



**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
BOYS STATE OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

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June 1, 2023

Dear Counselor:

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

This year's session runs from June 17 - 24, 2023 at Radford University. Please plan to attend a virtual counselor meeting a few days prior to your arrival (date/time TBD). Recommend you arrive no later than 11:00 AM to check in and receive initial instructions. The on-site counselor meeting/training session will begin at 12:00 PM on Saturday, June 17, 2023. The admin office may not be in Washington Hall so please watch for future notices.

ALBS will reimburse you for a round trip from your home so don't forget to note your mileage. Meal service is not available until Sunday evening so per diem for Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast is available upon request. Dinner meal plans for Saturday night will be announced at the first meeting, but plan on attending the annual social/recognition ceremony as we have done in past years. Don't forget to 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 on the website.

The uniform during the week is the blue Boys State Counselor polo shirt with white pants or white shorts (khaki pants/shorts are authorized, but please get as close to white as possible). The uniform also includes closed-toed shoes and socks. Staff and Counselors are permitted to wear shorts most of the week, but remember long pants are required during the visits of dignitaries (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General) and on Legion Night (Friday). Legionnaires and SAL members should also wear their garrison caps on Legion Night.

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 annual mandatory background check (cost is now \$14.75). Proceed to [www.vaboysstate.org](http://www.vaboysstate.org), select “Counselors” from top menu bar, then scroll down until you see “Background Check”. Click and complete the application and payment information.

Once we 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.

We are currently working with Radford’s new Director of Conference Services so things might look a little different for us in 2023. As previously mentioned, the admin office may not be in Washington Hall this year. Other changes include dormitories we’ve never used before, but are better situated and having meals in Dalton Hall (not the Muse). Nothing confirmed yet so watch for updates!

We hope our numbers are up from last year, but know we lost some momentum during the “COVID years”. Based on early estimates we will have 12 cities with 40 – 45 delegates each. Our goal is to put three counselors in each city, but we need your help! My challenge to the veteran counselors is to bring a new counselor. Reach out to one of your standout delegates from the past few years and invite them to come back as a junior counselor or talk to that new member of your Post. Our continued success depends on the counselor staff getting a little younger, but just as dedicated.

Thank you for your continues support of American Legion Boys State of Virginia! You can contact me at 757-254-4490 (call/text) or email [azmattman2021@gmail.com](mailto:azmattman2021@gmail.com). Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

See you in June!

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