



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Buckeye Boys State



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**“A Week to Shape a Lifetime”**

# The American Legion Buckeye Boys State Philosophy

- To conduct a quality program which reflects the high standards of The Ohio American Legion and American Legion Buckeye Boys State.
- To be current in all levels of program structure and educated on all aspects which American Legion Buckeye Boys State teaches.
- At all times, each member of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State Staff will conduct ourselves in a professional and courteous manner.

# The American Legion Buckeye Boys State Philosophy

- To treat each young man attending with respect and as a young adult.
- To make American Legion Buckeye Boys State a positive learning experience which will help each young man grow as a person and be better educated as a citizen of Ohio.
- To continue to strive in all ways possible to maintain American Legion Buckeye Boys State as the leading Boys State program in the nation.

# Mission Statement

The mission of The American Legion Buckeye Boys State is to provide an educational and leadership program that exposes young men to the rights and privileges, the duties and responsibilities, and the love for God and Country necessary to being self-governing citizens.

# Vision Statement

Through a practical, objective, nonpartisan approach, participants in the American Legion Buckeye Boys State program are exposed to fundamental democratic principles in local, county and state elections and governmental functions which prepare them for leadership roles as patriotic American citizens.

# Program Overview

- Established in 1936
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Chartered Boys State Program in the Nation
  - The single largest in the Nation
  - Buckeye Boys State averages over 1200 Delegates annually
    - Five Hundred plus High Schools
    - Home School Students
    - Over 90,000 participants since 1936
  - Premier Youth Program in Ohio
  - The number one American Legion Boys State program in the Nation
    - Shared insight and management philosophy with numerous other Boys State programs and two foreign nations
  - Held at Miami University

# Program Overview

- Year Round Commitment to planning for Excellence
- Program governed by 60 member Board of Trustees all of whom are members of The American Legion
  - Planning meetings are held in the Spring and Fall
  - Annual planning meeting held with Miami University prior to the program
  - Planning meeting held with the Ohio State Highway Patrol
  - Various Sections meet during the year to plan their operation
- Program is fully compliant with the American with Disabilities Act

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

- Neil Armstrong  
First man on the moon
- Thomas Moyer  
Chief Justice - Ohio Supreme Court
- Michael Oxley  
U.S. Congressman
- Greg Lashutka  
Former Mayor - Columbus
- Rex Kern  
Ohio State University
- Terence Henricks  
Astronaut
- Randy Gradishar  
Ohio State University
- Carl Walz  
Astronaut
- Michael Gernhardt  
Astronaut
- Joseph Johns  
Television Reporter
- Randall Gardner  
Ohio Senator
- Gregory Johnson  
Astronaut
- Darrin Blackford  
U.S. Secret Service
- David Moreland  
U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds
- William Batchelder  
Ohio Speaker of the House
- Paul Gilmore  
US Congressman
- Jon Waters  
Ohio State University Marching  
Band



# Best Practices

- Staffing
- Technology
- Organizational Sections
- Support Sections
- Patriotism
- Special Events
- Personal Benefits
- Future Plans



# Staffing

- Ability to assume leadership positions and more responsibility
- Defined roles and responsibility
- Formal staff development and evaluation
- Recruiting
- Program input and involvement
- Year round commitment
- Succession planning
- Extensive use of an Individuals' expertise, talents and life experiences
- 125 plus Staff members
  - Staff is a mix of American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and professional consultants
  - Many Staff members are Past Delegates

# Staffing

- Comprised of highly motivated and qualified individuals working with one goal in mind: To make Buckeye Boys State the most rewarding, educational, and worthwhile week of the young men's lives.

# Technology

- Used in all areas of program
  - Recruitment (Staff and Delegates)
  - Orientations
  - Registration
  - Communication (Hetuck, Public Relations and Media Outlets)
  - Instructional tools for Educators and Delegates
  - Real-time Voting and Election results
  - 1200 young men are finished voting in one hour!!
  
- Website: <http://www.ohiobuckeyeboysstate.com>
  
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BuckeyeBoysState>

# Organizational Sections

- **State Government**
  - **Elections**
  - **Finance**
  - **Ohio State Highway Patrol**
- **Legislative**
- **County Government**
- **City Government**
- **Courts**
- **Banking and Realty**
- **School Boards**

# Organizational Sections

- **Utilities**
- **Band**

# State Government

- Consists of all state offices/agencies found in the State of Ohio
- **Young men will learn:**
  - Staffing
  - Budgets
  - Legislation
  - Inter-agency cooperation
- **Voters will elect:**
  - Governor
  - Lt. Governor
  - Secretary of State
  - Attorney General
  - Auditor
  - Treasurer

# State Government

- Many state officials and staff throughout Ohio come to Buckeye Boys State to meet with their Boys State counterpart and impart knowledge on the operation of that office.
- State Government Day
- State of Ohio Cabinet officials and Agency Heads meet and instruct their Boys State counterparts and impart knowledge on the operation of that office
- Governors of Ohio have supported since 1936
- **NOT A GRIP AND GRIN SESSION!!**



Governor Mike DeWine



# Elections

- Program educates delegates on Ohio's voting system
- Program utilizes same process and procedures used by many Ohio counties
- All instruction is NON-PARTISAN and Objective
- Two party system FEDERALIST or NATIONALIST
- Party assigned by the program

# Elections

- Program teaches the following processes:
  - Caucus
  - Petition/ Candidacy
  - Campaigning
  - Party convention
  - Debate
  - Voting
    - Primary Election
    - General Election
  
- Winners are inaugurated in a formal ceremony
  
- Program has 100 percent Voting

# Finance

- Provides the Budget to the State Office of Management and Budget
- Provides the starting balances to the Bank
- Assists all agencies with setting their budgets
- Assists Section Heads with automating their payments and collections utilizing the BBS computer network



# Ohio State Highway Patrol



- Partner in American Legion Buckeye Boys State program since 1936.
- Three (3) Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers serve as Highway Patrol detail at Buckeye Boys State.
- Trooper of the Year detail member annually.
- Coordinates Opening and Closing Day traffic patterns.



# Ohio State Highway Patrol



- Assists Buckeye Boys State Director in coordinating visits; providing transportation; and security of VIP's to Boys State program.
- Forms a **BUCKEYE BOYS STATE HIGHWAY PATROL**
  - Selects and trains 20 young men on various aspects of Law Enforcement
  - Receive comprehensive training in Ohio Law, Law Enforcement, and the role of a police officer.
- **JUNIOR CADET WEEK**
  - Coordinates with Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary to select young men for “Junior Cadet Week” program at Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy.

# Legislative

## ➤ **BOYS STATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

➤ Representative (2 per city)

➤ Senator (1 per city)

➤ Process mirrors operation of Ohio General Assembly

➤ Young men deal with bills, resolutions, budgets, and other legislative concerns affecting the Boys State government.

# Legislative

## ➤ LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

- Administratively supports both House and Senate.
- Opportunities exist to learn about bill writing and legislation research

# County Government

- Consists of all County offices/agencies found in the Counties of Ohio
- Program features Counties which parallel the operation of Ohio's 88 counties
- Young men in County Offices learn real problems experienced by Ohio Counties
  
- **Young men will learn:**
  - Staffing
  - Budgets
  - Legislation
  - Inter-agency cooperation



# County Government

## ➤ Voters will elect:

- Commissioner (3)
- Treasurer
- Sheriff
- Engineer
- Recorder
- Auditor
- Prosecutor
- Clerk of Courts
- Municipal Judge
- Common Pleas Judge

# City Government

- Consists of all City offices/agencies found in Ohio cities
- **Young men will learn:**
  - Staffing
  - Budgets
  - Legislation
  - Inter-agency cooperation
- **Voters will elect:**
  - Mayor
  - Treasurer
  - Auditor
  - Director of Law
  - Councilman (5)

# City Government

- Program features Cities which parallel the operation of most Ohio's cities
- Young men in City Offices learn real problems experienced by Ohio Cities
- Elected officials visit their counterpart in Oxford City offices
- City Government is **THE** largest function of Boys State program

# Courts

## ➤ Staff consist of:

- Attorneys
- Prosecutors
- Judges
  - Court of Appeals
  - Common Pleas
  - Municipal Court

➤ Administrative staff personnel working in Ohio Courts.

➤ Citizens must pass a Boys State Bar Examination

## ➤ Buckeye Boys State Court System:

- Supreme Court
- Court of Claims
- State Court of Appeals



# Courts

- Program supported by Ohio State Bar Association
- Computer/Internet research of Ohio Law provided by the Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association President speaker at Program

President of the Ohio State Bar Association  
Carol Marx, speaks at the BBS Bar Association meeting.



# Courts



## ➤ Voters elect:

- Chief Justice of Supreme Court (1)
- Associate Supreme Court Justice (6)
- Judge of the Court of Appeals (3)

➤ Winners are inaugurated in a formal ceremony by the **Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court or an Associate Justice**

## ➤ Boys State Chief Justice swears in:

- Elected members of the House & Senate
- County Elected officials
- City Elected officials

➤ Program supported by Ohio Supreme Court

# Banking and Realty

- Program teaches personal financial management and responsibilities
- Positions available:
  - Bank officers
  - Tellers
  - Computer operators
- Each citizen initially receives a checking account with \$600 (Boys State money).
- Boys State citizens:
  - Pay Taxes
  - Pay license fees
  - Pay registration fees
  - Pay costs related to maintaining a household and employment within a City, County, and State.
  - Buy their residence (bed) by obtaining a mortgage.

# Banking and Realty

- Each Boys State citizen will make deposits and withdrawals in his account by earning monies through a position of employment within Boys state.
- PLEASE NOTE: ALL BOYS STATE FINANCES ARE CONDUCTED WITH BOYS STATE MONEY ONLY.
- Each young man MUST find some form of employment, either through Elective Office, Appointive Office, or the Boys State Bureau of Employment Services.
- Wages paid in any Boys State position are dictated either by Ohio law or the budgetary action of Boys State employers.



# School Boards

- Program teaches role of community and State in supporting quality education for its students
- Program consists of functioning School Boards, State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Boys State School Board members hire school Administrators, set salaries for education personnel, establish educational policies, deal with budgets, and solve problems similar to the ones facing Ohio educators every day.
- Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio School Board Association representatives will visit the School Boards section during the week

# School Boards

- Program has booth at Ohio School Board Association Conference annually

# Utilities

- Program operates a number of vital consumer agencies
- Boys State UTILITY COMPANIES:
  - Electric Company
  - Water Company
  - Gas Company
- Utility Companies bill Boys State citizens, Boys State Cities and Boys State Counties for utility services  
(ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE WITH BOYS STATE MONEY ONLY)
- Rates charged by the Utility Companies are governed by the Boys State Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) and other Boys State and Ohio government agencies.

# Buckeye Boys State Band



- **Largest Boys State Band in Nation**
  - Band Director and Assistant Director
  - Band Special Counselor
- Band sets tone for much of program
- 125-150 musicians annually
- Play every evening at Program assembly
- Participation does not interfere with other program opportunities
- Young men bring own instruments
- Any type of instrument incorporated

# Buckeye Boys State Band

- Secured storage for instruments
- Music provided
- 1<sup>st</sup> performance 6 hours after arrival
- Echo “Taps”/Memorial Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> “Best D----- Band in the Land”

# Support Sections

- Administration/Boys State Office
- Campaign Headquarters
- Chief Counselor and Counselors
- Computer Support
- Hetuck
- Mini Mall
- Public Relations
- Recreation
- S.A.L.

# Administration/Boys State Office

- **Hub of Program Wheel**
- Sixty (60) member Board of Trustees
- All Board members belong to American Legion
- **Board Officers:**
  - President
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
  - Secretary
- Sets program policies
- Sets education guidelines
- Establishes program educational structure
- Establishes program organizational structure

# Administration/Boys State Office

- Reports to American Legion State Executive Committee
- Coordinates program with Director

## ➤ **Commissioners**

- All American Legion members
- Entry position into program
- Board vacancies filled from Commissioners
- Reports to Board of Trustees and Director

## ➤ **Consultants**

- Non-American Legion members
- Sons of the American Legion
- Reports to Board of Trustees and Director



# Administration/Boys State Office

## ➤ Director

- Day-to-Day Activities placed with Director
- Reports to Board of Trustees and American Legion State Executive Committee
- Supports entire staff
- Close work relationship with Board President, Section Head for Administration and Chief Counselor
- Coordinates program with Board of Trustees

# Administration/Boys State Office

- Contact with outside organizations supporting program
- Program worked on daily
- Arrives on site week prior to start
- Departs site day after conclusion

## ➤ **Section Head for Administration**

- Office clerk
- Director's "right hand"
- Administrative support to entire staff
- Administrative support to young men
- Direct support of Director
- Runs Program Headquarters office on site
- Year long planning
- Arrives on site week prior to start
- Departs day after conclusion

# Campaign Headquarters

- In addition to shaking hands, extensive campaigning is done through the use of signs and posters.
- Materials to make signs and posters are available for purchase (using Boys State funds) at the Boys State Campaign Headquarters and may NOT be brought from home.
- Since the initial funds given each delegate are often not enough to finance their campaign, candidates must solicit donations from their supporters.

# Chief Counselor and Counselor

## ➤ Counselor Section:

- Chief Counselor
- Assistant Chief Counselor
- Advance Team
- Residence Hall (Dorm) Counselors
- Sectional Counselors
- City Counselors

➤ Section is key to success of program

➤ Live and work with young men 24/7

➤ ALL former Buckeye Boys State Delegates

➤ Direct impact



# Chief Counselor and Counselor

- Leadership and management responsibilities
- Image of organization formed by Section
- 65-70 serve annually
- “Band of Brothers”
- Background checks performed

# Chief Counselor and Counselor

## ➤ Reasons for success

- Extensive training prior to start of program
- Defined selection process
- All Counselors are invited on staff
- No Automatics
- Performance evaluated during week
- Invitations onto staff are earned
- Frequent planning meetings during year

➤ Counselor section recognized by American Legion National Headquarters

# Computer Support

- Provides technology support to all Sections:
  - Server for the Boys State program
  - Assists Miami with setup of Miami Computers
  - Assists Counselor Staff with their computer and printer needs
  - Assists Elections with Electronic Voting
  - Ensures all Sections have their Data Automation needs met
  
- Provides technical assistance to Staff members:
  - Assists with their personal computers
  - Helps users to understand how to use their PC's for use at Boys State

# Hetuck

- Program publishes daily newspaper, The "**Hetuck**" (Native American term for Eye of the Buck)
- Hetuck positions:
  - Editor-in-Chief
  - Business Manager
  - Computer Operator
  - Layout Editors
  - Reporters
  - Artists
  - Photographers



# Mini Mall

- Store only operates at program
- Available for young men and parents
- Carries items which young men may need
  - Pens
  - Pencils
  - Folders
  - Key Lanyards
  - Personal hygiene
  - Laundry
- Carries souvenir items
  - T-shirts
  - Key rings
  - Golf shirts
  - Hoodies
- All profits to program

# Recreation

- Provides Supervised Recreation:
  - Volleyball
  - Tug O War
  - Set up Tournaments

# Public Relations

- Central contact for media thru out state
- Arranges interviews with delegates, staff, and special guests
- Provides Election results State elected officials
- Provides Awards information
  - American Legion Boys Nation
  - Samsung American Legion Scholarship
  - Government Excellence Awards

# Public Relations

- Develops office profile on delegates
- News releases
- Newspaper
- Radio & TV
- E-contacts

# Patriotism

- Flag Retirement Ceremony
- Boys State Delegate Memorial Service with full Military Honor Guard
- Ohio State Highway Patrol Memorial Service
- Cannon Team
- Honor and respect to the United States Flag



Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient,  
Ron E. Rosser, center.

# Special Events

- College Fair
  - Over Seventy-Five Colleges and Universities, both in and out of State, are represented
  - Military Service Academies, ROTCs and National Guard are represented
- American Legion Boys Nation located in Washington D.C.
  - Two individuals are selected to attend
  - Held mid-July annually
  - Teaches Federal level of Government
  - Conducted at Marymont College, Arlington Virginia
- Buckeye Boys State Government Excellence Awards
  - Six (6) \$500.00 financial awards presented to selected delegates

# Special Events

- Samsung American Legion Scholarship
  - Created in 1996
  - Boys State is the only time/place to apply
  - One delegate nominated into National pool
  - Ten National finalists selected
  - \$20,000.00 Scholarship awarded each finalist
  - Three National finalists from Buckeye Boys State program since 1996
- United States Senate Youth Program
  - Sponsored by William Randolph Hearst Foundation
  - Coordinated by Ohio Department of Education
  - Boys State selects and forwards nominees
  - Five thousand dollar Scholarship presented
  - Two from each State selected

# Personal Benefits

- Prepares a young man for his future by providing the experience of living in a college environment
- Provides the opportunity to learn leadership and management skills thru a proven leadership and management program.
- Provides the opportunity to form personal friendships which may truly last a lifetime



# Personal Benefits

- Teaches a vital part of every Ohio citizen's life: the operation and function of Ohio government thru a "hands on" learning environment.
- A student returns to the classroom for their Senior year, with an expanded knowledge of how Ohio government operates and personal growth which will benefit their Senior year curriculum.
- American Legion Buckeye Boys State will hone a variety of interests in a young man which will serve to benefit them personally.

# Community Support

- Community/Civic/other Veteran's organizations work with local Posts/Squadrons in sponsoring delegates
- Community Sponsors throughout state:
  - Lions
  - Elks
  - Rotary
  - Kiwanis
  - Moose
  - Disabled American Veterans
  - Veterans of Foreign Wars
  - Amvets
  - Local businesses

# Sons of the American Legion

- Partner in American Legion Buckeye Boys State program since 2001
- State (Detachment) Buckeye Boys State Chairman attends all meetings
- State (Detachment) budgets four (4) young men annually
- 40+ young men sponsored annually by local Sons of the American Legion Squadrons independent of local American Legion Posts
- Co-sponsorships with local American Legion Posts
- Information resource into High Schools
- Program promotion thru out state
- Members of Boys State staff

# Future Plans

- Remain current in programs skills and knowledge of all levels of Ohio Government
- Keep pace with generational changes
- Maintain and protect program integrity

