



# AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

*"A Week That Shapes the Future"*

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY  
JUNE 18-23, 2017; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

[www.aljbs.org](http://www.aljbs.org) [facebook.com/ALJBS](https://facebook.com/ALJBS) [@aljbs](https://instagram.com/aljbs) [@ALJBS](https://twitter.com/ALJBS)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 12, 2017

CONTACT: James Lynch  
[jlynch@aljbs.org](mailto:jlynch@aljbs.org), 609-560-8066

## AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE READIES FOR 72<sup>nd</sup> SESSION *Nearly 1,000 Students to Meet at Rider University for Week-Long Conference*

TRENTON, NJ – Nearly 1,000 rising high school seniors are expected to attend the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the American Legion Jersey Boys State Program (ALJBS) at Rider University. The week-long, college credit qualified conference, which is sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, begins on Sunday, June 18, and lasts through Friday, June 23.

More than 325 New Jersey communities are sending high school rising-seniors to attend ALJBS. The students, referred to as statesmen, will participate in a hands-on approach to government at the local, county, and state level. Within 24 hours of their arrival to ALJBS, statesmen will form 18 mock city governments, divide into political parties, and elect a mayor and city council from within their ranks. Each statesman will have an opportunity to participate in the political process by running for public office, forming party apparatus, writing legislation, and voting for their peers in city, county and statewide elections, among other events. By the end of the week, one statesman will be elected the 72<sup>nd</sup> Governor of ALJBS and two statesmen will be elected as Boys Nation Senators who will represent New Jersey at the 2017 Boys Nation Conference in Washington, DC.

"In its 72<sup>nd</sup> year, American Legion Jersey Boys State will continue to impress as an exceptional leadership program for New Jersey's youth," David Bagatelle, Director of ALJBS, said. "The all-volunteer staff at Jersey Boys State is ready to welcome 1,000 statesmen to Rider University."

### **Highlights include:**

- Notable speakers this year include Lt. Governor and Republican gubernatorial nominee Kim Guadagno, Senators Bob Menendez (ALJBS '71) and Cory Booker (ALJBS '86), Congressman Leonard Lance (ALJBS '69), 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 nearly 100 institutions and organizations from across the country;
- Election of the 72<sup>nd</sup> ALJBS Governor on Thursday, June 22; and
- Election of two Boys Nation Senators on Friday, June 23, who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Boys Nation conference 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).

###

### **About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)**

In its 72<sup>nd</sup> 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 statesmen form a mock "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](http://aljbs.org).