

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of South Carolina
Palmetto Boys State Program
1784 Catclaw Lane
Ridgeway, SC 29130

MEMORANDUM

TO: Post Commanders, Adjutants, and Designated Post Users

FROM: Todd McDonald, Palmetto Boys State Director of Admissions

SUBJECT: Palmetto Boys State 2026- Information and Goals

Enclosed you will find preliminary information regarding the 2026 Encampment of **Palmetto Boys State**.

Please review the following key points carefully:

1. Delegate Limits

There is currently **no limit** on the number of delegates a post may sponsor. If your post is able to sponsor them, we want them. Delegates represent your post and The American Legion, so please make strong selections that reflect the best of both.

2. Registration Process (Opens Monday, March 2)

Registration opens on **Monday, March 2**, using your existing login credentials. If you have forgotten your password, please use the password reset option on the registration site.

For the second year, we are excited to offer an enhanced registration option designed to save time and reduce manual entry. Training materials and instructional videos may be obtained on your Dashboard in the Registration Portal or by clicking on the link below:

https://vid.us/w90d_c

This updated system will provide each post with a **unique QR code and form** that can be:

- Printed and taken to schools, or
- Emailed directly to school guidance counselors

Students interested in attending Palmetto Boys State will use the QR code to enter their information. That information will then appear in your user portal for review and approval. Once approved, both the student and their parent will be notified automatically.

This system mirrors the process used in previous years but eliminates the need for manual data entry and deciphering handwritten forms. It also validates email addresses and mobile numbers, improving communication with delegates.

If you prefer, you may still manually enter delegate information as in prior years.

3. Forms and Materials

Enclosed are:

- "Request for Consideration" forms
- Registration forms to assist with accurate data entry
- Sample sponsorship fund raising forms

QR Codes can be found on your Dashboard in the Registration Portal. Our goal is to eliminate the Request for Consideration forms after this year.

4. Promotional Video

Included is a Palmetto Boys State promotional video to assist you in presenting the program to sponsors, school guidance counselors, and prospective delegates.

Link: <https://startpbs.com/>

5. School Outreach

Your Palmetto Boys State staff has made contact with the South Carolina Department of Education, and they have helped us distribute information to public high school guidance counselors statewide. As a result, we have already received inquiries requesting local American Legion contacts.

Please note that we do **not** have contact information for small private schools, charter schools, or homeschools. We strongly encourage posts to begin contacting schools in your area and ensure they have your correct Boys State contact information.

Maintaining Palmetto Boys State as the premier Boys State program in the nation will require the combined efforts of all posts.

6. Fees and Payment Information

Fees for 2026 remain unchanged:

- \$300.00 Tuition Fee
- \$100.00 Registration Fee
- \$20.00 refundable key deposit

All delegate funds must be made payable to **Palmetto Boys State** and remitted by the post to:

Brand Stille, Treasurer

Palmetto Boys State

Wofford College

429 N. Church Street

Spartanburg, SC 29303-3663

If payments are collected from parents, schools, civic groups, or churches, please have those payments made payable to your post. The post should then submit a single check payable to Palmetto Boys State.

If you have any questions, please call or text me at **803-463-7901** (text is the fastest way to receive a response), or email registration@palmettoboysstate.cQm.

Respectfully,

Todd McDonald

Director of Admissions

Palmetto Boys State

The American Legion

Palmetto Boys State
Student Consideration Request
June 7-13, 2026, at Anderson University
Return by: _____ 2026

Name: _____

Address: (with zip code) _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email Address: _____

Do not use addresses ending in .edu, .gov .org or school email addresses.

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

Costs: \$300.00 Tuition. \$100.00 Registration Fee, \$20.00 refundable room deposit. \$420 Total.
Please **check with your sponsoring post as to your portion** of the required fees.

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:

SAMPLE POST SPONSORSHIP LETTER

Your Post Letterhead (if desired)

Date

Name

American Legion Post #X

Address

City, State, Zip

Re: Palmetto Boys State 2026

Dear **[Name]**,

American Legion Post #X sincerely appreciates your past support of the Palmetto Boys State Program. Palmetto Boys State is widely recognized as one of the **premier youth leadership and civics programs in the nation**, and its continued excellence is made possible only through the commitment of supporters like you from across South Carolina.

Because of this strong statewide support, Palmetto Boys State continues to grow and strengthen its mission of developing informed, engaged, and principled young leaders. In 2026, we will once again offer this exceptional experience to more than **1,100 of South Carolina's rising leaders**, ensuring the program remains among the very best Boys State programs in the country.

Palmetto Boys State will be held at **Anderson University from Sunday, June 7, 2026, through Saturday, June 13, 2026.**

American Legion Post #X is committed to sponsoring **[number]** boys from public and private schools throughout **[County] County**. In 2025, **1,042 rising high school seniors** from across South Carolina participated in this extraordinary hands-on laboratory of state government. This year, our goal is to exceed that number by emphasizing representation from **every high school in South Carolina**, with particular focus on ensuring strong participation from **[list counties] County schools**. Our objective is to sponsor at least one delegate from every high school in **[County] County**.

Participants in Boys State are also eligible for scholarship opportunities. The cost to sponsor one delegate for the week is **\$300.00** for tuition, room, and board, plus a **\$120**

registration fee. We sincerely appreciate your consideration in helping provide this life-changing leadership experience to as many deserving young men as possible.

Please make checks payable to **The American Legion Post #X** and return them in the enclosed self-addressed envelope to my office at **[address]**.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the Palmetto Boys State program. I can be reached at **[phone number]**.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Post #X Boys State Program Chairman

Enclosure