

# American Legion Boys State

**Boys State** and **Girls State** are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. Boys and Girls State programs both began in 1937 and are held in each state usually on a college campus, within that state. In general, male and female programs are held separately, but several states host Boys and Girls State on the same campus on the same week.

The Sons of The American Legion have always played an important role in this program. In addition to Detachments sponsoring delegates, Sons members are encouraged to assist in whatever capacity they are able too such as volunteering as councilors. Here are some thoughts of one such individual who as a youth attended Boys State.



William "Bill" Murphy III attended Massachusetts Boys State in 1988, the event that is most memorable to him was shaking hands with the President of The United States which that year was Ronald Reagan. Bill has been a counselor for the past 9 years; he was inspired several years after he himself was a delegate. What keeps him going is seeing and hearing the hopes and visions for our country's future. He sees and hears the urgency and importance of our youth's voices being heard. Bill also has the privilege of being part of the staff for American Legion Boys Nation. The Boys and Girls State and Nation programs make for a prominent presentation. It gives new meaning to the slogan for the Boys State program "A week that shapes a lifetime". Please note: Bill Murphy is the current Alternate National Committeeman for the Detachment of Massachusetts Sons of The American Legion

For more information on how you can be involved in Boys State please write to The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or go to

[boysstate-nation@legion.org](mailto:boysstate-nation@legion.org)

**Ernie Laberge**

**Member: National Americanism Commission 2019-2021**

**Past Detachment Commander 2017-2019**

**The Detachment of Massachusetts**

**Sons of the American Legion**

**2019-2020 National Commander, Clint Bolt**

***"Serving those that served, full steam ahead!"***

