



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, Lawrence Twp., NJ

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FORTY-FOUR MERCER COUNTY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

More than 325 communities represented at weeklong "government-in-action" program

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ - Forty-four rising high school seniors from Mercer county are attending the 72nd session of American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) held every year at Rider University. The college credit-qualified conference, sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, is one of the leading "government-in-action" program in the country. Statesmen are typically chosen and sponsored by local American Legion Posts and other community-based organizations.

"It's our honor to welcome 953 statesmen to Jersey Boys State," ALJBS Director David Bagatelle said. "American Legion Jersey Boys State shapes the future for so many young students, each year, who become our political, community, military, and business leaders."

Statesmen are afforded the opportunity to govern and interact with their peers from across New Jersey as they run their own mythical 51st state from June 18-23. Within 24 hours of their arrival to ALJBS, statesmen will have formed 18 mythical cities and two political parties to elect a mayor and city council to guide their city throughout the week. Each student has an opportunity to participate in the political party process by running for office, participating in friendly debate and voting in elections, among many other events. By the end of the week, the delegation will elect a new ALJBS Governor, Lieutenant Governor and two Boys Nation Senators, who will attend a national program in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Highlights include:

- Notable speakers this year include Lt. Gov. and Republican gubernatorial candidate Kim Guadagno, Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, U.S. Rep Leonard Lance, former Gov. Christie Whitman and ESPN analyst/NBA star Jay Williams
- Leadership and career seminars taught by business executives, military representatives, political consultants, law experts, journalists, and other professional experts;
- A college fair featuring more than 90 institutions from across the country;
- Election of the 72nd 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 program in Washington D.C. this summer.

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

2017 XXX County Delegation

Ritvik Agnihotri, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Nicholas Anderson, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Mustafa Arain, Hamilton, Legion Post #182
Jameson Ayers, Pennington, Legion Post #339
Adrian Baez, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Brenden Bechamps, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Jermar Best, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Shiv Bhatt, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
John Caperna, Hamilton, Legion Post #93
Kelvin Chen, Princeton, Legion Post #76
Sree Chinta, East Windsor, Legion Post #148
Robert Cimilluca, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Steven Cohen, East Windsor, Legion Post #148
Mario De Leon, Hamilton, Legion Post #93
Jack Demareski, Pennington, Legion Post #339
Cameron DeMarie, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Nicholas Ehring, Hamilton, Legion Post #414
Brennan Eppinger, Pennington, Legion Post #458
Peter Garlisi, Hamilton Sq., Legion Post #31
Dillon Henry, Princeton Junction, Legion Post #76
Pralhad Iyengar, West Windsor, Legion Post #76
Alex Krauel, Princeton, Legion Post #76
Gary Lal, Lawrence, Legion Post #414
David Luciano, Hamilton, Legion Post #458
Benjamin Markulec, Titusville, Legion Post #339
Kevin McKenzie, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Jack McNeilly, West Windsor, Legion Post #76
Matthew Midura, Hamilton, Legion Post #31
Ryan Morris, Lawrenceville, Legion Post #414
Ryan Novozinsky, Allentown, Legion Post #414
Jack Olszewski, Yardville, Legion Post #93
Ajani Owens, Trenton, Legion Post #458
Nicola Pasqua, Hamilton, Legion Post #182
Austin Paul, Ewing, Legion Post #528
Gregory Petrov, Princeton, Legion Post #76
Zabir Rahman, East Windsor, Legion Post #148
Matthew Savoca, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Vishesh Shah, West Windsor, Legion Post #76
Neal Singal, West Windsor, Legion Post #76
Jasman Singh, East Windsor, Legion Post #148
Alexander Stanton III, Robbinsville, Legion Post #458
Wayne Staub, Ewing, Legion Post #314
Ryan Van Duren, Robbinsville, Legion Post #530
Michael Villalta, Trenton, Legion Post #458

About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)

In its 72nd 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 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.