 second time limit enforced by the Chair (or Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines the representatives.
4. Nominate County Representatives to Respective Committees	Members must nominate and select candidates to fill the roles of County Special Committees	Repeat the process from Task 3

5. Party Campaign Planning	The party discusses and develops their election platform and or Campaign Slogan within the City	
6. Adjourn	Officially end the meeting	Motion to adjourn the meeting. <i>“I move we adjourn.”</i> A second to this motion is required Vote to adjourn. All in favor adjourning, signify by saying <i>“AYE”</i> All opposed, signify by saying <i>“NAY”</i> A simple majority is needed to adjourn.
7. Results Recorded and Submitted to Headquarters	Party Secretaries ensure all results are recorded and reported to City Staff	Paperwork needed will be submitted to Party Secretaries as specific business is opened and closed during the election process

Meeting Participants

- All City Party Members attend
- All persons attending actively participate and vote on action items

Meeting Purpose

- This is a political party convention, the purpose of which is to nominate citizens to run for office
- Citizens may hold both a leadership position within the city party and elected position

Members of Highway Patrol and Military Service Program are unable to hold elected positions

Learning Objectives

- Citizens will understand how to organize and operate a meeting
- Citizens will understand the role of Members of the House of Representatives and Senate

Legislative Branch

The State Senators and State Representatives compose the legislative branch of state government. State Legislators are responsible for adopting, eliminating, and amending state statutes, confirming appointments by the Governor and approving a state budget.

Agenda

TASK	ACTION ITEMS	PROCESS
1. Call to Order	The Party Chair signals the start of business	The Party Chair calls the meeting to order <i>“I call this meeting of the (Federalist/ Nationalist) Party to Order”</i>

AGENDA CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

2. Senate	Each Party selects candidates to run for Senate vs. the Opposing Party The party must fill in a name for every available spot, candidates can run for more than 1 position	Chair opens Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of Senator.”</i> Nominate interested candidates <i>“I nominate _____ for the position of Senator.”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) Chair closes nominations at the proper time. <i>“Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of Senator.”</i> Nominees are allowed and opportunity to speak. A 30 second time limit enforced by the Chair (or Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines the Senate Candidates.
3. House of Representatives	Each Party selects candidates to run for House of Representatives vs. the Opposing Party The party must fill in a name for every available spot, candidates can run for more than 1 position.	Chair opens Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of House of Representative.”</i> Nominate interested candidates <i>“I nominate _____ for the position of House of Representative.”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) Chair closes nominations at the proper time. <i>“Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of House of Representative.”</i> Nominees are allowed and opportunity to speak. A 30 second time limit enforced by the Chair (or Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines the Representative Candidates.

4. Adjourn	Officially end the meeting	Motion to adjourn the meeting. <i>“I move we adjourn.”</i> A second to this motion is required Vote to adjourn. All in favor adjourning, signify by saying <i>“AYE”</i> All opposed, signify by saying <i>“NAY”</i> A simple majority is needed to adjourn.
5. Results Recorded and Submitted to Headquarters	Party Secretaries ensure all results are recorded and reported to City Staff	Paperwork needed will be submitted to Party Secretaries as specific business is opened and closed during the election process

Meeting Participants

- All City Party Members attend
- All persons attending actively participate and vote on action items

Meeting Purpose

- This is a political party convention, the purpose of which is to nominate citizens to run for office
- Citizens may hold both a leadership position within the city party and elected position

Members of Highway Patrol and Military Service Program are unable to hold elected positions

Learning Objectives

- Citizens will understand how to organize and operate a meeting
- Citizens will understand the role of City Mayor, Treasurer and City Councilmen

Agenda

TASK	ACTION ITEMS	PROCESS
1. Call to Order	The Party Chair signals the start of business	The Party Chair calls the meeting to order <i>“I call this meeting of the (Federalist/ Nationalist) Party to Order”</i>

AGENDA CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

2. City Mayor	Each Party selects a candidate to run for Mayor vs. the Opposing Party The party must fill in a name for every available spot, candidates can run for more than 1 position.	Chair opens Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of Mayor.”</i> Nominate interested candidates <i>“I nominate _____ for the position of Mayor.”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) Chair closes nominations at the proper time. <i>“Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of Mayor.”</i> Nominees are allowed and opportunity to speak. A 30 second time limit enforced by the Chair (or Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines the candidate.
3. City Treasurer	Each Party selects candidates to run for City Treasurer vs. the Opposing Party The party must fill in a name for every available spot, candidates can run for more than 1 position	Chair opens Nominations <i>“Nominations are now open for the position of City Treasurer.”</i> Nominate interested candidates <i>“I nominate _____ for the position of City Treasurer.”</i> (A second to the motion is not required but is accepted.) Chair closes nominations at the proper time. <i>“Seeing no further nominations, I close nominations for the position of City Treasurer.”</i> Nominees are allowed and opportunity to speak. A 30 second time limit enforced by the Chair (or Designee). Heads down, hands up plurality vote of members determines the candidate.

4. City Councilman	Party reviews the role of City Councilman	Chair refers to information provided in the handbook
5. Adjourn	Officially end the meeting	Motion to adjourn the meeting. <i>“I move we adjourn.”</i> A second to this motion is required Vote to adjourn. All in favor adjourning, signify by saying <i>“AYE”</i> All opposed, signify by saying <i>“NAY”</i> A simple majority is needed to adjourn.
6. Results Recorded and Submitted to Headquarters	Party Secretaries ensure all results are recorded and reported to City Staff	Paperwork needed will be submitted to Party Secretaries as specific business is opened and closed during the election process

CITY COUNCIL / GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Purpose

This agenda serves as a general template for city council meetings, city business sessions, or committee gatherings at Iowa Boys State. It ensures that meetings are organized, efficient, and respectful of time while maintaining professionalism and procedure.

Agenda

TASK	PROCESS
1. Call to Order	The Mayor or Presiding Officer signals the start of business
2. Pledge of Allegiance	All members rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call	The City Clerk performs a roll call of council members to establish quorum.
4. Approval of Agenda	The Council votes to approve or amend the meeting agenda.
5. Approval of Minutes (if applicable)	Minutes from the previous meeting are reviewed and voted on.
6. Public Comments / Citizens' Input	Citizens may briefly speak on items not on the agenda (time-limited at discretion of the Chair).
7. Officer / Department Reports	Brief updates from city officials or department leads (e.g., Treasurer, Attorney, Public Works).
8. Old Business	Review and voting on unresolved matters from previous meetings.
9. New Business	Introduction, discussion, and potential voting on new proposals, ordinances, or expenditures.
10. City Councilman	Party reviews the role of City Councilman
11. Announcements / Reminders	Upcoming deadlines, city events, and assignments are shared with members.
12. Adjourn	Officially end the meeting

Meeting Purpose

This County Party Convention is a crucial part of the electoral process at Iowa Boys State. Delegates will come together to elect party leadership, develop a party platform, and nominate candidates for county office. Candidates will have the opportunity to address their party and share their qualifications before the County Election.

Looking Ahead

- Candidates should continue campaigning and preparing their speeches for the County Election tonight.
- All citizens should take the opportunity to engage with candidates before voting.
- The **County Election** will take place **tonight at 9:30 PM** via digital ballot.

Agenda

TASK	PROCESS
1. Call to Order	The Presiding Chair & Secretary (Counselor) call the meeting to order.
2. Explanation of Party Role & Purpose	The Presiding Party Chair explains the importance of the party in the Iowa Boys State election process, including the selection of candidates and platform creation.
3. Election of Party Leadership	Delegates elect a Party Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to lead party operations and manage campaigns.
4. Adoption of Party Rules & Procedures	Party members review and adopt rules governing candidate nominations, debate structure, and voting procedures.
5. Candidate Nominations for County Office	Party members formally nominate candidates for Treasurer, Sheriff, Attorney, Recorder, Auditor, and Board of Supervisors.
6. Campaign Speeches for County Primary Election	Candidates for county office deliver ___second speeches highlighting their qualifications, priorities, and campaign vision.

7. Q&A Session with Candidates	Delegates ask policy-related questions to candidates to better understand their stances on issues.
8. Voting & Election Process Overview and Execution	The Party Chair goes over how voting will work and then county members will then proceed with selecting their parties nominees to serve on the County Election ballot tonight.
9. Final Announcements & Primary Election Preparation	Party leadership provides final instructions for the County Election, which begins at 10:00 PM Tonight.
10. Adjourn	The Presiding Chair formally adjourns the meeting.

Meeting Purpose

This State Party Convention is a crucial part of the electoral process at Iowa Boys State. Delegates will come together to elect party leadership, develop a party platform, and nominate candidates for state office. Candidates will have the opportunity to address their party and share their qualifications before the State Primary Election.

Looking Ahead

- Candidates should continue campaigning and preparing their speeches for the State Primary tomorrow.
- All citizens should take the opportunity to engage with candidates before voting.
- The **State Primary Election** will take place Monday evening at **10:00 PM** via digital ballot.

Agenda

TASK	PROCESS
1. Call to Order	The Presiding Chair & Secretary (Counselor) call the meeting to order.
2. Explanation of Party Role & Purpose	The Presiding Party Chair explains the importance of the party in the Iowa Boys State election process, including the selection of candidates and platform creation.
3. Election of Party Leadership	Delegates elect a Party Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to lead party operations and manage campaigns.
4. Adoption of Party Rules & Procedures	Party members review and adopt rules governing candidate nominations, debate structure, and voting procedures.
5. Candidate Nominations for Statewide Office	Party members formally nominate candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, and Secretary of Agriculture

6. Campaign Speeches for State Primary Election	Candidates for state office deliver ___second speeches highlighting their qualifications, priorities, and campaign vision.
7. Q&A Session with Candidates	Delegates ask policy-related questions to candidates to better understand their stances on issues.
8. Voting & Election Process Overview and Execution	The Party Chair provides instructions for ballot access, primary voting, and campaign strategy leading up to the election.
9. Final Announcements & Primary Election Preparation	Party leadership provides final instructions for the State Primary Election, which begins at 10:00 PM Monday.
10. Adjourn	The Presiding Chair formally adjourns the meeting.

APPENDIX: UNDERSTANDING IOWA TAXES

Why Are Taxes Collected?

Taxes are the financial foundation of any government, ensuring that essential services, infrastructure, and programs are funded. At Iowa Boys State, taxes play a key role in creating a functioning government at the city, county, and state levels. Citizens will experience firsthand how governments collect and allocate tax revenue.

Taxes will be levied on individuals, businesses, and government transactions to ensure a functioning economy.

The Four Types of Taxes at Iowa Boys State

At Iowa Boys State, we simulate four major forms of taxation:

Tax Type	Description
Income Tax	Every citizen earns income from their government position or private-sector role. Just like in real life, citizens will be required to file an Income Tax Return, calculating how much tax they owe based on their earnings and eligible deductions.
Property Tax	Citizens own properties such as businesses, homes, and other taxable real estate. Citizens are responsible for paying annual property taxes to fund city, county, and state services. The tax rate is based on the assessed value of each property, with funds distributed to the appropriate government entities.
Sales Tax	A set sales tax is applied to all transactions within the Iowa Boys State economy, such as business transactions, campaign expenditures, and government fees. Additionally, cities and counties may choose to implement a Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) to generate additional revenue for local projects and services.

Forms of taxation continued:

Tax Type	Description
Special Taxes and Levies (Bond Measures)	In addition to standard taxation, government entities may impose special taxes or levies to fund specific initiatives or projects. These taxes can be established at the city, county, or state level for a set period or as a recurring funding source. • A city may introduce a levy to fund infrastructure improvements such as roads, parks, or emergency services. • A county may implement a special tax to support regional law enforcement or public health services. • The state government may pass a temporary tax to finance major programs such as economic development or disaster relief. Special taxes and levies must be proposed, debated, and approved by the appropriate governing body before implementation. Typically these levies can end up on a public ballot in the form of a bond measure.

How Taxes Work

1. Income Tax System

- Each citizen will receive an Income Statement detailing their earnings from government positions or other roles.
- A progressive tax rate will apply, meaning those who earn more pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes.
- Citizens will fill out Form 101 – Individual Income Tax Return, determining how much tax they owe and whether they qualify for a refund.
- Deductions may apply for specific campaign expenses or pre-approved government programs.

2. Property Tax System

- Citizens will be assigned properties that they must manage and pay property taxes on.

- Each property has an assessed value and a set tax rate, which determines how much tax must be paid.
- Property taxes will be collected by the County Government, which will then distribute the funds to the city and state governments.
- Citizens will fill out Form 202 – Property Tax Assessment to calculate the amount they owe and submit payments accordingly.

3. Sales Tax System

- A base sales tax rate will be applied to all economic transactions at Iowa Boys State.
- Local governments (cities and counties) have the option to implement a Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) to raise additional revenue.
- Businesses and local governments must report their collected sales tax using Form 303 – Sales Tax Report and submit payments accordingly.

4. Special Taxes and Levies

- A city, county, or the state may propose a new tax or levy for specific needs.
- The proposal must be debated and passed by the appropriate legislative body.
- Once approved, the tax is implemented for the designated time frame.
- All funds collected from the tax must be allocated to its stated purpose.

Budgeting & Allocation of Tax Revenue

Property taxes will be collected by the County Government, which is responsible for distributing funds to the appropriate government entities. The revenue will be allocated as follows:

- **40% – State Government (Infrastructure, Education, Public Services)**
- **30% – County Government (Law Enforcement, Local Government Services)**
- **30% – City Government (Local Projects, Maintenance)**

Sales tax revenue will be collected by the State Government, with additional revenue from Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) being retained by the city or county that imposes it.

Revenue generated from special taxes or levies will be allocated specifically to the project or service for which it was approved.

Each governing body must manage its budget responsibly, ensuring a balanced budget while funding necessary government programs.

APPENDIX: FLAG ETIQUETTE

United States Flag Etiquette

The United States flag is a powerful symbol of our nation's history, unity, and ideals. As such, it should always be treated with respect and care. The flag should never touch the ground, floor, or any object beneath it, and should always be displayed in a position of prominence. When flown with other flags, the U.S. flag must be placed above or at the center and highest point.

When raising or lowering the flag, it should be done briskly when raised and ceremoniously when lowered. The flag should only be displayed from sunrise to sunset unless it is properly illuminated during nighttime hours. During inclement weather, the flag should not be flown unless it is an all-weather flag. When displayed indoors or carried in a parade, the flag should be to the right of other flags or in the front and center of a marching formation. While the flag is being hoisted, lowered, or passing in a parade, all present should face the flag and place their right hand over their heart; uniformed individuals should render a proper military salute.

The flag should never be defaced, marked on, or altered in any way. When a flag becomes worn, faded, or tattered, it should be retired in a dignified manner, most often by burning in a respectful ceremony. Many American Legion posts and civic groups offer flag retirement services. Boys State encourages all participants to uphold these standards and lead by example in showing proper flag respect, both at camp and in your communities.





Continue Your Leadership Journey: Join the Sons of the American Legion

Many of the values you experience at Iowa Boys State (leadership, citizenship, patriotism, service, and teamwork) continue long after your week at camp. One way to stay involved is through the Sons of the American Legion (SAL).

Founded in 1932, the Sons of the American Legion is a nationwide organization that works alongside The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary as part of the American Legion Family. Members support veterans, strengthen local communities, promote youth programs, and preserve the principles of freedom, democracy, and responsible citizenship.

Who Can Join?

Membership is open to male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of eligible veterans or members of The American Legion. Eligibility may be established through a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, or other qualifying family member who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces.

If you enjoyed the leadership opportunities, civic engagement, and camaraderie of Iowa Boys State, the Sons of the American Legion offers a meaningful way to continue serving your community, supporting veterans, and developing as a leader long after camp ends.

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application	
Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____ Date _____	RECEIPT SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION Date _____ Received of _____ \$ _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in _____ Squadron _____ Detachment of _____ By _____ Squadron Officer
Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last)	
Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)	
E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____	
Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____	
(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No _____, Dept. of _____	
OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____	
(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____	
I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.	
Signed _____ (By Applicant or Parent)	
Eligibility certified by _____ (Post Adjutant)	00-001

The Emblem

The design of our emblem was taken from the emblem of our parent organization, but is oval in shape so as to be easily distinguished. The star in the center represents our country, and the

five points of the star represent the five-point program of the SAL. The sun in the background represents the SAL and the rays represent the loyalty of its membership. The blue of the emblem, like the blue of our flag, stands for justice. The two stars in the blue border stand for freedom and democracy. The wreath below the star is in memory of our comrades, and those of our forefathers who willingly gave their lives for their country. The 10 points of the emblem represent the 10 ideals of every American Legion son.

Five-Point Program of Service

PATRIOTISM: Love of the flag; love of country.

CITIZENSHIP: Individual obligation of citizenship.

DISCIPLINE: Respect for and obedience to rules.

LEADERSHIP: Participation in group activities.

LEGIONISM: Knowledge of The American Legion



The Five-Star Award, which can be presented to SAL members who show perfection in the Five Point Program of Service, is a gold plated medal bearing the SAL emblem and the symbolism of the five points.



Honor the Legacy. Build Your Own.

Carry forward the values of service, citizenship, and patriotism through the Sons of the American Legion.



IOWA BOYS STATE BOYS STATE CUP POINTS

Counselors, speakers, program representatives, and staff award points for exemplary involvement in Boys State activities. Every event on the schedule is a chance to score - here's how your City stacks points all week and earns the trophy.

CAMPAIGN & ELECTIONS

Party Convention Delegate Attendance	10 _{PER}
Party Convention Committee Chair	50 _{PER}
Party Convention Secretary	25
State Party Chairman Selection	50
State Party Secretary Selection	25
County Party Chairman Selection	50
County Party Secretary Selection	25
State Primary Ballot Delegate	20 _{EA}
County Primary Ballot Delegate	25 _{PER}
State Primary Candidate Winner	50
County Candidate Winner	50 _{PER}
Statewide Office Winner	100 _{EA}

LEGISLATURE

Senate President	100
Senate Majority & Minority Leader	50 _{EA}
Senate Majority & Minority Whip	50 _{EA}
House Speaker	100
House Majority & Minority Leader	50 _{EA}
House Majority & Minority Whip	50 _{EA}
Sponsoring Legislation	10
Passing Legislation (House/Senate)	25
Legislation Becomes Law	50

CITY GOVERNMENT

City Gov. Scenario Presentation	0-100
City Treasurer Successful Budget	100
Completion of Taxes & Deeds	10 _{EA}
Judicial Nominating Commission	75 _{EA}
City Inspections	0-25

SERVICE & SPECIALTY

Law School Bar Exam Completion	20-100
Highway Patrol Performance	20-100
Military Service Performance	20-100
National Guard LRC Challenge Completed	50 _{EA}

SPIRIT & CEREMONY

Pledge / Invocation Volunteer	25
Band / Chorus Participation	10 _{PER}
Color Guard Volunteer	10 _{PER}
Color Guard Selection	50 _{PER}
Color Guard Unit Commander	25
Submitted Social Media Content Used in a Post	25 _{EA}
Post-Secondary Fair Participation	10 _{PER}

ATHLETICS

Athletic Team Captains	25
Winning an Athletic Competition	50

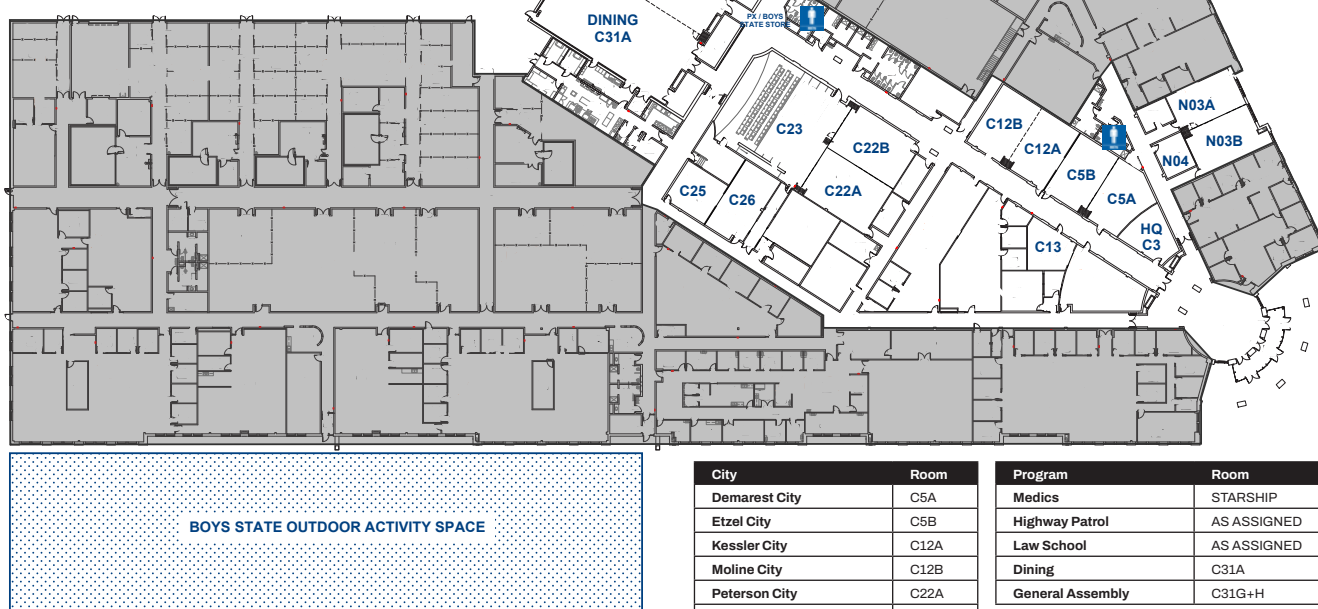
Stay tuned for “Cupdates” from staff throughout the day to track your city’s progress - and watch the standings climb toward the Cup.

IOWA BOYS STATE CAMP MAP



- ① Freedom Center
- ② Starship
- ③ Athletic Fields
- ④ Outdoor Activity Space
- ⑤ Entrance
- ⑥ Highway Patrol & Law School

Freedom Center (S70)



BOYS STATE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SPACE

City	Room
Demarest City	C5A
Etzel City	C5B
Kessler City	C12A
Moline City	C12B
Peterson City	C22A
Rochholz City	C22B
Schaffer City	N03A
Soppe City	N03B

Program	Room
Medics	STARSHIP
Highway Patrol	AS ASSIGNED
Law School	AS ASSIGNED
Dining	C31A
General Assembly	C31G+H

IOWA BOYS STATE

iowaboysstate.org

SOCIALS

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American Legion of Iowa
Boys State

Boys State Iowa

Photo / Video Content
Submission Form

2027 Boys State
Delegate Referral
Form