

■ ESTABLISHED 1938 · CAMP DODGE

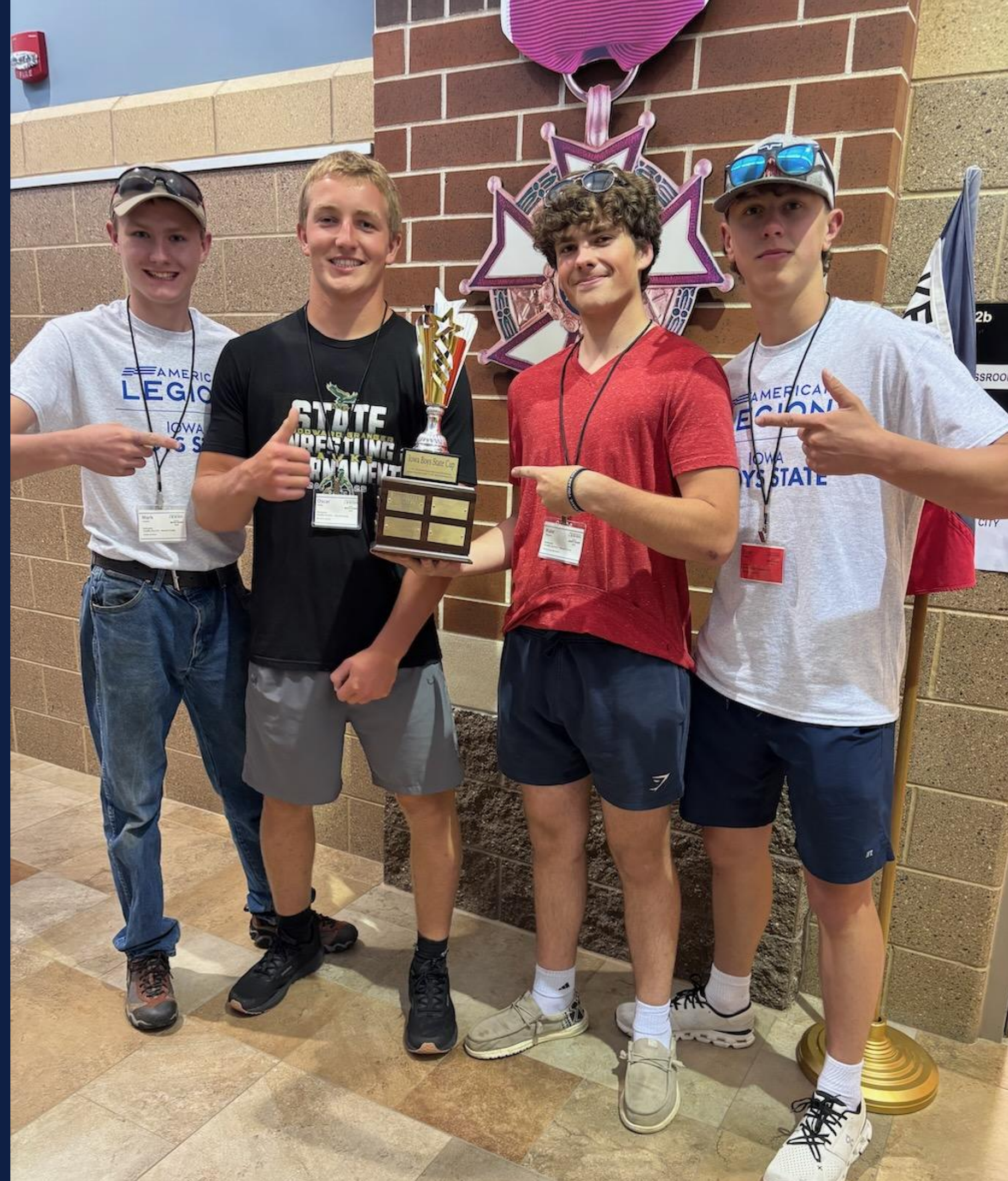
IOWA BOYS STATE

DELEGATE ORIENTATION · 2026

JUNE 21 – 26, 2026

CAMP DODGE

JOHNSTON, IOWA



THE EXPERIENCE

WHAT IS BOYS STATE?

LEADERSHIP. CIVICS. BROTHERHOOD.

You're not just attending — you're building a government.

Run a city, shape a party, and pass real laws. You'll leave

Camp Dodge with confidence, connections, and pride.

WHERE YOU'LL REPORT

CAMP DODGE

LOCATION

Johnston, Iowa

DROP-OFF

Sun · June 21· 9-11AM

PICK-UP

Fri · June 26 · 2:30 PM



PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER

Every person in the vehicle needs a driver's license or student ID at the gate.



THE WEEK AHEAD

WHAT'S IN STORE

01

RUN FOR OFFICE
Shape a political party, draft laws, and lead meetings.



02

CAPITOL VISIT
See state government in action at the Iowa State Capitol.



03

PROGRAMS
Athletics, choir, and band — find your place beyond politics.



04

BOYS STATE CUP
Compete with your City for the honor of the Boys State Cup.



GET READY

PACK SMART

■ BEDDING & TOILETRIES

Sheets or a sleeping bag, a pillow, and a towel.

■ CAPITOL CLOTHES

Khaki pants! Your Boys State polo is issued at registration.

■ CAMP CLOTHES

Casual and athletic wear for everyday sessions and activities.

■ "HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHTS" DAY

A t-shirt repping your town, school, team, or club — show where you're from.

■ **Issued at registration:** camp t-shirt, Boys State polo, backpack, and water bottle.

ALL THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE - DELEGATE QUICK GUIDE & PACKING LIST

HOW WE OPERATE

CONDUCT & CULTURE

01 RESPECT

02 BE ON TIME

03 NO RULE BREAKING

04 EVERYONE PLAYS A ROLE

YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

MORNING

Start Strong

Flag raising and breakfast to open every day.



DAYTIME

Govern

City councils, party caucuses, and assemblies fill the day.

Athletics

Band

Special Sessions

Reaction Course



NIGHT

Lights Out

Wind down and rest up — trust us, you'll be tired.



GET INVOLVED

WAYS TO ENGAGE

MAYOR	SENATOR	PARTY CHAIR	LAWYER
FLAG RAISING	CHOIR	MEET OFFICIALS	TAXES
SCHOLARSHIP	STATE PATROL	ULTIMATE FRISBEE	BAND
REACTION COURSE	DEBATE	POSTING COLORS	LEARN

GET INVOLVED

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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.

BRING YOUR VOICE TO BOYS STATE

DRAFT A BILL

Before arriving at Boys State, we encourage every delegate to think about an issue that matters to you and draft a proposed bill.

Draft Your Idea

- A bill template will be available on the "For Delegates" page of the Iowa Boys State website.
- Bring a completed draft or a strong idea to camp.
- Don't worry about being an expert—just focus on solving a problem.

Think about issues affecting:

- Your school or community
- Your county
- The State of Iowa
- Your generation and future



IOWA BOYS STATE SAMPLE BILL

BILL NO. 26-17

Introduced by:
A Member of the
Iowa Boys State Senate

A BILL TO PROTECT IOWA'S WATER



AN ACT TO:

Implement Iowa's recently enacted "Farm to Faucet" water quality laws, furthering the protection and clean-up of Iowa's streams, waterways, and ground water, by authorizing the DNR to establish and impose fines on any of Iowa's "factory farms" which discharge excess nitrates into Iowa's water system.



WHEREAS: On June 1, 2026, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds executed the state's agriculture and natural resources bill, which included a water quality package known as "Farm to Faucet."



BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IOWA AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE THAT:

The DNR is hereby authorized to adopt standards defining excess emissions of nitrates into or reaching Iowa's water system that are sourced from Iowa's "Factory Farms." The DNR will adopt and impose fines corresponding to the level and/or duration of such excess emissions. All funds collected will be used to expand the infrastructure needed to remove nitrates from Iowa's water system.



IOWA BOYS STATE ★ BUILDING LEADERS. BUILDING IOWA.

PASSED BY: _____

SIGNED: _____

GOVERNOR, IOWA BOYS STATE



IN YOUR CORNER

YOUR STAFF

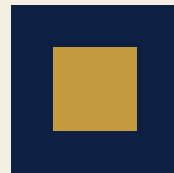
Here to support and challenge you.

Counselors and staff live alongside your City all week — guiding decisions, settling questions, and pushing you to lead. If you need anything, they're the first people to ask.



EARN MORE

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS



BOYS NATION

Two Iowa Boys State representatives travel to Washington, D.C. in July, with two alternates selected.



SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Must be completed before camp. Requires a family member who is currently serving or previously served in the military. [Link to application.](#)



ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

All delegates are eligible. Winners are determined by the Scholarship Committee.

GET PREPARED

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Watch for reminders and respond to requests for information promptly.

FIND US ON SOCIALS

Follow along on Facebook and YouTube.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Additional resources live on our Google Drive — review before camp.

VISIT THE WEBSITE

www.iowaboysstate.org

COMMON QUESTIONS

QUICK ANSWERS

CHECK-IN

Sunday, June 21 · arrive 9:00–11:00 AM. Camp Activities start at 11:30 AM sharp.

PHONES

Allowed — but be respectful and keep them away during sessions.

OPTIONAL BAND PRACTICE

10:30 AM on check-in day for anyone joining band.

PARENTS & CLOSING

Welcome at drop-off and pick-up. Join Friday's closing assembly at 1:00 PM. Camp finishes at 2:30pm on Friday.

■ BRING YOUR BEST ■

LET'S DO THIS.

JUNE 21 – 26 · CAMP DODGE

COMMON QUESTIONS

EVERYTHING PARENTS & DELEGATES ASK MOST



Q01 COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT TIME DO I ARRIVE?

Plan to arrive at Camp Dodge between **9:00 and 11:00 AM** on **Sunday, June 21**. Activities begin at **11:30 AM** sharp.



Q02 COMMON QUESTIONS

WHERE DO I GO AT CAMP DODGE?

Once you're through the gate, **staff and signs will guide you** straight to the check-in area.



Q03 COMMON QUESTIONS

CAN PARENTS COME?

Absolutely. Parents can drop off and pick up, and are **welcome at the closing assembly on Friday at 1:00 PM.**



Q04 COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE?

Three meals a day in the mess hall. Have allergies or dietary needs?

Let us know in advance. Snacks are available at the commissary during breaks.



Q05 COMMON QUESTIONS

DO I NEED TO BRING MONEY?

Your trip is **fully paid for by your sponsoring organization.** Still, some cash for souvenirs, apparel, or the commissary isn't a bad idea — we accept cards too.



Q06 COMMON QUESTIONS

WHERE DO I SLEEP?

You'll stay in **starship barracks with your Boys State City** — a bed for each delegate and shared common bathrooms. Bring a pillow, bedding, and towels.



Q07 COMMON QUESTIONS

WILL I HAVE FREE TIME?

Yes — we build in breaks and optional activities. Just **don't miss mandatory sessions.** At registration you'll get a handbook with each day's itinerary.



Q08 COMMON QUESTIONS

ARE PHONES ALLOWED?

Yes, but use them responsibly. **Phones are off during sessions and assemblies,** and expect limited access to outlets.



Q09 COMMON QUESTIONS

CAN I TALK TO HOME?

You can text or call during free time. **In an emergency, staff can always reach your family** — and yours can reach you.



Q10 COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT IF I GET SICK?

We have **medical staff on-site and a nurse available 24/7**. Tell your counselor immediately if you need care.

All medications must be checked in with medical staff during registration and will be distributed by medical staff as needed throughout the week.



Q11 COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT IF I FEEL OVERWHELMED?

That's normal — Boys State can be draining. **You're not alone.** Talk to your counselor or any staff member, and we'll help.



Q12 COMMON QUESTIONS

OTHER QUESTIONS?

Check the FAQ page at iowaboysstate.org/faq or email director@iowaboysstate.org.

■ SEE YOU AT CAMP DODGE

WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU.

JUNE 21 – 26, 2026

IOWABOYSSTATE.ORG

