

## Program Overview:

The American Legion Keystone Boys State (KBS) is conducted on a “**learn by doing**” basis whereby the selected citizens practice the procedures and operations of the various branches of city, county and state legislature. The hands-on format at KBS has the youthful citizens forming and operating mock cities, counties, and a state. They also form and operate two mock political parties; conduct all local and state law enforcement and judicial systems; form and conduct a bicameral state legislature; establish and operate entrepreneurial businesses; and maintain a full, active media presence. The statutes and codes of the State of Pennsylvania are used while building your State of Keystone.

Citizens at Keystone Boys State will use knowledge already acquired and new skills that they develop during the week. **The effort to get everyone involved manifests itself** by having every “citizen” elected, selected, assigned or appointed to leadership positions throughout the week.

The curriculum calls for city governments to be formed first (City Council, Home-land Security Committee, Chamber of Commerce, School Board, etc.). With the election of the city leadership and installation of officers, all branches of the city begin to function **under student**



**leadership**. Political parties are then formed, county and state conventions are convened, and each participant becomes a “**proactive citizen**”. Aspirants to city, county and state offices file for a position and campaign for it, and utilize their respective political parties.

## Benefits of Attending KBS:

- ★ *Highly valued on college applications and can earn 3 or more College Credits (Leadership)*
- ★ *Develop a working understanding of state and local government.*
- ★ *Become a more active and informed citizen.*
- ★ *Be part of a talented team of peers working to achieve goals.*
- ★ *20% of the first-year students at the three military academies are Boys State or Girls State graduates.*
- ★ *Meet/visit local state Representatives and Senators in Harrisburg.*
- ★ *Develop skills that provide focus and a leadership base for starting your senior year.*

To be nominated to Keystone Boys State, contact your school guidance counselor, coach, GATE or NHS sponsor, etc., your local American Legion Post or the PA American Legion HQ. The KBS application is accessed through the Keystone Boys State link below.

National  
Boys State



Keystone  
Boys State



Local Post  
Finder



National Boys State: [www.boysandgirlsstate.org/boys](http://www.boysandgirlsstate.org/boys)

Keystone: [pa-legion.com/programs/student-programs/](http://pa-legion.com/programs/student-programs/)

Local Legion Post Finder: [www.legion.org/posts](http://www.legion.org/posts)

The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania  
PO Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105  
(717) 730-9100



June 19 – June 25, 2016

Shippensburg University



*The week that shapes a lifetime*

# Keystone Boys State

Est. 1937

The Pennsylvania American Legion Keystone Boys State program is an educational workshop for high school student leaders, such as student government officers, athletic team captains, and prominent student organization officers. Students selected to attend Boys State will have the opportunity to gain leadership skills through a variety of activities and presentations during the week-long program. The hallmark and focus of Keystone Boys State is its experientially based government exercise, which spans the city, county and state levels of involvement. Participants will take on roles in the organization and operation of mock city, county and state governments.



*The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania Commander, Pete Wasco, swearing in the new Keystone Boys State Governor, Kyle Schwirian.*

## From a Citizen:

*“The week I spent at Boys State was undoubtedly one of the most unique and important experiences of my life. There was never a dull moment at KBS – from staying up through the early morning to finish legislation with roommates, simulating state House & Senate meetings, and forming close bonds with those around me. My fellow citizens were all extremely dedicated and passionate about the activities of the week, and still managed to share many laughs and good times. Being organized into separate cities, counties and political parties gave me a chance to interact with many different citizens, as well as experience numerous aspects of the political process.”*

*Alex Omik, Radnor H.S., KBS Graduate*



## Boys State Alumni:

- **Bill Clinton** – US President
- **Dick Cheney** – US Vice President
- **Samuel Alito** – US Supreme Court justice
- **Neil Armstrong** – Astronaut
- **Admiral Jonathan Greenert** – 4-star admiral
- **Tom Brokaw** – Journalist
- **Allen Neuharth** – Founder, USA Today newspaper
- **Roger Ailes** – Chairman & CEO Fox News
- **Tim Cook** – CEO Apple, Inc
- **Garth Brooks** – Musician
- **Jon Bon Jovi** - Musician
- **Mark Wahlberg** – Actor
- **Michael Jordan** – Athlete
- **Nick Saban** – College football coach

## A Typical Daily Schedule:

- 6:30-7:45 am** – Wake up & eat breakfast
- 8:00 am** – Flag Raising/Announcements
- 8:15 am** – Transition to classrooms
  - County A – Guest Lecturer
  - County B – Legislative Coordination
- 9:15 am** – Party Business: candidate speeches
- 10:30 am** – Elect leadership in caucuses within the House and Senate:
- 11:45 am** – Lunch
- 12:45 am** – Labor negotiations preparations
- 1:30 am** – House and Senate Committees
- 3:30 am** – Intramural sports, Band, KTV, Citizens Voice (news) and Honor Guard
- 3:30-5:00 am** – Primary State Elections
- 5:00 am** – Dinner
- 6:15 pm** – Flag ceremony/ announcements
- 6:30 pm** – House and Senate Sessions
- 8:00 pm** – KTV – Evening News
- 8:45 pm** – City & Political Parties: General Work
  - Time: caucuses and committees
- 11:00 pm** – Lights Out



## KBS Facts:

- ❖ Program dates **June 19 – June 25, 2016**
- ❖ High school students who have completed their junior year and have at least one semester left before graduation are eligible.
- ❖ *The week’s tuition of \$175 is paid by an American Legion Post.*
- ❖ KBS is non-partisan and is not a para-military organization.
- ❖ Parliamentary procedure (“**Robert’s Rules of Order**”) is used throughout the week.