



**WELCOME TO  
AMERICAN LEGION**

**BUCKEYE BOYS STATE**

**#1 IN THE NATION**

**Miami University  
Oxford, Ohio**

*"A Week To Shape A Lifetime"*

*Sponsored by:*

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO**





## WHAT IS THE AMERICAN LEGION?

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The American Legion is THE largest veterans' organization in the world, with nearly 2 million members in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, and 4 foreign countries.

Founded in 1919, The American Legion has been a moving force for fair treatment of this nation's veterans, their families, and especially the disabled veterans.

All members of The American Legion are honorably discharged men and women who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Enduring Freedom either in the United States or overseas.

The American Legion was a significant contributor to the building of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; the Vietnam Women's Memorial; the Korean Veterans Memorial; the World War II Memorial and the renovation of the World War I Memorial in Washington D.C.

The American Legion conducts programs to benefit the youth of our nation. Notable among these programs are: American Legion Baseball, American Legion Boys State, the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, the American Legion School Awards program, and the American Legion Americanism and Government Test.

The American Legion founded Boys State in 1935. Since that time the American Legion Boys State program has remained a premier youth program in the nation.

## WHAT IS BUCKEYE BOYS STATE?

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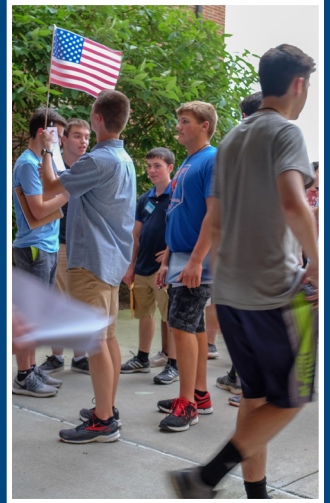
Buckeye Boys State is an 8-day "Hands On" experience in the operation of the Democratic form of government, the organization of political parties, and the relationship of one to the other in shaping Ohio Government.

Founded in 1936, Buckeye Boys State is the largest Boys State program in the nation with an attendance of over 1,200 young men annually.

Through the Boys State goal of “learning by doing”, young men learn about city, county, and state government through a non-partisan objective education approach.

Opportunities are available to expand skills and interest through special program segments on Ohio laws and the Court Systems; Banks and Realty Company operation; Public Utility companies; Law Enforcement; Newspaper operation; and Legislative Services, conducted by staff members versed in the area of instruction and each “mirroring” a similar real experience.

One of the finest objectives afforded by Boys State is the friendship young men will form with other Boys State Citizens, many of whom will become life-long friends.



## **BUCKEYE BOYS STATE LOCATION**

Buckeye Boys State is held on the campus of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Miami University is well adapted to care for the over 1,200 young men who attend Buckeye Boys State each year with comfortable residence hall facilities, dining halls, and a safe, clean campus environment.



## ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND BOYS STATE

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Eligibility to attend Buckeye Boys State is limited to young men who must have completed the Eleventh grade (11th) and who will have at least one (1) semester left prior to graduation after attending Buckeye Boys State.

Candidates should possess qualities of Leadership, Scholastic Achievement, good citizenship, and a willingness to participate.

Candidates **MUST** believe in United States Citizenship and the ideals of “God and Country” on which our country and The American Legion were founded.

**CANDIDATES MUST BE A RESIDENT OF OHIO AND A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES. NON-CITIZENS ARE WELCOME AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM BUT EXCHANGE STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE ENTIRE BOYS STATE PROGRAM.** If a candidate does not complete the program for any reason other than illness or emergency, the candidate or his family will refund all registration and travel monies to the Sponsoring Post.

Candidates should be recommended by the High School Principal. **THE SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION POST HAS FINAL AUTHORITY ON ALL CANDIDATES SELECTED.**

Home schooled candidates are welcome and the Home Schooled community is encouraged to participate.

## ENROLLMENT FEE

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The enrollment fee to attend Buckeye Boys State is **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)** per boy, and is paid by a sponsoring American Legion Post, Sons of American Legion Squadron or a community sponsor in cooperation with The American Legion.



## OUTSIDE SPONSORS

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Patriotic and civic organizations are invited to sponsor or to assist in sponsoring a young man to Buckeye Boys State. Organizations interested in sponsorship should contact the nearest American Legion Post or write:

The Ohio American Legion  
ATTN: Buckeye Boys State  
P.O. Box 8007  
Delaware, Ohio 43015-8007  
Telephone: 740-362-7478  
Fax: 740-362-1429  
Email: [programs@ohiolegion.com](mailto:programs@ohiolegion.com)

## STAFF OF BUCKEYE BOYS STATE

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The staff of Buckeye Boys State is comprised of over 100 highly motivated and qualified individuals who work with one goal in mind: to make the week at Buckeye Boys State one of the most rewarding, educational, and worthwhile weeks of the young men's lives.

Many staff members are former Buckeye Boys State delegates, who devote 8 days during the summer to Buckeye Boys State, taking time from their careers and vacations to do so.

## STATE GOVERNMENT

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Buckeye Boys State affords young men the opportunity to learn about the organization and operation of Ohio State Government through a full range of state offices/agencies within the Boys State program.

State offices of Buckeye Boys State function just as the real Ohio offices do. Young men will learn about staffing, budgets, legislation, inter-agency cooperation, and other roles served by State Government.

One young man at Boys State will be elected Governor by the voters and will function just as the Governor of Ohio does.





All of the other offices of Ohio State Government are filled at Boys State and function in the same manner.

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.

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## SCHOOL BOARDS

Young men attending Buckeye Boys State may learn about the role of a community in supporting quality education through active participation in the Boys State School Boards.

24 functioning School Boards operate within the program. Boys State School Board members hire school administrators, set salaries, establish policies, and deal with budgets.

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## BOYS STATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Buckeye Boys State operates a fully functioning House of Representatives and Senate, which mirrors the operation of the Ohio General Assembly.

24 Senate and 48 House seats are filled at Boys State, with the young men elected to these positions dealing with bills, resolutions, budgets, and other legislative concerns affecting the Boys State government.

A number of positions are also available in the Boys State Legislative Services Agency, which supports both the Boys State House and Senate. Excellent opportunities exist to learn about bill writing and legislation research through the agency.

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## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

A fully functioning County Government structure of 8 counties at Buckeye Boys State parallels the operations of Ohio's 88 counties.

Young men interested in learning how County Government operates can do so by serving as a County



Commissioner, County Prosecuting Attorney, County Auditor, County Sheriff, or many other County office positions.

Young men serving in the County Offices learn about and address many real problems experienced by Ohio Counties today.

### CITY GOVERNMENT

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Young men at Buckeye Boys State learn about the functions of City Government through serving in a City Government environment. City Government is “learning by doing”.

Buckeye Boys State operates 24 cities within the program. A variety of offices will be held in each City including Mayor, Council Member, Auditor, Treasurer, Director of Law, and others.

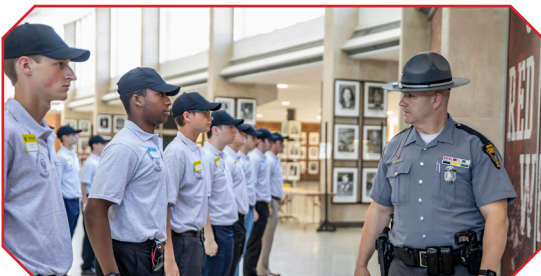
City Government at Boys State will deal with and educate about the problems facing each City Government in Ohio. City Government at Boys State is the single largest government function with over 500 boys serving in City Government.

### VOTER EDUCATION

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Young men attending Buckeye Boys State will learn about Ohio’s voting system and the responsibilities of a voter through active participation in a Primary and General election.

Experience will be gained as young men vote at Boys State utilizing the same process and procedures in use by many Ohio counties.





## LAW/COURT SECTION

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Buckeye Boys State operates a fully functioning LAW/COURT system.

The Boys State Law/Court system is chaired by members of the Boys State staff who by profession are attorneys, Judges, and administrative staff personnel within Ohio Courts.

To practice law within the Buckeye Boys State program, citizens must pass a Boys State Bar Examination. This examination is an open book test, using in part the "Digest of Ohio Government" as a research book.

A variety of Elective/Appointive positions are available through the Boys State Law/Court system. These positions range from a City Law Director to the Chief Justice of the Boys State Supreme Court.

Buckeye Boys State conducts a Court of Claims, State Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court.

## BUCKEYE BOYS STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

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Buckeye Boys State operates a functioning BOYS STATE HIGHWAY PATROL, chaired by Troopers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The Boys State Highway Patrol, through learning by doing, performs a number of law enforcement responsibilities within the Boys State program.

The young men who are selected to form the Boys State Highway Patrol receive comprehensive training in Ohio Law, Law Enforcement, and the role of a police officer.

15 Boys State citizens are selected to attend following the conclusion of Buckeye Boys State a program jointly sponsored by The American Legion and Ohio State Highway Patrol: JUNIOR CADET WEEK at the Highway Patrol Training Academy in Columbus.





## **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES**

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American Legion Buckeye Boys State will make reasonable accommodations for physically impaired young men to participate in the Buckeye Boys State program.

## **SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS**

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American Legion Buckeye Boys State and Miami University dining services are well trained in accommodating young men with special dietary needs.

## **SPECIAL RELIGIOUS NEEDS**

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American Legion Buckeye Boys State will make reasonable accommodation for young men with special religious needs to participate in the Buckeye Boys State program.

## **AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION**

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The National Headquarters of The American Legion will conduct: AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION, held in Washington D.C.

At American Legion Boys Nation, young men learn about the Federal levels and process of our government, through “hands on” participation, like Buckeye Boys State.

Boys Nation delegates will tour many historic sites in and around Washington, D.C. Boys Nation delegates lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery and meet with the President of the United States.

Boys Nation follows the national political process and culminates its program with the election of a President of Boys Nation.

The American Legion Boys Nation program is conducted at Marymount College, Arlington, Virginia.





Two (2) Buckeye Boys State citizens will be selected to represent Ohio and Buckeye Boys State at American Legion Boys Nation.

The American Legion National Headquarters pays for the transportation of all delegates to American Legion Boys Nation, housing, and meals.

In addition to the two (2) principal Boys Nation Delegates, two (2) Alternates are also selected who will attend should a principal delegate from Buckeye Boys State be unable to attend.

### **BUCKEYE BOYS STATE AWARDS**

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Each year the Buckeye Boys State program awards six (6) \$500 financial awards to selected Boys State Citizens.

### **SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP**

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The American Legion Buckeye Boys State program is the only time and the only place in the State of Ohio a young man can qualify for the opportunity to receive a \$20,000 scholarship from the Samsung Electronics Group.

Each American Legion Boys State program and each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program in the nation selects one (1) delegate for the national pool of candidates.

Since inception of this scholarship in 1996, there have been four (4) National finalists from Buckeye Boys State.

### **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

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The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Ohio are a proud partner in American Legion Buckeye Boys State and help to sponsor many young men annually thru local Squadrons.



## U.S. SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

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Buckeye Boys State in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education annually nominates applicants to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

## GRADUATES OF BUCKEYE BOYS STATE

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|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Neil Armstrong     | Astronaut                 |
| Terence Henricks   | Astronaut                 |
| Carl Walz          | Astronaut                 |
| Michael Gernhardt  | Astronaut                 |
| Gregory Johnson    | Astronaut                 |
| Larry Smith        | Coach                     |
| Greg Lashutka      | Businessman               |
| David Moreland     | USAF "Thunderbirds"       |
| Rex Kern           | Ohio State University     |
| Randy Gradishar    | Ohio State University     |
| Randy Gardner      | Ohio General Assembly     |
| Darrin Blackford   | U.S. Secret Service       |
| Joe Johns          | National TV Reporter      |
| William Batchelder | Ohio Speaker of the House |

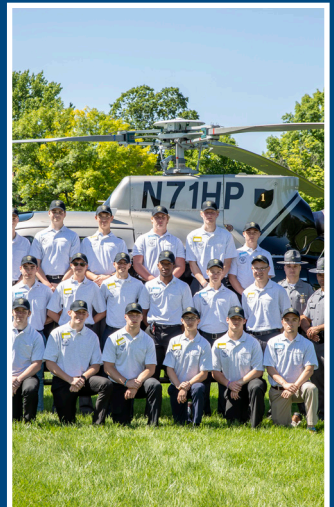
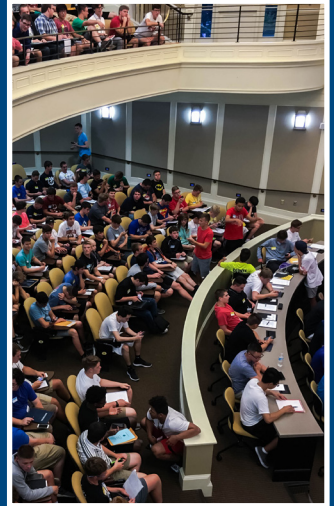
Buckeye Boys State has been recognized six times by the Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge.

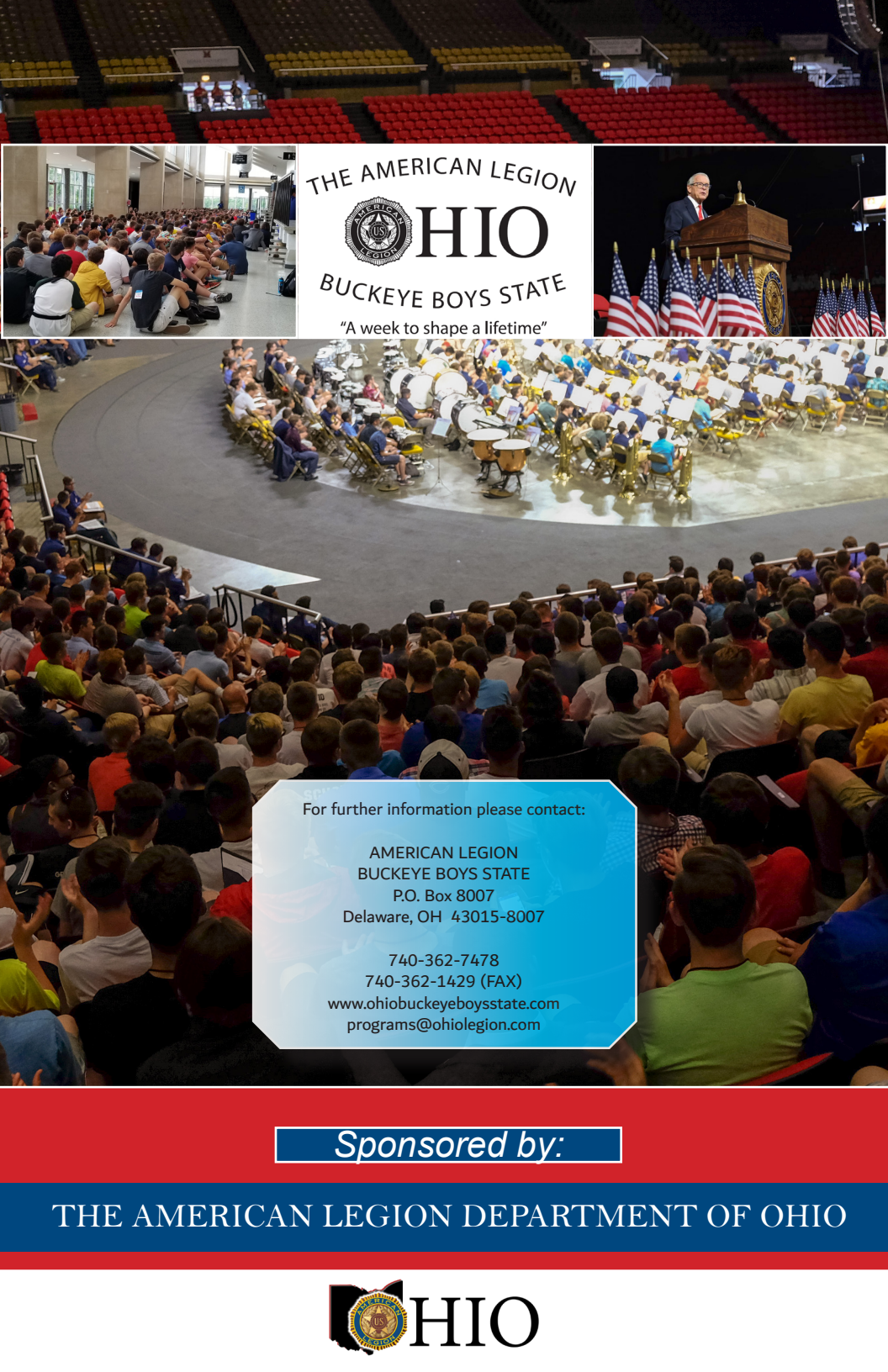
## PERSONAL AUTOMOBILES

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Young men attending Buckeye Boys State who drive their own automobiles will be assigned to a parking area, and must turn in their car keys to their Buckeye Boys State Counselor. All car keys will be returned on the last day of the program.

Young men will not be allowed to use their personal vehicles at any time during the Boys State program.





THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 **HIO**  
 BUCKEYE BOYS STATE  
 "A week to shape a lifetime"



For further information please contact:

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 BUCKEYE BOYS STATE  
 P.O. Box 8007  
 Delaware, OH 43015-8007

740-362-7478  
 740-362-1429 (FAX)  
[www.ohiobuckeyeboysstate.com](http://www.ohiobuckeyeboysstate.com)  
[programs@ohiolegion.com](mailto:programs@ohiolegion.com)

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