



# American Legion Jersey Boys State

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## American Legion Jersey Boys State to be held June 17-22, 2012

More than 975 high school juniors expected at Rider University

TRENTON, NJ ... June 14, 2012 ... American Legion Jersey Boys State (“ALJBS”), a program sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, will hold its 67<sup>th</sup> annual weeklong conference on the campus of Rider University, Lawrenceville, NJ from Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Top High school juniors from across the State of New Jersey will convene on the campus of Rider University to participate in ALJBS’ hands-on approach in teaching civics and government at the local, county and state level, including party politics. Delegates are organized into “cities” of approximately 60 of their peers and assigned to one of the ALJBS parties, the Federal party or the National party. Within 24 hours of their arrival to ALJBS, each city will have elected a mayor and council from within their ranks.

More than 975 delegates from around the state will begin to arrive on the campus of Rider on Father’s Day, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Days are action-packed and begin with a 6 am wake-up call and do not end until “lights out” at about 11 pm each night. During this college-level seminar, general assemblies, seminars, court sessions, a college fair, and classroom-type instruction are conducted to teach the delegates the fundamentals of democracy, politics and public policy. The highlight of the week will come on Thursday afternoon when the 67<sup>th</sup> elected ALJBS Governor is announced and sworn into office. Every delegate selected to the program has the opportunity to run for Governor, but only one will be elected to this high position. The final election will be held Friday morning and announced during graduation. Two delegates will be elected to represent ALJBS at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington, D.C. from July 20-28, 2012.

Some notable alumni of the American Legion Boys State program include President Bill Clinton (Arkansas), Vice President Dick Cheney (Wyoming), Astronaut Neil Armstrong (Ohio), NBC News Anchor Tom Brokaw (South Dakota), and Basketball Star Michael Jordan (North Carolina). Notable alumni from New Jersey’s annual program include US Senator Robert Menendez, Governor Christopher J. Christie (Boys Nation Senator, 1979), Former State Senator and Current Port Authority Deputy Director William Baroni, US Congressman Leonard Lance, Assemblyman Herbert Conaway, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, and rocker Bruce Springsteen.

Some notable speakers to address the 2012 ALJBS delegation include US Representative Leonard Lance (Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm), Brig Gen Michael Cunniff (Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm), NJ Assemblyman Herb Conaway (Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm), Thomas Kean, Jr. (Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm) and Nationally Renowned Reporter Charles Wiley (Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM). Check out website and Twitter feeds for additional speakers throughout the week.

In addition to the many noteworthy speakers, the New Jersey State Police has been committed and has been an intricate part of the American Legion Jersey Boys State Program by presenting seminars based on leadership, self-commitment and community service, and working with the “PT” program held during recreation time Monday to Thursday 3-5pm. Notable programs and presentations include Careers in Law Enforcement, Careers in the New Jersey

State Police including demonstrations from specialized units such as the Arson and Bomb Unit, Canine Unit, TEAMS Unit as well as the Aviation Unit. Troopers throughout the week actively participate in the Boys State program as counselors and mentors. Additionally, the ALJBS program will have 9 full time members of the US Marine Corps working with the volunteer staff to mentor and teach the program participants. They too will be presenting seminars, engaging in the College and Career Fair on Tuesday 12:30-2:30pm and participating in the daily Retreat ceremony each day at 5:30pm.

## **About ALJBS**

American Legion Jersey Boys State is a citizenship and leadership-training program held annually in June for high school students who have completed their junior year. ALJBS is among the most respected and selective educational programs of its kind for high school students in the entire country. It is a participatory program where each delegate becomes part of running his local, county and state government. Though the program has national roots dating back to 1935, ALJBS came to New Jersey in 1946 and has been held every year since

At American Legion Jersey Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the statesmen elected and appointed to the various offices and positions. Activities include elections, debates, council meetings, legislative sessions, court proceedings, career seminars, speeches from top New Jerseyans, band, chorus and organized athletic programs.

Top high school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program from all across the State of New Jersey. In most cases, the sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization pays the expenses associated with sending a delegate to this outstanding program.

ALJBS, sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, has a strong tradition of education, patriotism and excellence in the development of tomorrow's leaders at our weeklong hands-on program. Each year, over 950 high school juniors attend the program Sponsored by the American Legion, the program leadership strives to be a college-level seminar complete with a college fair, keynote speakers and various daily seminars that focus on topics from law enforcement and careers in politics to medicine and public administration.

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