



**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
BOYS STATE OF VIRGINIA, INC.  
20 May 2021**

Dear Counselor:

Again, thank you for participating in Boys State this year. As a member of the Counselor Staff, your participation is vital to the success of the program. I want to cover a few reminders, changes and updates to this year's program.

For Counselors, this year's session runs from June 19 to June 26, 2021. Check-in for all Counselors is in Washington Hall. Please plan to arrive no later than 11 AM. City Counselor training will start at Noon on Saturday, June 19, 2021 - this is a change! The location of the training will be finalized in the coming weeks and notification will go out as we get closer to the start of the session.

Boys State reimburses for mileage round trip from your home, so keep track of your miles. Since meal service is not available until Sunday evening, Boys State also pays per diem for breakfast and lunch. Dinner meal plans for Saturday night will be announced at the first meeting, but the plan now is to have a social and recognition ceremony as we have done in past years. Please make sure you bring bedding, pillows, towels, and any other personal items you may need for the duration of the week. A suggested packing list is posted on the "info for counselors" page.

The uniform during the week is the blue Boys State Counselor shirt with white pants or white shorts (or a light pair of khaki pants or shorts if white is unavailable), white socks and tennis shoes. Counselors are permitted to wear shorts most of the week; however, during the visits of dignitaries such as the Governor and on Legion Night (Friday night) Counselors are required to wear long pants. Legion and SAL members need to wear their caps on Friday night too.

If you have not already, please go to the Virginia Boys State webpage at [www.vaboysstate.org](http://www.vaboysstate.org) and complete the process for the mandatory background check; cost is \$12 for the background check.

1. Go [www.vaboysstate.org](http://www.vaboysstate.org)
2. Click on Boys State "Info for Counselors" tab on the left side of the page.
3. Click on the "Background Check" tile in the middle of the page.
4. Complete the application and payment information.

Once I receive confirmation that your background check has been completed and you are approved, I will send you a confirmation email that will include the username and password to gain access to the secure items on the website. I urge all Counselors to review the Counselors Manual posted in the secure site, especially sections III and V. After your background check is approved, you will receive a link to take an online Youth Protection Course. Please complete that as soon as possible and save a copy of your certificate.

As you can imagine, COVID has added some special challenges to this year's session. We are still working through some of the details with the Radford University staff and will give you a full update at our training session. The Virginia Boys State staff has been working closely with the RU staff to make this session happen during this pandemic. We are one of the few American Legion Departments that are having an "in person" session; many Department's opting to cancel again or go virtual. Again, we could not do this without your support.

There will be eight cities this year, with each having about 30 citizens. Each city will occupy an entire building or an entire floor in Moffett Hall. We currently have enough counselors to have at least one on each floor.

As you are aware, there have been numerous no shows in past years. If something prevents you from attending, please contact me as soon as possible.

You can contact me anytime at 804-731-7580 or email shumar5@yahoo.com. If I am unable to take your call, please leave a message and I will get back to you.

I want to thank you for your dedication to the Boys State program. Without you there would not be an American Legion Boys State in Virginia. I anticipate another great year and look forward to working with you during the upcoming session and hopefully many more to come!

Best Regards,

***Bob Shumar***

Bob Shumar  
Chief City Counselor  
Virginia American Legion Boys State