



TAR HEEL BOYS STATE

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Post Handbook

2025 Edition

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Forward

The last edition of this handbook was produced in 2017. Since that time, the program has gone through a lot of changes. The Administration of the program is completely changed and the operation of the program has completely changed as well.

The purpose of this handbook is to walk you through the process of recruitment of a delegate, all the way up through the finish of the program they will attend. You will be able to find the answer to almost any question you have about THBS in this handbook, but if you have one that the book doesn't answer, please reach out to me and I will answer it for you and include the answer in a future edition of this handbook.

Thank you for your service to the American Legion and for your time in going through this handbook.

Dustin B. Pittman
Program Director
919-750-1330
director@tarheelboysstate.org

Post Committee's Role

Over the past several years the Boys State Committee has noticed a significant decline of delegates attending the Tar Heel Boys State Program. Not only has the delegate number decreased, but the number of post sponsoring delegates to Boys State has decreased as well. The Tar Heel Boys State Committee strongly urges all American Legion Posts and SAL Squadrons to participate in sending delegates to Boys State. In 2024, 135 delegate attended the program from 67 American Legion Posts. That means more than 200 American Legion Posts in North Carolina did not send a delegate to the program. This program is too vital to educating the youth of this nation about the importance of good citizenship to allow it to go by the wayside. The decline of delegates attending Boys State is happening all across the nation, so much so, that in 2007 the Nation American Legion Organization passed a resolution noting the decline of delegates attending a Boys State Program. It starts at the grass root level in getting the participation back up to where we were. In 2000 there were 550 delegates that attended Boys State, in 2003 there were 375, and in 2008 there were only 234. If every post and squadron in the state sponsored AT LEAST one delegate to Boys State the decline would stop.

For a post wanting to sponsor delegates to the Tar Heel Boys State Program it is vital for the post to designate a Boys State Committee. The Boys State Committee will be responsible for carrying out the duties of sponsoring delegates to Boys State for the post. It is also recommended that the post establish a selection committee of at least three post members.

With the all new online application for Boys State, you will begin receiving delegate applications as early as October 1. Please designate a Committee member to contact these delegates as soon as you receive these applications. There is a lot more competition for delegates than there was years ago and communication and signing up delegates as soon as possible is key. If you're not ready to interview when the applicant comes to you, let them know your process and when interviews will be held.

Duties of Boys State Committee

The Committee will be responsible for the following:

1. Organizing a Boys State Selection Committee to approve all potential delegates.
2. Finding delegates for the post to sponsor by meeting with local high school officials and finding delegates from the community.
3. Meeting and screening potential delegates.
4. Meeting with potential sponsors to provide funding for the delegates to attend Boys State.
5. Exciting the post membership about sending delegates.
6. It is recommended that the post sponsor a banquet/meal or presentation time for delegates to present what they learned while attending Boys State once they get back from the program. This would also be a good time to invite members from the community to showcase what the American Legion stands for. Some people to invite would be:
 - a. School officials from delegate's school.
 - b. City/County officials from the community.
 - c. Parents/Friends of the presenting delegates.
 - d. Sponsors that support Boys State by bearing the financial obligation.
 - e. Future potential Boys Staters.
7. Developing a standard calendar for how your post will work with the Boys State program. Suggested timeline is next in this guide.
8. Reviewing and signing all delegates' paperwork and sending the sponsor check to Department.
9. Ensuring delegates have arranged for transportation to make it to and from the program.
10. Send out press releases to local newspapers and television stations to publicize who will be going to Tar Heel Boys State and then again on their success while they were at Tar Heel Boys State. (Generic Press Releases will be generated by THBS staff and sent to your post).
11. Promoting Boys State in the post and community.

A Year for Boys State Post Committee

In this section of the Handbook is recommended yearly agenda for the Boys State Post Committee Chairman. This is only a recommended schedule of events and can be altered to fit the needs of the post/squadron.

July Legion College is not required, but is highly recommended. At legion college post chairman have the opportunity to attend a class about Tar Heel Boys State; as well as, an opportunity to have questions answered.

Send out press releases to local newspapers and television stations if delegates your post sponsored to Boys State performed exceptionally well. For example, being elected to a high ranking position, selected to go to Boys' Nation, received the Samsung Scholarship, etc.

July/August Host a banquet/reception for delegates returning from the Tar Heel Boys State Program.

August/September Form a Boys State Committee at your post and start making contacts in the community. Start scouting potential sponsors.

October Fall Conference to attend the Boys State Committee meeting to learn what is going on with Boys State for the year. Also, opportunity to have questions answered.

Online application goes live October 1.

November/December You will begin receiving applications from any delegate who filled out the application online in your area (ongoing until program).

at Contact schools and civic organizations to locate more potential delegates. Post the provided flyers schools and around town to recruit. Direct potential applicants to www.tarheelboysstate.org/apply

January	Begin screening potential delegates. Closing the deal with sponsors to provide funding for delegates to go to Boys State.
April	Ensure delegate fees to Department Headquarters
May	Send out press releases to local newspapers and television stations about delegates attending Boys State (generic releases will come from THBS Staff).
June	Tar Heel Boys State Week. Follow up with your delegates to ensure they have transportation to the program and have all they need to attend.

Public Relations

It is important for the American Legion to publicize how the organization impacts local communities. Boys State gives the local post the opportunity to do just that. For the image of the American Legion it is important to send out press releases when your post makes a difference in the community. Please send out press releases to local newspapers and television stations when sponsoring delegates to Boys State; as well as, how the delegates your post sponsors to Boys State performs at the program.

Once a delegate is approved for the program, our system will generate a Press Release and we will send it to you. There will be spots for you to insert your comments in the releases.

After the program has completed, we will send you an additional press release to use with updates from their attendance at the program.

Application Process

Online Application Process

All new for 2025 is a fully online application process for THBS. This is something we are very excited about as it should reduce significantly our administrative process for onboarding delegates as well as making the process easier for you as the Post in receiving and processing applications. As of this year **there are no more paper applications**. All applications will be completed online by delegates through DocuSign and approved by Posts through DocuSign.

How does it work?

Delegates have been coming to THBS through two different avenues over the last decade. The first avenue is when you have actively recruited them from the school or community. The second avenue is when they have organically found THBS either through a past delegate or our advertising on the internet and social media. No matter how they come to find THBS, they go through the same process to apply.

A delegate seeking to attend THBS first goes to our website, www.TarHeelBoysState.org. The delegate then clicks "Apply Now."



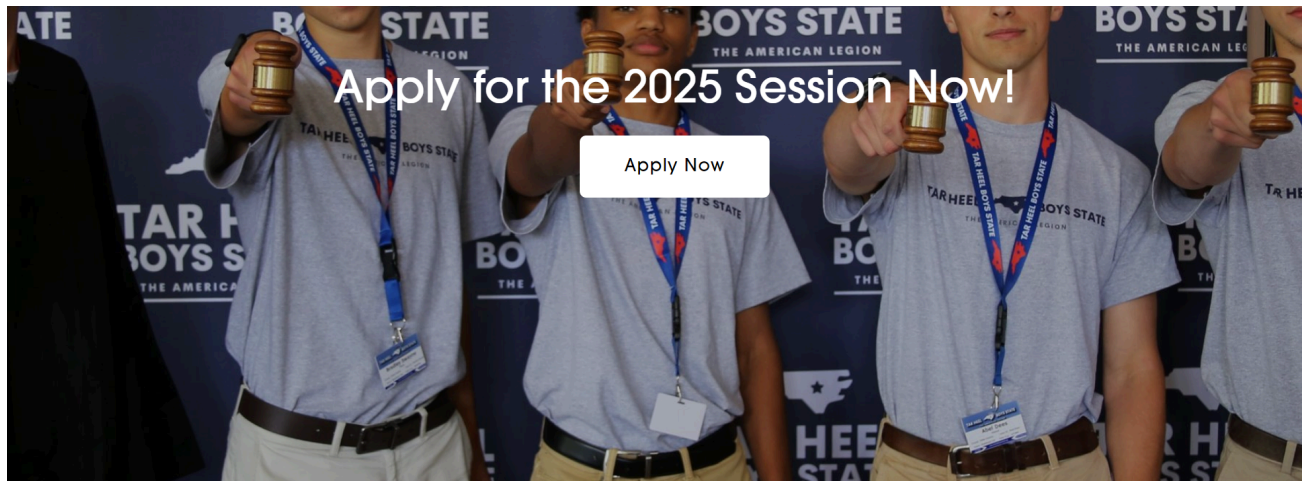
[Home](#) [About](#) [Program](#) [Alumni](#) [Team](#)
[Photos](#) [Contact](#)



APPLY NOW



That link takes them to the application page which provides more information on the process.



Once you click the link to the application above, you will be taken to a Google Form. On the form you will enter your information (name and email) and your parent's information (name and email). You then will receive the application through DocuSign where you will complete the initial application, the medical form and the required waivers. A portion of the application will be accessible by you and a portion by your parents once the student has completed his part.

Once you have completed and submitted the application, you will receive an email from us indicating that your application was received and informing you of the next steps.

We look forward to seeing you June 15-21 on the campus of Catawba College!

They then click the white "Apply Now" button in the middle of the page.



2025 Tar Heel Boys State Interest Form

Please provide us with your contact information so we can send you the application.

*Note: Applications will be emailed within 24 hours. If you have not received an email with the application within that time frame please reach out to Seth Young
seth.young@tarheelboysstate.org*

Parent name and email address are required. Your application will not be approved without a parent signature.

director@tarheelboysstate.org [Switch account](#)



Not shared

* Indicates required question

Delegate Full Name *

Your answer

Delegate Email *

Your answer

It takes them to a Google Form that they complete requesting the application. This form requests their basic contact information as well as their parent's basic contact information. Once submitted, the form automatically goes to DocuSign and generates their delegate application. That application is emailed to them at the email address they provide.

The delegate gets an email that looks like this:



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The delegate follows the link and completes their portion of the application, which is their basic contact information and other required information as well as signing the delegate pledge. **One of the questions asks if they have been recruited or recommended by an American Legion Post. It is important they list your post number in this field as it determines how applications are routed later.** After they have completed their portion, a similar email is sent to their parents. The parent then completes the Medical Form and signs all waivers and other forms required (this has been reviewed with the Department Judge Advocate and he approved of the online process and digitally signing all documents).

The good news with this setup is that there is no more trouble for you (or us) in tracking down the medical forms and getting the information. When a delegate comes to you all forms have already been completed.

When the parent has completed their portion, we will then forward the application to you. If this is a delegate that you recruited, we will make sure it gets to your post. If it is a delegate who found us online, we will route the application to the nearest geographic post to their location.

You will receive an email from the Program Director (director@tarheelboysstate.org) with a PDF copy of the application and instructions. By a separate email, you will receive the Post Approval Form from DocuSign. The instructions are simple:

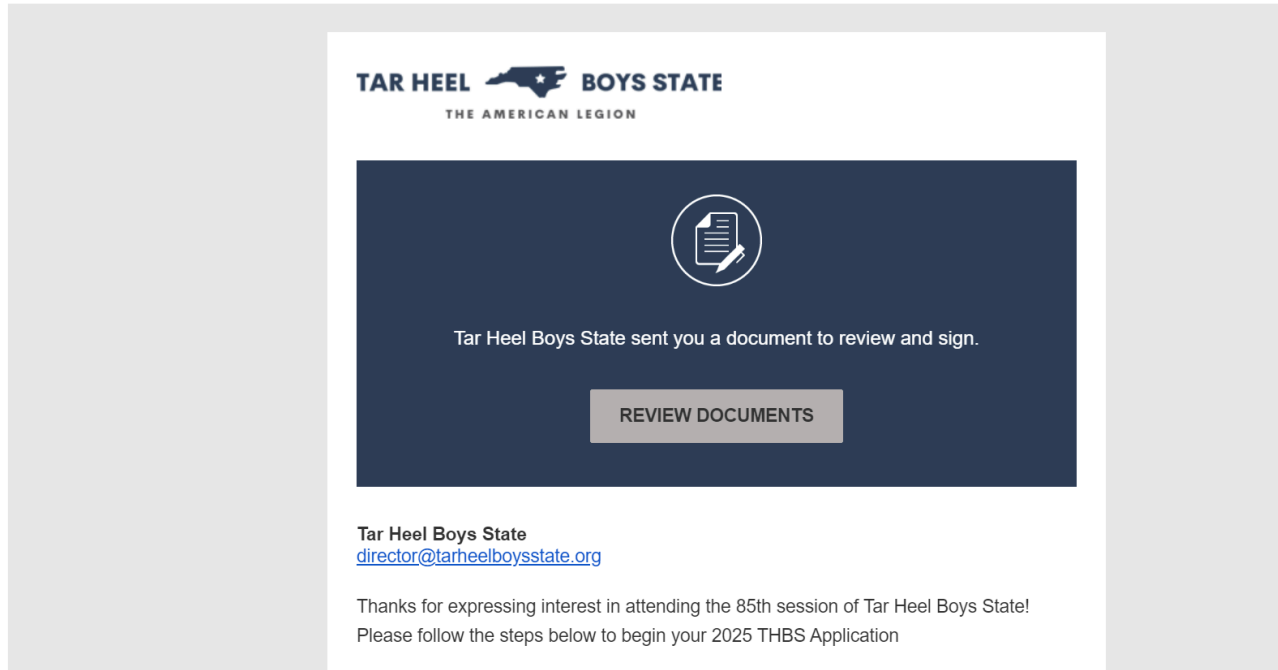
1. Please make contact with the potential delegate within three weeks of receiving the application via email. Send them a quick email or give them a quick call. Just touch base and make sure they know your internal process.
2. Interview the delegate as soon as possible. Your interview is an integral part in obtaining the highest quality delegates for THBS.
3. When you have completed your interview and approve of the delegate, go to the DocuSign link in the email and complete the form.
4. Mail your check for the delegate fees (\$500.00) to Department Headquarters. Please include "THBS - Delegate's Name" on the memo line of your check.

The DocuSign portion of the email will look like this:

2025 Tar Heel Boys State Application External Inbox x

Tar Heel Boys State via DocuSign <dse_NA4@docusign.net>
to me ▾

Thu, Oct 3, 8:01PM (4 days ago)



Simply click “Review Documents” and follow the prompts to complete the Post portion of the application. You can do this from any computer, tablet or smartphone. Once you have followed the process, it automatically notifies us that you have approved of the delegate.

If at any point you have problems with this process, please contact the Program Director Dustin Pittman by phone at 919-750-1330 or by email at director@tarheelboysstate.org.

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Program Information

What is Boys State?

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate, similar program for young ladies called Girls State. At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges and the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. High school juniors are selected by local American Legion posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion post, a local business or another community-based organization. American Legion Boys State is currently conducted in 49 Departments of The American Legion. Hawaii does not conduct a program. As separate corporations, Boys States vary in content and method of procedure, but each and every Boys State adheres to the basic concept of the program - that of teaching government from the township to the state level.

Tar Heel Boys State (THBS) is sponsored by **THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF North Carolina**. It is an intense workshop concentrating on North Carolina state government and politics. Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and have at least one more semester of high school remaining are considered eligible to participate. Delegates representing all geographic areas of North Carolina participate annually in this program

THE AMERICAN LEGION believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our great republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government. By teaching the youth of our state and nation to understand and appreciate the basic principles involved in the successful management of a democratic society, we can keep America strong and ensure freedom for future generations. **THBS teaches that preservation of our form of government depends on intelligent, informed and loyal citizens in combination of government activities.**

Objectives

- ❑ To improve citizenship for present and future generations;
- ❑ To become familiar with the structure of North Carolina government and its political process - using the LEARN TODAY TO LEAD TOMORROW concept of instruction;
- ❑ To develop civic leadership and pride in American citizenship;

- ☐ To arouse a keen interest in the detailed study of our government;
- ☐ To develop in the young citizens of Boys State, the full understanding of our American traditions and beliefs in the United States of America;
- ☐ To arouse in the young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government;
- ☐ To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- ☐ To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.

General Organization

The THBS program is fashioned after the government structure of the state of North Carolina. Political offices and agencies that serve the people of North Carolina also exist at THBS. THBS operates under a two-party system with instruction provided in the organization and operation of political parties at different levels of state government. THBS covers a period of seven days.

Political Organization

Upon arrival at THBS, the citizens are assigned to one of two fictional political parties, the “Nationalists” or the “Federalists”. The two parties are in no way reflections of the two major political parties in American government, but are established to allow instruction and participation in the two-party system of government.

An effective political system is created at THBS to operate from the precinct level through the State committee. A breakdown of the political organization is as follows:

- The City
- The County
- The Judicial Circuit
- The Legislative District
- The Boys State

The government organization provides for such features as: city, county and state elections, party caucuses and conventions, keynote speeches, platform development, organization of component units such as senatorial districts, judicial districts, and legislative committees, and local functional government such as county boards, agencies, and courts.

The Instructional Program

THBS adheres to the basic concept of teaching government from the township to the state level. The Instructional Program is carried out in three phases: limited classroom instruction, functional activities, and general assemblies. Approximately fifty percent of the program hours of THBS are devoted to government instruction and practice.

The week begins with lectures on subjects such as law, civil service, election procedures and parliamentary

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procedure. Other special lectures are conducted to inform candidates of the duties of the office they seek. Following the election and appointment of officers, instruction in the operation of the respective offices is held by the citizens. All citizens of THBS receive instruction in Parliamentary Procedure.

From there, the week's functional activities begin with delegates nominating candidates for city offices, county offices and state offices. As the program progresses mid week they campaign for votes and ultimately hold primary and general elections for all offices. After the inauguration of the Governor of THBS each government body begins acting in their official capacity carrying out their individual duties through focused scenario-based activities. This is the heart of the instructional program. These functional activities (citizenship practice) such as elections, caucuses, conventions, operation of the courts and legislative assemblies are what we call government in action.

These activities take a considerable portion of the time allotted for instructional purposes and best fulfill our program mission of citizens "learning by doing."

Throughout the week delegates are afforded the opportunity to hear and interact with guest speakers. Previous guest speakers have included Governor James Hunt, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Justice Henry Frye, former Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr., Attorney General Josh Stein, Congressman Jeffrey Jackson, Chief Justice Paul Newby, Associate Justice Robert Edmonds, Associate Justice Curtis H. "Trey" Allen, and others.

Sports

Young men attending THBS will have access to athletic facilities. Athletic events are a part of the THBS schedule. All athletic events are supervised by the program staff. Participation is purely voluntary on the part of those attending.

Boys Nation

Two outstanding representatives from each of 49 Boys States are called upon to represent their state at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, DC. It is here that the young leaders, who had excelled at their respective Boys States, are introduced to the structure and function of the federal government.

The first American Legion Boys Nation (then called Boys Forum of National Government) was held in August 1946 at American University in Washington, DC. It was officially adopted as a

major youth activity by the 1946 National Convention. Three years later, its name was changed to American Legion Boys Nation.

At American Legion Boys' Nation, each delegate represents his Boys State as a senator. These youthful lawmakers caucus at the beginning of the session, organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by delegates to the program.

The Boys Nation Senators are instructed on the proper method of handling bills according to the rules of the United States Senate. Actual participation in the political process is highlighted throughout the week to include the organization of party conventions and the nomination and election of a Boys Nation President and Vice President.

The week of government training in the Nation's Capitol combines lectures and forums with visitations to federal agencies, institutions, memorials and historical spots in and around Washington. During a visit to Capitol Hill, Boys Nation Senators meet with elected officials from their home states.

Boys Nation visits several historic and governmental sites in and around the Washington, DC area. Included are field trips to Arlington National Cemetery, the monuments and memorials on the National Mall, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Capitol and the White House.

Since its beginning in 1946, Boys Nation has seen many of its graduates elected to public offices which include the Presidency of the United States, the United States Congress, as state governors and as state legislators. Many others became inspired to actively work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public office.

Samsung Scholarship

THBS delegates that are eligible to apply for the scholarships are students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government; World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Panama, Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, Operation Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terrorism.

The selection of the \$20,000 scholarship winners will be based, in part, upon students academic record, (GPA, SAT/ACT Test Scores and Class Rank), involvement in school activities, involvement in community activities, financial need and additional bonus points will awarded to descendants of the Korean War. **Applications for SAMSUNG are completed online and are due at 11:59 PM on the Saturday before the program begins.**

Accomplished Graduates of an American Legion Boys State Program

<u>STATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CAREER</u>
AK	Loren Leman	Alaska Lt. Governor
AR	William J. Clinton	U.S. President, Arkansas Governor (Boys' Nation)
AR	Fred Akers	Head Football Coach—WY, TX, Purdue
AZ	Bruce Babbitt	Arizona Governor, Sec. of Interior 1993-2001
AZ	Fred DuVal	Clinton Advisor; Chief of Protocol
AZ	Jim Shumway	Arizona Secretary of State
CA	Gaddi Vasquez	Director, US Peace Corps
CT	Joseph Lieberman	U.S. Senator (Boys' Nation)—Connecticut
CT	Bill O'Neill	Former Governor of Connecticut
GA	Sam Nunn	Former U.S. Senator—Georgia
GA	Robert S. Turner	Past National Commander—American Legion
GA	Gyneth Waldron	Originated "Dukes of Hazzard" TV/Movie Writer
IL	Roger Ebert	Pulitzer Prize Winner—Movie Critic
IL	Jim Peters	Author—"Arlington National Cemetery"
IN	Richard Lugar	U.S. Senator—Indiana
IN	Mitchell Daniels	Former Indiana Governor
IA	Terry Branstadt	Former Iowa Governor
IA	Michael Johanns	Agriculture Secretary, Former Nevada Governor
KS	John Carlin	Former Kansas Governor, National Archivist
KS	Delano Lewis	Former Ambassador to South Africa
KY	Julian M. Carroll	Former Kentucky Governor
MA	Michael Dukakis	Former Massachusetts Governor, Pres. Candidate
MD	Dilip Paliath	Governor's Legislative Assistant
MD	Sean Fahey	Rhodes Scholar, U.S. Naval Academy
MD	Lt. Cdr. Patrick McClanahan	White House Fellow
MI	Peter McPherson	President of Michigan State University
MS	Trent Lott	U.S. Senator—Mississippi

MO	Rush Limbaugh	Journalist, Author
MO	Stan Kroenke	Owner of Professional Sports Teams
MO	Robert Holden	Governor of Missouri
MO	Thomas Plaskett	Former President of American Airlines, Continental Airlines, and Pan Am Airlines
MT	Max Baucus	U.S. Senator—Montana
ND	Phil Jackson	Coach of NBA Chicago and LA teams
ND	John Hoven	Governor of North Dakota
NE	MG Roger Lempke	Adjutant General, Mil Dept. of Nebraska
NE	Dave Heinemen	Lt. Governor of Nebraska
NE	Jon Bruning	Nebraska Attorney General
NE	Ben Nelson	U.S. Senator; Former Governor of Nebraska
NC	James Hunt	NC Governor (1977-1985) and (1993-2001)
NC	Michael Jordan	Professional Athlete
NC	James Martin	Former NC Governor
NC	Patrick McHenry	U.S. House of Representatives—North Carolina
NY	George Pataki	Governor of New York
NY	Dr. Nick Sallese	Renowned Professor at St. John's Univ.
OH	Neil Armstrong	Astronaut—First to walk on the moon
OH	Michael Oxley	U.S. House of Representatives—Ohio
OH	Thomas Moyer	Chief Justice—Ohio Supreme Court
OH	Lt. Col. Carl Walz	NASA Astronaut—International Space Station
OH	Dr. Michael Gearhart	NASA Astronaut
OH	Col. Terence Henricks	NASA Astronaut
OH	Pual Gilmore	U.S. House of Representatives—Ohio
SC	Richard Riley	Former SC Governor; Sec. of Education (Clinton)
SC	Joe Riley	Mayor of Charleston, SC
SC	Lonnie Holiday	NFL Player (Packers and Broncos)

SD	Tom Brokow	ABC News Anchor
SD	Tom Daschle	Former U.S. Senate Minority Leader
TN	Lamar Alexander	Former TN Governor; U.S. Senate—Tennessee
TN	Albert Gore	Former U.S. Vice President; Former U.S. Senator
TX	Alan Keyes	Presidential Candidate; talk show host
VA	Carroll Dale	Former NFL Player—Superbowl
WA	Randy Revelle	Former Lt. Governor of Washington
WI	Thomas Petri	U.S. House of Representatives—Wisconsin
WI	Scott Walker	Wisconsin State Legislature
WI	William Steiger	U.S. House of Representatives—Wisconsin
WI	Al Jarreau	Award Winning Singer and Entertainer
WY	Richard Cheney	U.S. Vice President; U.S. Congressman

Former delegates of the THBS program can be found on every college/university campus across this state.

The THBS Program has produced Student Body Presidents of East Carolina University, Wake Forest University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University. Many former delegates have also gone on to one of the military academies. Furthermore, several former delegates of the THBS program have become leaders in the North Carolina Sons of the American Legion.

Eligibility Requirements and Promoting Tar Heel Boys State

Eligibility

To attend Tar Heel Boys State the following requirements will be observed:

1. Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and have at least one remaining semester of high school will be considered as a delegate to Tar Heel Boys State;
2. Only young men with outstanding qualities of **Leadership, Character, Scholarship, Loyalty and Service to their schools** should be considered as possible delegates to Tar Heel Boys State;
3. THBS welcomes delegates who evidence a handicap. Due to the demands of the program, the nature and extent of any handicap must be considered. Before a handicapped candidate is approved as a delegate, the sponsoring Post/Squadron must have the approval of the Director so that any necessary special arrangements can be made.
4. Any delegate who has previously attended THBS or any other Boys State Program is not eligible to attend a second session. However, a former citizen of the program is always welcome to visit as an alumnus. He may also be considered as a possible counselor to serve with the program and is encouraged to submit an application to the Chief City Counselor, Terry Pressley (terry.pressley@tarheelboysstate.org or 828-452-4232).

Promoting the Boys State Program

The THBS website, www.TarHeelBoysState.org, contains a plethora of information about the program and includes promotional flyers you can download and use to post at schools or in the community to promote the program. Our promotional video is available on our website and is also on YouTube (search "Tar Heel Boys State Informational Video"). We also print a large number of these flyers and brochures each year and they are available at Department Conferences and Conventions. Copies can be sent to your post at your request, please contact Committee Chairman Stephen Moore at stephen.moore@tarheelboysstate.org or by phone

Tools For Selling The Boys State Program

The Basics

Many people are not comfortable with basic salesmanship. But when you have a product this powerful and this important, your job is made much easier. If you have little or no experience in sales, it might be a good idea to brush up on the basic techniques of salesmanship by finding a good book or video on the subject at your local library. If you have experienced sales people in your post, take advantage of their experience and ask them to help you hone your skills.

Use the Tools Available to You from the National Headquarters

We have provided you with some helpful tools to assist in selling the program. Our goal is to provide a starting point to validate and describe the program in general terms, and then allow you to sell it to your post and community.

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Use the Tools Available to You from Department Headquarters

- *The Tar Heel Boys State Flyer*
 - The flyer provides an overview of the Boys' State Program in North Carolina. It is available for download at www.nclegion.org or www.tarheelboysstate.org.
 - When you are promoting THBS be sure to have plenty of these flyers on hand to pass out to potential delegates, potential sponsors, school administrators, and parents. When you meet with school administrators, potential sponsors, or potential delegates give them a flyer so they can use it for later reference. The flyer also has links to the THBS website; as well as, important contact information.
- *The Tar Heel Boys State Website—www.tarheelboysstate.org*
 - The website provides detailed information about our program in North Carolina as well as important contact information. Before you start promoting Tar Heel Boys' State it would be a good idea for you to review the information on the website to familiarize yourself with the unique aspects of the Tar Heel Boys' State Program. Another website that provides helpful information about the Tar Heel Boys' State Program is www.nclegion.org.
- *The Tar Heel Boys State Video*
 - You can obtain a copy of this DVD from the Program Director (director@tarheelboysstate.org or 919-750-1330). This video is also available on the THBS website (www.tarheelboysstate.org/about) and on YouTube (search "Tar Heel Boys State Informational Video")
 - This video is intended to provide information that is specific to the THBS program. It has information from the program with interviews from staff and former boys stater.

Sponsoring Delegates and Funding

Sponsors

THBS is one of the many programs for children and young people sponsored by the American Legion Department of North Carolina. LEGION POST and SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRONS sponsor all delegates and must approve the selection of all delegates to THBS. Other patriotic, civic, religious, educational, fraternal, business, and school organizations, clubs, and parents may nominate delegates to a sponsoring Post or Squadron by agreeing to pay the required application fee. Such applications must be coordinated with and approved by an American Legion Post or SAL Squadron prior to submission.. American Legion Posts and SAL Squadrons are urged to personally interview citizens for the Boys State Program.

Tuition Fees

The Tuition fee for each delegate is \$500.00. The tuition fee is the responsibility of the sponsoring post/squadron. Please note, the Department will only accept checks from a Post or Squadron. Any delegate tuition coming from the community must be received by the post/squadron with the post/squadron in turn writing a check to the Department. While it may be difficult to obtain \$500 per student, please remember this pays for their stay in a dorm, three meals a day, program staff, and program materials for seven days.

Here's a general breakdown of how that \$500.00 is spent to operate THBS.

Room and Meals	\$ 353.50
Delegate T-Shirts	\$ 15.70
Staff Cost	\$ 92.53
Administrative	\$ 38.27

We do our best to run a tight ship and be good stewards of your money, however as you can see, just housing the students at Catawba College and providing them with two t-shirts costs us almost \$400 of the \$500 registration fee.

Finding Delegates

You can find potential delegates just about anywhere. First survey the members of your post. More than likely someone in the post has a son or grandson or knows someone in the community who is eligible to go to Boys State. Below is a list of places to look for potential delegates:

1. High schools in your community.
 - a. U.S. History Classes (taken the 11th Grade year in North Carolina)
 - b. Civics/Government Classes
 - c. Student Council Members
 - d. Clubs/Organizations within the school
2. People you go to church with.
 - a. Youth Groups

3. People you know in the community.
 - a. Neighbors
 - b. Children/Grandchildren of Friends
4. Home School Students

Delegates are easy to find, you just have to get out in the community and find them. For a list of home school programs visit the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website at www.dpi.state.nc.us. Also, use the same participants of other American Legion Youth Programs if you can. For example, your Oratorical Contest Participants, your Baseball Players, or your Student Troopers Delegates.

American Legion Post/SAL Squadron Responsibility

Please note that by agreeing to sponsor a delegate to THBS the post/squadron is not necessarily responsible for the financial obligation. The only required obligation of the sponsoring post/squadron is signing the delegate's paperwork. Listed below are several options a post/squadron can use for the financial aspect of sponsoring delegates to THBS.

- Option A: The post assumes the full responsibility of the delegate's tuition fee of \$500. However, it is recommended that you have the delegate and his parents sign a contract stating that if the delegate does not graduate the program then they are responsible for refunding the post the registration fee of \$500. Sample contracts are available by contacting the Program Director.
- Option B: The post assumes half the responsibility of the delegate's tuition fee of \$500. With the delegate/parents assuming the other half.
- Option C: The delegate/parents are responsible for the tuition fee of \$500 and upon completion of the program the delegate/parents are refunded the registration fee of \$500 by the post.
- Option D: The delegate/parents are responsible for the tuition fee of \$500.
- Option F: The delegate's tuition fee of \$500 is paid for by a sponsor from the community; for example, a civic organization, church, business, school, etc.
- Option G: The delegate's tuition fee is paid by a combination of options listed above or an option that is not listed.

Please do not turn qualified delegates down from attending THBS because of money issues. Work with the delegate/parents to come up with a solution for paying the tuition fee. If none of the options listed below work, please contact the Program Director. We may be able to find a sponsor in another area willing to help you out. Many community organizations are more than willing to pay the tuition fee for delegates to attend Boys State. Some organization that sponsor delegates to Boys State are:

1. Kiwanis Clubs
2. Rotary Clubs
3. Moose Lodges
4. Elks Lodges
5. Veterans of Foreign War
6. Masonic Lodges
7. Community Organizations
8. Community Businesses

a. Banks

- b. Insurance Companies
 - c. Law offices
 - d. Other Businesses
9. Civic Organizations
10. School
- a. Clubs
 - b. Parent-Teacher Associations
11. Individual Community Members

Be creative with finding sponsors!!!

This program is too important in teaching our youth to be productive members of society. If you have a potential delegate that is qualified to go to Boys State please do everything within your power to get that delegate to Boys State. If you need help or ideas in finding sponsors for the Tar Heel Boys' Program please contact the Program Director and he will help.

Delegate Orientation Information

It is becoming more relevant that we need to provide orientations for delegates attending THBS. It is the responsibility of the post to orientate the delegates before they get to Boys State. If possible, delegates should be educated on the American Legion and on the program before they arrive.

What is the American Legion Family?

The three entities that make up the “American Legion Family” are the American Legion, the American Legion Women Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion.

American Legion

- The American Legion was founded in 1919 in Paris, France, at the close of World War I. Eligibility for membership in the American Legion now includes any veteran who served in the Armed Forces and was Honorably Discharged.
- The American Legion, since its founding, has endeavored to assist veterans, their widows and children, and their fellow citizens. The North Carolina American Legion, with over 40,000 paid members, are proud to carry on this tradition.

American Legion Women Auxiliary

- The American Legion Auxiliary has one great purpose: "to contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion."

Sons of the American Legion

- The Sons of The American Legion created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship. Sons have always assisted Legionnaires with Legion Family programs. Our Family boasts a combined total membership of nearly 4.2 million members.

What is Boys State and What Will I Learn?

Tar Heel Boys State Program:

Tar Heel Boys State is sponsored by **THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF North Carolina**. It is an intense workshop concentrating on North Carolina state government and politics. Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and have at least one more semester of high school remaining are considered eligible to participate. Delegates representing all geographic areas of North Carolina participate annually

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in this program.

THE AMERICAN LEGION believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our great republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government. By teaching the youth of our state and nation to understand and appreciate the basic principles involved in the successful management of a democratic society, we can keep America strong and ensure freedom for future generations. **THBS teaches that preservation of our form of government depends on intelligent, informed and loyal citizens in combination of government activities.**

Objectives of the Program:

- To improve citizenship for present and future generations;
- To become familiar with the structure of North Carolina government and its political process - using the LEARN TODAY TO LEAD TOMORROW concept of instruction;
- To develop civic leadership and pride in American citizenship;
- To arouse a keen interest in the detailed study of our government;
- To develop in the young citizens of Boys' State, the full understanding of our American traditions and beliefs in the United States of America;
- To arouse in the young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government;
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.

Rules, Regulations, and Expectations

For any program, large or small, to be enjoyable and successful, there are certain rules and regulations that must be respected and observed — some of these relating to THBS are:

1. Delegates are NOT permitted to bring any prepared campaign material, equipment or accessories with them.
2. Alcohol, tobacco products, marijuana or other illegal drugs of any form or description will NOT be tolerated. Gambling will not be permitted. **All violations subject a delegate to dismissal from the program.**
3. If due to health problems, a delegate must take prescription drugs he will report this situation to his counselor upon arrival on Sunday. If it is necessary to refrigerate the prescribed medication, he and his counselor will make arrangements for proper storage.
4. If it is imperative that a delegate drive his car to the program, *his parent or guardian must personally request advance permission in writing by the Program Director.* If the request is approved, upon arrival at Catawba College and during registration procedures, he will deposit his keys with his city counselor who in turn will deposit them with the Office Manager. There is a \$20 parking pass fee.
5. If a citizen must be temporarily absent from the program for any reason, a request must be made personally by the parent or guardian in writing to the Program Director. Only

emergency requests will be accepted by telephone.

6. Citizens will meet the rigid time schedules of the instructional program.
7. Citizens of THBS will take their work and responsibilities seriously and conscientiously. They will discharge their duties at all times with respect, dignity and honor to their state, county, city, school and sponsoring American Legion post/SAL Squadron.
8. Citizens of Boys State will protect and conserve all property of Boys State and of Catawba College. Violations of this policy will result in personal liability to responsible citizens.
9. Each citizen of Boys State will keep his room tidy and clean at all times. He is also responsible to keep the buildings, equipment and grounds clean.
10. Citizens of THBS will conduct themselves as **Gentlemen** and show **Respect** to others at all times.
11. Citizens will observe Catawba College campus boundaries and restricted areas at all times.
12. Citizens are not permitted to have visitors during the program.
13. iPads, laptops, backpacks, cell phones and Ipods are not permitted while attending classes or other related Boys State functions. Delegates may bring these items, but they **MUST** stay in the dormitories.
14. All citizens who register are expected to participate in the entire program. Those departing early will **not** be issued certificates of graduation unless approved, in advance and on an individual basis, by the Director.
15. The American Legion, Department of North Carolina, has a contract with Catawba College for certain goods, services, etc. As such, the rights of the College are divested to The American Legion. Following is a quote from The Catawba College ***Guide to Community Living*** — "**COLLEGE RIGHTS: Search of residence hall rooms may be made by authorized College officials, including residence hall staff, in emergencies when life or property appear to be in danger or to investigate suspected violations of state or federal law or College policy where reasonable cause has been established.**"

Other regulations and expectations will be covered by the Director during the orientation session Sunday evening.

PLEASE NOTE that if a citizen is found negligent in respecting and properly observing these rules, regulations and expectations, the Director's course of action will be to personally: **a)** call the citizen's parents, **b)** call or write the sponsoring American Legion Post/SAL Squadron, **c)** notify in writing the principal of the citizen's high school, and **d)** take other appropriate action, including possible dismissal from the program.

Property Protection

Catawba College is host to THBS. As guests of the college, all participants are charged with the responsibility of protecting its property and equipment at all times with a sense of pride in leaving the facilities in as good or better condition than evidenced at the beginning of the

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program. Regardless of how careful we are, we realize that some damages are accidental and unintentional. However, they must be assessed as all other damages. Consequently, the following procedures will be followed to help insure courtesy and respect for the College during our program:

LET'S LEAVE IT BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT!

1. Members of the American Legion and others serving as members of the staff and as counselors will, with Catawba College Housing Personnel, pre-inspect all facilities used by THBS on Saturday before the program,.
2. Upon arrival each delegate will be issued a check-in-room inspection form which he will use to note any pre-existing room damage or room area irregularities. The delegate will not be held accountable for these damages or irregularities which he cites on his inspection form.
3. Members of the American Legion serving as members of the staff and as counselors accompanied by College representatives will conduct a final inspection of all rooms and facilities used by THBS. The American Legion, individual, and Post responsibilities for damages will be mutually agreed upon at this time.

Roommates are urged to work together in the above mentioned check-in and check-out procedure. Also, it is strongly urged that they work closely together to help prevent any damages or losses during the week of this program. It is important for the citizens to remember that any damages will be reported in detail to their sponsoring American Legion Post and to their parents with a request to reimburse the Legion for damages paid. Also, a bill for the damages will be included with this report.

Delegate Insurance

INSURANCE COVERAGE is of vital concern for any program of this size and nature. THBS program carries insurance to supplement only that which is NOT covered by the delegate's family insurance policy. Therefore, the delegate must turn in with the medical form, a copy, front and back, of the card of the insurance company which writes his family insurance policy with the policy number. A copy of the prescription card, front and back, should also be turned in with the medical form. If the delegate is involved in an accident or illness, the proper insurance company will be billed for payment of services rendered.

Citizens of Boys State have full use of Catawba College Student Health Services. Physicians and nurses are on duty 8:30 a.m.-12:00 and 1:30-4:00 p.m. Citizens needing emergency care after hours should report to their counselor or to the office where transportation will be provided to nearby emergency clinics, or Rowan Regional Medical Center. A proper American Legion Boys' State medical form must accompany a citizen needing medical care at the College Medical Student Health Center or at a hospital.

Delegate Dress Code and Personal Supplies

Khaki shorts or pants will be worn. THBS will supply delegates with two (2) Boys State shirts. Delegates wishing to purchase additional shirts may do so for \$10.00 each. It is suggested that delegates mark their clothes before or after your arrival with a clothing marking pen or pencil. There are washing machines and dryers in all the dormitories. Closed toe, comfortable walking shoes and socks will be worn at all times. Baseball type caps are not a part of the uniform code for citizens. They will not be worn by citizens at anytime except during their outdoor athletic events. These requirements must be observed for the following reasons:

- (1) Identification purposes, especially important since there will be other programs on campus during this week.**
- (2) Uniformity of appearance brings a sense of equity among all persons in attendance, and for pictures.**
- (3) Comfort and health reasons.**

Delegates should bring their preferred clothing and equipment for the afternoon athletic activities. The college athletic department will endeavor to have certain athletic equipment available for use during the Boys State program, if needed. Delegates may bring laptop computers to use during Government-In-Action.

Delegates must bring their own toiletries, towels, linens, pillow and light blanket. An alarm clock is recommended. A packing list is on our website.

The college's convenience shop will be open during the week of Boys State and will welcome your visits during prescribed hours.

Special Features of the Program

- ☐ Athletic activities will be available each afternoon. There will be individual and group play with city competition. Opportunities will be available in tennis, soccer, swimming, basketball and the weight room.
- ☐ Oratorical Contest—will be conducted during afternoon activities. Delegates that make it to the finals will give their speech in front of the entire Boys State Friday morning.
- ☐ Moot Court
- ☐ Lecture on parliamentary procedures.
- ☐ Non-denominational religious services will be conducted each morning during the week.
- ☐ Memorial Service.
- ☐ Two outstanding THBS citizens will be selected to represent North Carolina as Senators to Boys Nation held in Washington, DC. In this special program, the principles of good government are studied in a practical manner at the national level. *All expenses are paid for these Senators by the National Headquarters of the American Legion.*
- ☐ Samsung American Legion Scholarship is a scholarship that is available to the delegates of Boys State and Girls State who are direct descendants, i.e. child, grandchild, great-grandchild or legally adopted child, of a U.S. Veteran who served during a period of war.

Delegates who are interested in applying must complete an application online that is due by 11:59 PM on the Saturday before the program begins.

- ☐ Graduation Service: will be held at Keppel Auditorium at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday.
Parents, school administrators, and post members are welcome to attend.

Delegate Registration

Upon arrival at Catawba College, Salisbury, N.C. on Sunday, the delegate should follow posted signs directing him to the Registration inside the Robertson College-Community Center on the campus of Catawba College. **Registration will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.** and proceed until 2:00 p.m. The Opening Program will begin at 3:00 p.m. Delegates should report to one of several THBS proctors. These officials will have an alphabetical listing of delegates and their respective dormitory and city assignments. Boys State officials will then direct delegates to the appropriate site to complete their registration process. ***A \$20.00 room key deposit will be collected at registration, and refunded at check out.*** Please bring correct change to expedite the registration process. ***No checks will be accepted.***

Parliamentary Procedure

It is advised that delegates have a basic understanding of Parliamentary Procedure before they arrive at Boys State. Delegates that have a prior knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure typically perform better while at Boys State. All though it is not required for delegates to know Parliamentary Procedure to attend Boys State it is strongly recommended. Resources for learning Parliamentary Order are available on the Tar Heel Boys State website.

Contact Information

Main Office:

American Legion
2940 Fallstaff Road
P. O. Box 26657
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-6657
919-832-7506
Fax 919-832-6428

Director:

Dustin B. Pittman

Phone Number: 919-750-1330 Email: Director@TarheelBoysState.org

THBS Committee Chairman:

Stephen L. Moore

Phone Number: 704-999-7307 Stephen.Moore@TarHeelBoysState.org

Chief City Counselor:

Terry Pressley

Phone Number: (828)-452-4232 Email: Terry.Pressley@TarHeelBoysState.org

Department Secretary:

Debbie Rose

Phone Number: (919)-832-7506 Email: drose@nclegion.org