



AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

"A Week That Shapes the Future"

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
JUNE 19-24, 2016; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

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CONTACT: James Lynch
jlynch@aljbs.org, 609-560-8066

AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE ANNOUNCES JAM-PACKED 71st SESSION

TRENTON, NJ – Nearly 1,000 rising high school seniors are expected to convene at Rider University this week for the 71st session of the American Legion Jersey Boys State Program (ALJBS). The week-long college-seminar type program, which is sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, begins on Sunday, June 19, and lasts until Friday, June 24.

ALJBS features top-of-the-class high school juniors from more than 325 New Jersey communities. The students, referred to as statesmen, will participate in a hands-on approach to government-in-action at the local, county, and state level. Within 24 hours of their arrival to ALJBS, statesmen will form 18 mythical cities, divide into pre-determined political parties, and elect a mayor and city council from within their ranks. Each statesman will have an opportunity to participate in the political party process by running for political office, voting for their peers in city, county and statewide elections, among other events.

“Our 71st session of American Legion Jersey Boys State may be the best leadership program we have put together since its inception,” David Bagatelle, Director of American Legion Jersey Boys State, said. “The all-volunteer staff at Jersey Boys State is excited to welcome 1,000 statesmen to this year’s session.”

Highlights include:

- Notable speakers this year include Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, Congressman Leonard Lance, among many others;
- Leadership and career seminars taught by business executives, military representatives, political consultants, law experts, journalists, and other professional experts;
- The Jersey Boys State College and Career Fair presented by the New Jersey Boys State Foundation featuring more than 90 institutions and organizations from across the country;
- Election of the 71st ALJBS Governor on Thursday, June 23; and
- Election of two Boys Nation Senators on Friday, June 24, who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C. this Summer.

Notable ALJBS alumni include Governor Chris Christie (Boys Nation Senator, 1979), Senator Bob Menendez (1971), Senator Cory Booker (1986), Supreme Court Justice Sam 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 71st 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.