

**FOR POSTS ONLY: This letter is not intended for distribution to Palmetto Boys State Delegates.**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Department of South Carolina  
The American Legion Palmetto Boys State  
103 Legion Plaza Road, Columbia, SC 29210**

**TO: POST COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS  
SUBJECT: BOYS STATE INFORMATION AND GOALS  
FROM: TODD MCDONALD, PBS REGISTRAR  
THE AMERICAN LEGION PALMETTO BOYS STATE 2026**

The American Legion Palmetto Boys State will be held in person at ANDERSON UNIVERSITY, Anderson, SC, during the period **June 7<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> 2026**. Below you will find information about fees, registration, and the American Legion Boys State Encampment. In addition, there are two (2) forms attached: Student Consideration Request Form that you can use to give to local schools as part of your selection process and then finally the Delegate Information Form that you will need to have completed so that you can enter your selected delegates into the online system.

The sponsor fee remains at **\$300.00** per delegate. Plus, a \$120 Delegate fee, for a total of **\$420.00**.

**Each delegate will pay a registration fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and a room deposit fee of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for a total of One Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$120.00).**

The registration fee covers the cost of two Boys State t-shirts (traditional white PBS Citizen tee) and one Boys State Athletic t-Shirt (gray) and a key deposit \$20.00 room deposit key will be returned to the delegate when he turns in his room key on departure day and barring any room damage.

Palmetto Boys State has one primary objective: train young men and future leaders of South Carolina on practical, democratic principles of government through hands on participation in the organization, election and functions of our state's governmental units. We want to enlighten these young men on democracy as the best form of government yet devised, then take the enthusiasm generated at Palmetto Boys State back to their local communities and share their newfound understanding and insight with their contemporaries. For more program information please go to the Boys State Web site at [www.palmettoboysstate.com](http://www.palmettoboysstate.com).

**Your engagement and the success of the PBS program has resulted in a capacity issue for total number of delegates able to experience this world-class program we provide each year.** As a reference point, prior to the pandemic, the average number of delegates per school selected to attend PBS was between 2-3% of the total junior class enrollment or 2 delegates from schools with less than 100 in that class. We still encourage you to carefully review your selection process to ensure that you are sending the very best from your representative schools. We are a program designed to reflect the accurate political life of our state; therefore, we ask you to select young men reflecting the diversity of South Carolina and our public school system. It is my belief that this week in

a young man's life can be critical in his understanding of people of different races and ethnicities. Here at Boys State, we attempt to treat all as equals in our political union.

If you have any questions about selections or the registration process, please call Todd McDonald at 803-463-7901 or email him at [registration@palmettoboysstate.com](mailto:registration@palmettoboysstate.com)

As in past years, those you select will be encouraged to register online as soon as they are selected. We will honor Posts whose delegates have fully registered, to include parent portion, until **April 1, 2026**. Once the program has reached our capacity, subsequent registrants who have not completed the full registration will be placed on a waiting list and may be called as vacancies come available. In other words, it is the student and parent's responsibility to complete the process in a timely manner and you as sponsoring Post should stay on top of your delegates until they are fully registered. We will do everything we can to accommodate selected and deserving students, however, we no longer can guarantee space for late registrants. We will continue our **full week commitment** portion of this year's registration process, so delegates who cannot commit to staying the full week will be placed on a waiting list. We are asking for your assistance to ensure that your selected delegates are available for the full **2026** encampment...this requires Sunday through Saturday.

**As we have done for the last few years, this year we are only offering the online registration system** for American Legion Posts to enter their selected delegates; we also have a brand-new look to the online system that should make it much easier for both the Post User and the Delegates. Unfortunately, we have grown beyond our ability to effectively register delegates via the manual card system and are forced to implement the full online registration. The online Registration system has been extremely successful since inception and because of the capacity issue described above, **we are forced to rely solely on the online registration system.** The online portal will **open for registration on April 1, 2025**. As in years past, the online system allows each post a user access to the registration site so that you may enter your delegates, monitor their registration process and see when they have completed registrations. There is a short video on the user request page to walk you through the process. **Because the system is an upgrade from prior years, each new Post user will need to request access. Prior Post Users can log in on April 1. If you need your password reset, please email [registration@palmettoboysstate.com](mailto:registration@palmettoboysstate.com) and we will reset it for you.** We have a registration team that can assist with your questions. Web site information and help contacts are below.

**FOR AMERICAN LEGION POST USERS ONLY- (NOT FOR DELEGATES)** Please do not share this info with your selected delegates The Online Registration Process: ONE ONLINE USER PER POST!

**ALL AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE POST USERS: YOU MAY USE YOUR EXISTING USER ACCOUNT OR IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE POST USER SYSTEM, YOU MAY REQUEST A NEW USER ID AS FOLLOWS:** To use the online registration system and monitor the status of your pledges, you may go to the following site and enter your information to request a secure username and password. **Please note that we have to enable your account so there may be a short delay before you receive your credentials. This is done to protect the American Legion.** Once you receive the username and password, there will be short tutorial video to walk you through the simple process of entering your selected Delegates. Please know that it is your responsibility to ensure all delegates are fully registered and all fees are paid prior to the start of the Boys State encampment.

**EXISTING USERS: Site opens on April 1, 2026**  
can also access from [PalmettoBoysstate.com](http://PalmettoBoysstate.com)

<https://boysgirlsstate.com/login.php> you

**NEW USERS**  
[www.legionregister.com](http://www.legionregister.com)

**(DO NOT GIVE THIS LINK TO STUDENT DELEGATES)**

Once you have access and when the site opens on **April 1, 2026**, you may enter your Post selected delegates.

I have attached a sample Delegate Information Form to ensure you get the information you need from each Delegate. Please make copies of this form and make sure you get all the requested information from each of your selected Delegates.

Boys State has added a cellular service provider to communicate with the delegates via text at no charge. We have also attached a Student Request for Consideration Form that you can provide to local high schools or guidance counselors to assist in your interview and selection process.

**Packets are no longer hard copy mailed to students**

All cadets **must be** electronically registered by the Post on the Boys State Registration page. The Boys will be notified via email and text.

At the same time you register your Boys State Delegates, you **MUST** make a list of their names and write a check to cover their \$300.00 per Delegate fee for each boy you are sending, and mail the check to and the list to:

**Brand Stille, Wofford College, 429 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, SC  
29303-3663 (Checks should be made out to: Palmetto Boys State)**

In order to submit delegates for Palmetto Boys State, you must have the following information on hand. This is the reason we provide the Delegate Information Form

**Name**  
**Full Mailing Address**  
**Date of Birth**  
**Phone Number**

**Delegates must be made aware that they will need to bring One Hundred Twenty dollars (\$120.00) to cover their registration and room deposit. The Room deposit and will be returned when he checks out and returns his key, barring any damage.**

Each year we have delegates who inform our staff that they had no knowledge of the \$120 registration fee. Please over-communicate this requirement.

Again, the Registration site will open on **April 1, 2026**. If you have any questions about the online registration system or the process, please email [registration @ palmettoboysstate.com](mailto:registration@palmettoboysstate.com)

**A South Carolina American Legion Post must be in good standing** to participate in the Boys State Program. Post must maintain at least the minimum 15 members to be in good standing, file their 990's, and complete and submit all forms to South Carolina and the Internal Revenue reference their EIN's, addresses, and officers.

It is the responsibility of the Posts to obtain other sponsors for this most worthwhile program. Most often these sponsors are civic, fraternal, church, school, business, other organizations in the community, and individual sponsors. We have found that past Boys State Alumni and/or their families are more than willing to help sponsor a young man. In a typical year this program impacts the lives of 1000+ young men all over our great state and this year, despite the trying circumstances, we want to reach as many boys as possible with the **American Legion message of For God and Country**.

If you have any questions about selections or the registration process please call Todd McDonald, at 803-463-7901 or email him at [registration@palmettoboysstate.com](mailto:registration@palmettoboysstate.com).

### Sample forms for interview

**The American Legion**

**Palmetto Boys State**

**Student Consideration Request**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> 2026**, at Anderson University

**Return by: \_\_\_\_\_ 2026**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I can attend the entire Boys State encampment from **June 7-13, 2026**. YES OR NO (circle)

List any extracurricular activities in which you have participated during your high school years:

List any leadership positions you have held in these organizations:

Describe your interest in government and why you would like to be selected as a delegate

