

Letter

Boys State

Hello American Legion/Sons of the American Legion members, my name is Alex Stacy and I am writing this piece in regards to the upcoming Boys State program that will be taking place this summer in Midland, Michigan. I, along with three of my close friends, attended Boys State in the summer of 2006. I can honestly say that my participation in the program was one of the most valuable, educational, fun-filled, and memorable experiences of my life. While in attendance, I met some amazing people, learned a great deal about National and State Level political systems (through an entirely non-partisan and non-biased educational staff), and learned effective leadership skills and techniques that I regularly use today while completing my undergraduate studies at Western Michigan University.

I recently met with Nelson O'Brien, the current man-in-charge of the Boys State program, and I learned that attendance has dropped significantly over the past several years. I also learned that general awareness toward the program has declined as of late. It is my goal to change both of these trends. Boys State is an incredible American Legion program, and I would hate to see it disappear.

So please, speak with members at your local post, ask questions, sponsor high school boys, and help Nelson and I make this summer's program a success. I plan to return to Boys State this summer to help give back to the program that helped change my life. I hope to see several hundred attendees while there, but this will only be possible with your help. So please, draw attention to the Boys State program, and help bring a positive change to high school students in your neighborhood.

-Alex Stacy