



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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American Legion Jersey Boys State Continues Partnerships with N.J. State Police and U.S. Marine Corps

Partnerships Help Shape the Future for 1,000 Delegates during Jersey Boys State's 69th Session

TRENTON, NJ – Today, David Bagatelle, Director of the American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS), announced the program is continuing its partnerships with both the New Jersey State Police and the United States Marine Corps. ALJBS will hold its 69th week-long, college-level program with 1,000 expected statesmen in attendance from June 22, to June 27, 2014. The program is sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey and will be held at Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J.

Top of the class students from more than 325 New Jersey communities will participate in ALJBS' hands-on approach to government in action at the local, county and state level. Within 24 hours of their arrival to ALJBS, each city will have divided into political parties and elected a mayor and council from within their ranks. By the end of the week, the delegation will have elected a new ALJBS Governor and two Boys Nation Senators who will attend a national program in Washington, D.C. this summer.

"Our partnerships with the New Jersey State Police and United States Marine Corps provide countless benefits to 1,000 statesmen and our all-volunteer staff," said David Bagatelle, Director of American Legion Jersey Boys State. "We're grateful to both the NJSP and USMC for their commitment in our mission to offer leadership training for our statesmen."

Partnership with the New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

For more than 30 years, the New Jersey State Police have partnered with the ALJBS for the week-long exercise. Throughout the week, state troopers will provide security, conduct law enforcement career seminars, and actively participate as city counselors. In addition, on Friday, June 27, NJSP Aviation, Canine, and T.E.A.M.S. units will conduct a live demonstration for the participants and their families.

"This is an active, real-life exercise that will give some of New Jersey's best and brightest the opportunity to make important and often difficult decisions, while having to work cooperatively with others," said Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. "The New Jersey State Police is proud to be a part of this important program, and we will continue our commitment to invest in New Jersey's youth."

Partnership with the United State Marine Corps (USMC)

For the third consecutive year, the USMC will volunteer a detachment of Marines during ALJBS. The Marines will serve as city counselors, offer seminars in military careers and lead an optional physical training program. In addition, the Marines will lead each day's retreat ceremony paying respect to the flag of the United States of America.

"On behalf of Marine Corps Recruiting Station New Jersey, we are excited to continue our partnership with the ALJBS program," offered Major Brian Iglesias, Program Manager United States Marine Corps. "We are very proud to help shape the future leaders of America through this once in a lifetime opportunity for the 1,000 students."

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).

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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.