



Walter Nightengale

American Legion Post 57

46 Franklin Turnpike

Waldwick, NJ 07463

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Please consider passing the below information along to your Junior High School boys who may be interested in this opportunity. The young men should have some academic achievement and be of good moral character. Please log onto www.aljbs.org for further information.

FOR YOUNG MEN CONSIDERING BOYS STATE

American Legion New Jersey Boys State is a unique educational program for high school juniors in June when they are rising seniors. Boys State focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governmental bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective state government, while providing training in practical citizenship, leadership, and character development through a non-partisan perspective.

The American Legion believes our American government can survive only with an educated populace. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate our democratic republic, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations. The objectives of American Legion NJ Boys State seek to:

- Develop leadership and pride in American citizenship.
- Arouse a keen interest in the detailed study of government.
- Develop a full understanding of American traditions and a loyalty to the United States of America.
- Arouse in the young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government.

- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation.
- To Safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

This is a richly rewarding and educational program that has prompted many former participants to seek careers in public service. Selection serves as testimony to a participant's character and leadership skills and is an experience recognized by employers, service academies, and university admissions boards as an indicator of strong leadership and character traits.

The program takes place in June beginning on Fathers' Day and ending the following Friday. The selected "delegates", as they are called, are transported to Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. The entire cost is funded by the American Legion Post 57 and its co-sponsors. There is no cost to the delegate's family except for incidental personal expenses usually in the range of \$50.

The type of young man that Post 57 sponsors to Boys State is the young man who is engaged in the affairs of his family, school, and community. He should have no lower than a B average, be of unblemished character, have some participation in sports, and show some history of reaching out to his community. He would be the type of boy who looks to be part of his school leadership. He should show some generosity of spirit in reaching out to his community. Boys State is not a "boot camp" or military entity. While participation in sports is a plus, he need not be an outstanding athlete; we look for participation. He is the type of boy who runs for class officer, heads up a school club, looks to go on to college, trade school, the military, a career in service to his nation, etc. Our service academies and colleges consider Boys State as a flashing green light on an application. Indeed, many school coaches encourage their rising senior athletes to attend Boys State for exposure to leadership and character development.

A young man who is a local high school junior considering Boys State should contact Post 57 or any American Legion post of his choosing. The website is www.aljbs.org.

Respectively Yours,

John F. Grisoni

Boys State Chairman

American Legion Post 57

Email: jntgris@aol.com (Subject-Boys State)