



AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

"A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE"

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 22-27, 2014; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

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63 Mercer County Students Attend American Legion Jersey Boys State *More than 325 New Jersey Communities Sent Delegates*

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – This week, 63 rising-seniors in high schools from Mercer County arrived at the 69th session of American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. The program, sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, is an action-oriented approach for teaching civics and government at the local, county and state level.

"It's our honor to welcome 924 statesmen to Jersey Boys State," said David Bagatelle, Director of ALJBS. "The Jersey Boys State record of producing our state's leaders is strong including our current governor, Chris Christie, our senators, Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, and many other political leaders."

Statesmen will have the opportunity to govern and interact with their peers from across New Jersey as they run their own mythical 51st state of the union from June 22-27. Within 24 hours each city will divide into political parties, elect a mayor and council from within their ranks. By the end of the session, statesmen will have filled the ranks of local, county, the state legislature, municipal courts and will elect two senators to serve at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. later this summer.

Highlights throughout the week include:

- Notable speakers including Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Leonard Lance, CBS 3 Philadelphia's Jessica Dean, US Senate candidate Jeffrey Bell, former Congressman Bob Inglis (SC), among many others;
- A college fair featuring nearly 100 institutions from across the country;
- Leadership and career seminars featuring business executives, military representatives, political consultants, law experts and journalists, among other professional experts;
- Election of the 69th ALJBS Governor on Thursday, June 26; and
- Election of two Boys Nation Senators on Friday June 27, who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C., from July 18-26, 2014.

Notable ALJBS alumni include Governor Christopher Christie (Boys Nation Senator, 1979), Senator Robert Menendez (1971), Senator Cory Booker (1986), Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito (1967), Congressman Leonard Lance (1969) and Assemblyman Herbert Conaway (ALJBS Governor, 1980).

Statesmen in Attendance (Alphabetical by Name)

Mohamed Abou-alfotouh, Princeton Junction, Legion Post #313

Dean Alamleh, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530

Navid Ali, Princeton, Legion Post #76

Dante Alston, Ewing, Legion Post #314

Matt Amodie, Hamilton Square, Legion Post #182

Vivek Barbhaiya, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530

Michael Buckley, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530

James Caceres, Trenton, Legion Post #182

Vladimir Castillo, Trenton, Legion Post #182

Brian Cerri, Princeton, Legion Post #458

Andrew Chen, Plainsboro, Legion Post #76

Jack Conboy, Hamilton, Legion Post #414
Christopher Cordero, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Etienne Cossart, Cranbury, Legion Post #148
Matthew Costantini, Yardville, Legion Post #414
Joseph Dashevsky, Princeton, Legion Post #76
Melvin Davila Martinez, Ewing, Legion Post #314
Nicholas DeFilippo, Hamilton, Legion Post #339
Albert Del Cristo, Clarksburg, Legion Post #458
Christian Demeo, Hamilton, Legion Post #93
Mark Dipaola, Hamilton Square, Legion Post #93
Adam Druckman, Plainsboro, Legion Post #76
Michael Elliot, Princeton, Legion Post #414
Benjamin Espenhorst, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Andrew Gandham, Ewing, Legion Post #314
Zachary Gubatina, Monmouth Junction, Legion Post #458
Dominick Guido, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Tajawuan Howard, Trenton, Legion Post #182
Christopher Hunt, Hamilton Township, Legion Post #339
Matthew Kamph, Ewing, Legion Post #314
Rahquan King, Trenton, Legion Post #182
Scott La Rochelle, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Pastorales Liu, Plainsboro, Legion Post #76
Mark Marrone, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Wilfredo Martinez, Bordentown, Legion Post #458
Jonathan Matthews, West Windsor, Legion Post #76
Jeffrey Maziarz, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Austin Meo, Cranbury, Legion Post #76
Trott Montana, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Adrian Morante, Hamilton, Legion Post #339
James Morocco, Hamilton, Legion Post #458
Brian Munnely, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Jack O'Donnell, Hamilton, Legion Post #458
Christopher Orsini, West Windsor, Legion Post #76
Gabriel Paolella, Ewing, Legion Post #314
Kush Patel, Lawrenceville, Legion Post #414
Matthew Peluso, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Christian Persichetti, Hamilton Square, Legion Post #458
Kunal Rath, Plainsboro, Legion Post #76
Matthew Rota, West Windsor, Legion Post #414
Matthew Sayde, Princeton Junction, Legion Post #313
Sean Scannell, Medford, Legion Post #458
Mark Scott, Trenton, Legion Post #182
Jugal Shah, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Ryan Siegel, Dayton, Legion Post #458
Suntharam Solai, West Windsor, Legion Post #76
Brian Starace, Princeton Junction, Legion Post #76
Patrick Sweeney, Florence, Legion Post #458
Anuj Thakkelpally, Plainsboro, Legion Post #76
Rodrigo Trevino, West Windsor, Legion Post #76
Mukul Vallakatla, Plainsboro, Legion Post #76
Jacob Verga, Lawrenceville, Legion Post #414
Benjamin Walker, Columbus, Legion Post #458

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About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)

In its 69th year, ALJBS is a week-long experience that educates and motivates New Jersey's youth so that each statesman may become a citizen leader dedicated to service, respect, and Americanism. Together, the delegates form the mythical "51st" state of the union each year, where they elect their own local, state, and national representatives. Activities at ALJBS include legislative sessions, general assemblies, court proceedings, athletics, band, and career seminars, among many others. All expenses associated with

attending ALJBS are typically donated by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business, or a community-based organization. To learn more, please visit aljbs.org.