

Applications Fees

Applications can be obtained from any American Legion Post in Nebraska or downloaded from www.nebraskalegion.net. Click on Programs and then Boys State.

All applications, along with the required \$450.00 application fee, must be submitted to Cornhusker Boys' State Program Director by March 15, 2026.

Transportation Fee

Because of the distance from Lincoln, some Districts in western Nebraska require Boys' State delegates to use mandatory transportation provided by a contract carrier. This cost will vary and applies to delegates residing in Districts 1, 4, 5 and 9. More information can be obtained from those District Commanders.

Registration Fee

The required registration fee is \$25.00. This fee is paid by the Boys' State delegate, or parents, at the time of registration on Sunday, May 31. Checks are made payable to Cornhusker Boys State.

Refunds

Refunds for cancellation will only be given to the sponsoring individual or organization if Department is notified prior to May 1, 2026.

After May 1, no refunds will be given. If a boy does not attend Boys' State and no written prior notice was given to the sponsoring individual or organization, the sponsoring entity can ask the parents for reimbursement.

Instructions to Boys

A packet of instructions is sent to each boy explaining the rules and regulations of Boys' State. Additionally, these instructions let each boy know what he needs to bring with him for the week. Several forms are included in the packet. These forms must be filled out completely and returned to Department Headquarters by May 1.

Instructions to Boys (Continued)

Boys will report to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln campus on Sunday, May 31st at 12:00 p.m. for registration. Exact location will be included in the instruction packets. Late arrivals and early departures are seldom approved. The Program Director is the only individual that can approve these requests. Exemptions for funerals and illness are typically granted but family vacations, sports camps, ACT/SAT exams, and such are not valid reasons for late arrival or early departures. Boys need to plan accordingly.

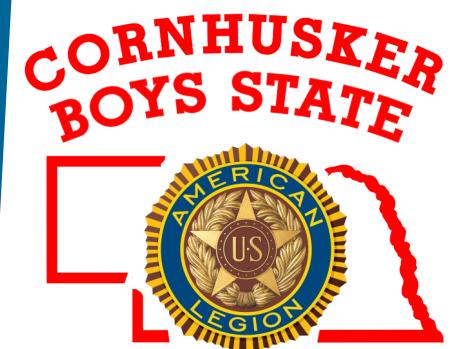
Once the program is in session, any boy who is unable to follow the rules and regulations will be immediately dismissed.

Boys that do not attend the full week will not graduate nor receive their Boys' State pin and graduation certificate.

Boys' Nation

At the end of Cornhusker Boys' State, two delegates are chosen to represent Nebraska at the American Legion Boys' Nation program in Washington D.C. During Boys' Nation, you will create and debate laws, visit the US Capitol, meet the Nebraska Senators, and visit other historic places. Although not guaranteed, most delegates have had the opportunity to visit the White House and meet the President of the United States. Only 98 young men get to attend each year. To be eligible you must be a legal US citizen, possess legal residency, or have visitor status.

86th Annual Session
May 31 - June 6, 2026



Informational Brochure

Sponsored by

The American Legion
Department of Nebraska

Cornhusker Boys' State
Program Director Eric Martin
150 NW 40th St, Unit A
Lincoln, NE 68528
402-464-6338
emartin@nebraskalegion.net
www.cornhuskerboysstate.org

The American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State

History and Purpose

Boys' State began in Illinois in 1935 and was later adopted nationally by The American Legion. Since becoming a national program, the Department of Nebraska has been proud to offer young boys throughout the state an opportunity to attend Cornhusker Boys' State at the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln.

The purpose of the program is to educate youth in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship. This is accomplished through the creation of an imaginary 51st state which is then governed by the citizens of Boys' State.

Throughout the course of the week-long program, Boys' State citizens organize their own city, county, and state governments and choose their own elected officials through the election process. They introduce and argue their own bills in a legislature, and justice is administered by law enforcement agencies and the courts.

Non-Partisan

The program is non-partisan and is not military in any sense. The political parties in Boys' State are the "Federalists" and the "Nationalists."

Activities

Morning and afternoon sessions are set aside for educational and government training. Afterwards, boys have the opportunity to participate in either band, chorus, newsletter staff, or sporting activities.

Special Lectures

Highly respected public servants and community leaders present lectures on subjects pertinent to the program. Evening sessions with motivational speakers are also held throughout the week.

Camp Staff

Counselors and chaperones of the Cornhusker Boys' State program are well-trained and experienced leaders. They are American Legion members and/or past Boys' State delegates and have also passed background checks.

Health and Medical

During registration and check-in, medical staff review each boy's medical forms for accuracy before they are admitted. Every care will be taken to avoid accidents and illnesses, but Boys' State will not be responsible or held liable for injuries or sickness if they occur.

Eligibility and Selection

Any boy who has been a member of the junior class for the 2025-2026 year and attends a Nebraska school, or is home-schooled, is eligible for Boys' State. Foreign exchange students are not eligible to attend.

A letter has been sent to every high school principal in the state to request they explain the Boys' State program to all eligible boys and secure a list of those who are interested. Traits to be considered when recommending a student include scholastic performance, leadership qualities, and citizenship.

Every sponsoring American Legion Post should ask the principal for the list of interested boys and then make its selection.

The Cornhusker Boys' State Board has the right to accept or reject any application. No publicity about a student's selection should be made until official notification is received from the Program Director, which is usually by April 1.

Endorsement vs Sponsorship

Every boy must be endorsed by a local American Legion Post. Other individuals and businesses, besides a Post, can sponsor the registration fee but the application must be endorsed by a Post. There is no limit to the number of boys that each Post can endorse and/or sponsor.

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