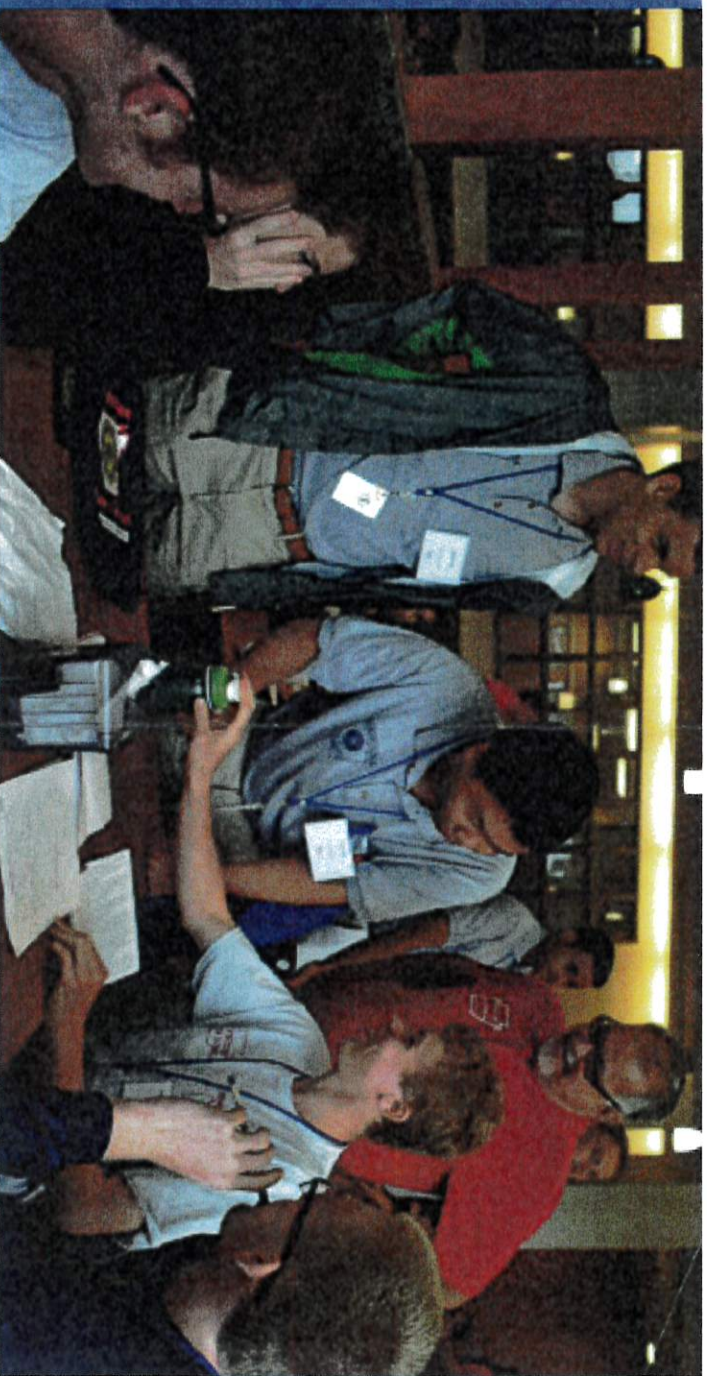


## A Tradition of Leadership

### KEYSTONE BOYS STATE

Established 1936, *Pennsylvania American Legion Keystone Boys State* is an educational workshop for high school student leaders. Students selected to attend KBS have the opportunity to gain leadership skills through an intensive week-long summer program. The focus of KBS is its hands-on simulation of municipal, county, and state government.



### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Participants learn to be a better leader by "learning-by-doing" as part of a group of 20--30 other young men from across Pennsylvania. This active learning is enhanced by guidance from counselors and members of the American Legion.

### CIVICS EXPERIENCE

Participants are organized into "cities" in the simulated "51st State of Keystone." Participants run for state and local office and work together to develop solutions to the challenging political, social, and economic problems facing our state.

KBS is an intensive, in-depth, and hands-on course in leadership.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The core of KBS is an in-depth simulation of state and local government in Pennsylvania, in which participants conduct the operations of city, county, and state government. As part of two mock political parties, participants vie for office and work to pass legislation to overcome political, economic, and social challenges. They also have opportunities to establish and operate businesses, run an active television, and print media enterprise.

At every stage of the week, KBS participants—not KBS staff—take the lead, electing their own leaders and determining as a group what they want to achieve and how they will achieve it.

### KEY FACTS

**Time & Place:** Week of Father's Day at Messiah University

**Eligibility:** High school students who have completed their junior year and have at least one semester remaining before graduation.

**Cost:** an American Legion Post pays the week's tuition (\$225).

### BENEFITS OF KBS

- 1 Highly valued on college applications; opportunity to earn college credit
- 2 20% of first-year students at military academies are Boys or Girls State graduates
- 3 Acquire skills that provide focus and a leadership base for your senior year
- 4 Develop a working understanding of state and local government
- 5 Be part of a talented team of peers working to achieve goals
- 6 Meet state representatives and senators in Harrisburg



## SAMPLE KBS SCHEDULE

6:30-7:45am: Wake up & eat breakfast  
 8:00am: Flag Raising/Announcements  
 8:15am: City - General Work Time / Businesses  
 9:15am: County A: Guest Lecturer  
           County B: Legislative Coordination  
 10:30am: Party Meetings: Candidate speeches  
 11:45am: Lunch  
 12:45pm: Elect leadership in House & Senate caucuses  
 1:30pm: House and Senate committee meetings  
 3:30pm: Intramural sports, band, news media, etc.  
 3:30-5pm: State Primary Elections  
 5:00pm: Dinner  
 6:15pm: Flag ceremony/Announcements  
 6:30pm: House and Senate Sessions  
 8:00pm: KTV - Evening news  
 8:45pm: City - General Work Time / Businesses  
 11:00pm: Lights out



*The week I spent at Boys State was undoubtedly one of the most unique and important experiences of my life. My fellow citizens were all extremely dedicated and passionate about the activities of the week, and still managed to share many laughs and good times.*  
 - Alex O., Radnor H.S., KBS graduate

## HOW TO ATTEND

Any H.S. Junior may apply to Keystone Boys State. You must submit an application through the KBS website.

1. Fill out the online application below.
2. Print pdf copy.
3. Sign in all places. (Student and Parent(s))
4. Turn in completed form to your local American Legion post/squadron commander or adjutant for sponsorship. I would contact them first to arrange for turning in completed application.

### Keystone Boys State application:

<https://pa-legion.com/programs/student-and-youth/keystone-boys-state-program/keystone-boys-state-registration/>



### American Legion Post locator:

<https://pa-legion.com/about-the-legion/districts-by-county/>

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**JUNE 8-14, 2025**





The Elmer Hafer American Legion State Police National Guard Youth Camp brings together the PA National Guard, the American Legion, and the State Police to give students firsthand experience in many areas of law enforcement and the military. This program enhances leadership skills, discipline, and self-esteem to morally, intellectually, and physically prepare cadets as future leaders.



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Youth Camp is a six-day program for students ages 15-17 interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement or the military. Activities and demonstrations include police scenarios, physical fitness training, drill and ceremony, forensics, traffic and criminal law, water survival, marksmanship, and teambuilding.



Students should be physically fit, in good health, and have a good academic record. This is not a recreational camp.

Cadets must be Pennsylvania residents between the ages of 15 and 17 before entering the camp on June 8.

## COST / TRANSPORTATION

A fee of \$225 includes meals and lodging. The fee is paid by a sponsoring post, unit, or other civic group and is nonrefundable. Price is subject to change. Transportation is the responsibility of the sponsoring group or cadet's parents.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Firing Range:** cadets are taught firearms use by certified NRA instructors.

**Refreshing Mountain:** cadets learn teambuilding skills.

**State Police Academy:** cadets experience some of the training troopers receive.

**Fort Indiantown Gap:** cadets observe military operations and equipment.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/EHYouthCamp](http://bit.ly/EHYouthCamp), scan the code at right, or contact:

**American Legion  
Department of Pennsylvania  
717-730-9100**

