

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
November 2020

TO: POST BOYS STATE CHAIRMEN
COUNTY BOYS STATE CHAIRMEN

**AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE
JUNE 20-25, 2021 – Our 75th ANNUAL SESSION**

It is hard to believe but it is Boys State time again. The sooner you get started finding sponsorship money for your delegates, the easier it will be. After finding your sponsorships, you should concentrate on contacting your local schools to get your potential delegates.

Our 2020 session was postponed to 2021. Our 2021 session will be a "joint session" with both seniors selected to be 2020 delegates and juniors selected next year as 2021 delegates. We have addressed many of your questions regarding our plans at <http://aljbs.org/2021sessionfaqs/> (also attached). We did not take this decision lightly and wanted it to be informed, well-thought out, and as thorough as possible. We believe that we have accomplished that.

Our staff is already planning next year's session. Although last year's session was postponed 2021, we appreciate the many new ideas from you and your work in sending us the best possible delegates in New Jersey.

Our hope is that this year, you will make a big effort to include all high schools (public, private and parochial and home schooled students) in your sponsorships. With our ever-changing cities and counties, there are new schools being built all the time. Please reach out to them!!!

The fee this year is \$275.00 per delegate. The **deadline** for submitting the sponsorship money and cards is **MAY 1, 2021**. By getting the sponsorships money earlier, we can invest it before we have to pay Rider University. This helps us to keep the fee low.

You may also go to aljbs.org for all the most current information on the Program.

The following procedures should be followed concerning the sponsorships and the sponsorship cards:

1. Arrange for your Post and/or other organization(s) in your town or area to sponsor the delegates. There are many groups and individuals who would gladly sponsor in full or in part, the cost to send a delegate to this year's session. Many potential sponsors attended ALJBS. Just ask!!!

2. Complete the 3" x 5" sponsorship card and send it in with the full fee of **\$275.00** per delegate to the following address: American Legion Jersey Boys State, **Building #5, 2nd Floor, 171 Jersey Street**, Trenton, NJ 08611.

3. As a guideline, delegates should be high school juniors, be no older than 17 years old, have at least a "B" average, be involved in extracurricular activities, and have some interest in politics and current events. A non-resident of New Jersey must attend school in New Jersey to be eligible for Boys State. Non U.S. citizens may attend Boys State.

4. After interviewing and selecting the delegates and alternates, have them complete the applications and return them to you as Chairman. **All applications must be into Department no later than JUNE 1, 2021.**

5. Delegates must complete the medical form, which will be on the website. The form must be completed based on a doctor's visit within the last 6 months. **NO** applicant will be allowed to register if he does not have this completed. over

6. Applications will not be accepted unless properly filled out. **PLEASE** make sure applications are turned into the local Boys State Post Chairman. Regardless of sponsorship (by The American Legion alone or co-sponsoring Service Club) the application, with the correct address, must be approved by the Boys State Chairman and/or Post Commander of the local Legion Post. The co-sponsor's name and address, as well as the Legion's, must be on the application when sent to us. Applications are to be filled in by applicant only. **DO NOT SIGN UNTIL YOU CHECK OVER THE APPLICATION AND HAVE MET THE DELEGATE.**

7. Alternates who show up at Boys State for registration at the 2021 session without having an application in the Boys State file will not be admitted. Therefore, additional alternate blanks and registration cards will be sent to you when needed and requested. The alternate must know the name of the boy for whom he is an alternate and Post number in order to register. We will not process an application unless we have the correct information. **This is your responsibility.**

8. Each delegate registering on Sunday, June 20th must have his medical form completed on line. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEDICAL FORM TO HQ! REGISTRATION IS 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM.** We suggest arriving prior to 7:00 am. **PLEASE CHECK THE ABOVE CAREFULLY.** Since you are also responsible for the delegate's transportation home, make sure they know the Program will end at about 4:00 PM Friday.

9. The Director reserves the right to send a Delegate home without graduating if he does not meet the qualifications stated and does not obey the rules and regulations of Boys State. The Director will follow this procedure only when necessary. If a Delegate is sent home under such condition, a letter will be sent to his parents, his principal and the sponsoring organization; notifying them of this action.

DO NOT ASSUME the authority to say that a Delegate will be permitted to leave the campus for any period of time while Boys State is in session. **That authority rests solely with the Director.**

County orientations are meant to be informative for the delegates, alternates and their parents. They should not be political or encourage delegates to run for any particular office. Every delegate and alternate should be required to attend County orientation. Boys State staff members are available to help if you wish. Once again, use **ALJBS.org** as a tool to help you and your applicants/delegates.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Legion Headquarters at **(609) 695-5418 and speak with Tammie.**

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**American Legion Jersey Boys State
2020/2021 Joint Session
Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated: April 19, 2020**

DELEGATES

1. *When and where will the 2021 session of ALJBS be held?*

The 2021 joint session of ALJBS will be held from June 20th to June 25th, 2021 at our host university, Rider University. This session will be a joint session of ALJBS for delegates selected in 2020 and delegates selected in 2021. This will be a combination of 2020 delegates (seniors in 2021) and 2021 delegates (juniors in 2021). Although the schedule has not yet been determined, there may be scheduling changes made to accommodate the number of delegates that we expect to attend ALJBS in 2021. Please continue to monitor our website at aljbs.org for updates as we get closer to the 2021 session.

2. *Before deciding to postpone the 2020 session and run a joint session in 2021 you mentioned that you considered other options. What were those other options and why did you not choose them?*

We considered the following options for our 2020 session: holding ALJBS as planned in June of 2020, postponing the 2020 ALJBS session until later in the summer of 2020 (the last week in July), holding a virtual ALJBS for 2020, and entirely cancelling the 2020 session. We have been conducting ALJBS continuously since 1946 (74 years). We did not want the ALJBS class of 2020 to be the first group of high school juniors to not have the opportunity to attend ALJBS in 75 years. For various reasons (mostly health and program quality related) the other options were not viable. Due to the nature of our program, our program leadership could not structure a virtual session that would have provided the educational value and overall experience that the prior 74 sessions had. Holding a joint session in 2021 was by far the best and most viable option.

3. *Are there any capacity issues at Rider University in light of the fact that 2021 will be a joint session with seniors and juniors?*

No. In a typical year, our host, Rider University, is able to handle approximately 950 delegates and 150 staff. For our 2021 joint session we are expecting approximately 1,600-1,800 delegates and 175-200 staff. We have developed a plan for our 2021 session working in conjunction with Rider University. Rider has capacity to accommodate the 2021 joint session of ALJBS and thus, we do not expect any capacity issues next year.

4. *I am currently a high school junior (high school graduation date in 2021) and was selected to attend ALJBS in June of 2020. Am I automatically selected to be a delegate for the 2021 session of ALJBS as a senior in high school?*

Yes. All delegates selected to attend ALJBS in 2020 will be enrolled to attend ALJBS in June 2021.

5. *I was selected to attend ALJBS 2020 and am not sure if I can attend the 2021 at the present time. When do I need to make a decision as far as attending the 2021 session?*

We will post a deadline on aljbs.org when 2020 selected delegates will have to confirm their attendance for the 2021 session and inform their ALJBS Post Chairman or their sponsor. That deadline will allow the local ALJBS Post plenty of time to find a replacement delegate should you not be able to attend the 2021 session.

6. *I was selected to attend ALJBS in 2020, completed the on-line application, had it signed by my parent/guardian and my high school principal and returned it to my American Legion Post Chairman. Is there anything else I need to do at this time?*

No. Your Post Chairman will send the application to New Jersey Department Headquarters. At this time, there is nothing else that you need to do. In early 2021, you will receive an email from ALJBS with the link to complete the medical registration process using our "CampDoc" system. The CampDoc system is very user friendly, easy to follow and it will lead you through the medical information process step-by-step. For questions on the medical application process contact us at medical@aljbs.org.

7. *I was selected to attend ALJBS in 2020 and would like to attend the 2021 session. However, my high school graduation ceremony falls during the week of ALJBS (June 20th-25th, 2021). Will I be allowed to leave ALJBS to attend my graduation ceremony and celebrate my graduation with my family?*

Yes. ALJBS typically will allow delegates to be excused from the session for a limited amount of time for good reason (good reason **DOES NOT** include sports events), with the permission of the Executive Director and the delegate's parents (delegates must be physically signed out by both to be allowed to leave ALJBS while we are in session, even if the delegate drove themselves to ALJBS). Graduating from high school is deemed to be a good reason and delegates will be allowed to leave the session temporarily for a reasonable amount of time to attend the graduation and celebrate the graduation with their family (returning to ALJBS the evening of graduation). However, we expect the delegate to return to the session in a reasonable amount of time (that time may vary depending on travel time) the same day. Failure to return to the program will result in the delegate not graduating from ALJBS in good standing and not being eligible for college credit. We will not make any exceptions to this policy.

8. *Do I need to apply again next year?*

No. If you were selected to be a delegate in 2020, you will not need to re-apply to ALJBS next year. If you have been selected to be a delegate in 2020 and have already completed your on-line application, you should complete the registration process including printing out the on-line application, signing the application, getting your parent/guardian to sign the application, having your high school principal sign the application (electronic and scanned signatures are acceptable) and returning the application to your ALJBS Post Chairman. You will receive a link in early 2021 for completing the application by providing us with your medical information through CampDoc.

9. *When is the application deadline?*

At this time, we have not set an application deadline. We will keep the application system open through the mid-fall (before preparations for the 2021 applicants). **If you have been selected to attend, you should go ahead and apply to ALJBS as soon as possible.**

10. What if I can't get my high school principal's signature and/or I can't get my completed application to my ALJBS Post Chairman?

If you can't get your high school principal's signature, you have several choices. You can either get a scanned signature from your principal on the application or wait to get a physical signature from the principal once you are able to do so. You may also get another signature from a school representative in lieu of the principal's signature (the other school representative's signature can also be either a physical or a scanned signature). You also have several choices if you can't get the completed application to your ALJBS Post Chairman. You can either email a scanned application to the ALJBS Post Chairman or you can wait to physically deliver the application to the ALJBS Post Chairman once you are able to do so.

11. If my high school does not send delegates to ALJBS or my local ALJBS post does not sponsor delegates for ALJBS can I still attend ALJBS?

Yes. We have a process for prospective delegates that are in high schools that do not currently send delegates to ALJBS to apply and attend if selected. For details on the process, please go to: http://aljbs.org/info/application_process.php - applicant for more information. All deadlines for this process have been extended. We are currently accepting applications from the high school class of 2021 (rising seniors) for our combined session in 2021. Class of 2022 (rising juniors) will be able to apply in the late fall of 2020 for the combined session in 2021.

12. If I was selected as a delegate for 2020 will I be able to put ALJBS on my college application and say I was selected to attend ALJBS?

Yes. If you were selected to be a delegate for 2020, you will be able to put ALJBS on your college application, use it for service academy applications, etc. By August 31, 2020, we will make a letter available on our Application System that you will be able to print out to use as proof of selection. **The letter will only be available to you once your local American Legion Post sends your completed application AND sponsorship payment into Department Headquarters.** If you are unable to print out the letter after June 30, 2020, you should contact your local American Legion Post. However, in order to say that you were a graduate of ALJBS, qualify for college credit, etc., you must attend the entire 2021 session of ALJBS and graduate in good standing.

13. With county orientations for 2020 being canceled, will I need to attend one next year?

Yes. A virtual ALJBS county orientation will be posted online at aljbs.org by May 1, 2020. You should plan to attend an ALJBS county orientation in-person in 2021. Dates, times and locations will be posted at aljbs.org in 2021 once scheduled.

14. Will 2020 delegates be mixed with next year's 2021 delegate class in the same program?

Yes. The current plan is to run one combined program with as few disparate events as possible. We will post our plans next spring on our website at aljbs.org for any updates.

15. Will the 2021 joint session of ALJBS be any different than a typical "single" session of ALJBS?

No. The 2021 joint session of ALJBS will maintain all of the usual components that have made our program one of the preeminent youth leadership programs in New Jersey and one of the top Boys State Programs in the entire country. Obviously, as a result of the sheer number of delegates in 2021, we will need to be flexible as far as meeting room capacities and scheduling, but please be assured that the core elements of our program will remain intact. One advantage

of having a significant amount of time to plan for the 2021 session is our staff will be able to make further enhancements to our program.

16. Will I be allowed to leave for final exams next year?

To limit the amount of time away from ALJBS, we ask that you work with your teachers and advisors to allow you to take your exams prior to attending ALJBS. In the event that you are unable to reschedule your final exams, we will allow you to be excused with permission of the Executive Director and the delegate's parents (delegates must be physically signed out by both to be allowed to leave ALJBS while we are in session, even if the delegate drove themselves to ALJBS).

17. As a 2020 delegate, am I still eligible to receive college credit for my attendance at the 2021 session?

Yes. 2020 (and 2021) delegates are eligible to receive college credit for attending the 2021 session of ALJBS. Your delegate fee must be paid by your sponsoring ALJBS Post, your sponsor or your parents. You must also register with Rider University for course POL 200, graduate from ALJBS in good standing, pass the ALJBS Examination given the last day of the program and write a brief paper about your experience at ALJBS. Please follow the process and instructions provided at aljbs.org.

18. I have questions, where do I go for answers?

For answers to all of your questions about ALJBS, please go to our website at aljbs.org.

PARENTS

1. Given the current coronavirus pandemic and some experts proclaiming a resurgence, how can you keep my son safe and healthy next year?

We will continue to monitor the situation closely. Please understand that the health and safety of your son, speakers, staff and other participants in ALJBS is of paramount importance to us. Obviously, we cannot predict the future. However, we believe that by postponing the 2020 session until 2021, we have a much better chance of being able to host as "normal" as possible ALJBS session. We encourage you to continue to check our website in the coming months. Any changes or updates will be posted at aljbs.org. Our Public Safety and EMS staff are developing plans for our 2021 session working in conjunction with state, county, local and Rider University health professionals. Please rest assured that we will do everything we can to provide a safe, healthy and rewarding Boys State experience to our ALJBS delegates.

2. My son was selected to be a delegate in 2020 but won't be able to attend the 2021 session next year. What can he do?

If your son was selected to attend ALJBS in 2020 by his local American Legion Post and his high school, his application was received in our Department Headquarters, and the delegate fee has been paid for by the American Legion Post and/or co-sponsor, he will be marked as a delegate selected for 2020. He will receive a letter stating that he was selected as a delegate through our application system starting later this summer. He should also inform his ALJBS Post Chairman that he will be unable to attend ALJBS. Please note that being selected for ALJBS is **NOT** the same as attending and graduating from ALJBS. For example, your son will not be eligible to receive college credit unless he attends and graduates in good standing from ALJBS.

POST/COUNTY ALJBS CHAIRMEN and SPONSORS

1. *Our Post has already sent in our sponsorship check for our 2020 delegates. What will happen to that payment?*

We have postponed, not cancelled our 2020 session of ALJBS. **Please continue to send in your checks to Department Headquarters as you normally would.** Sponsorship fees paid this year will be used to pay for 2020 delegates. 2020 delegates will have the opportunity to attend ALJBS in 2021. If you have already sent in your 2020 payment for your 2020 delegates, thank you. If you have not yet sent in your payment for 2020 delegates, we have changed the deadline to get those payments to Department Headquarters in Trenton. **You now have until October 31, 2020 to pay for your 2020 delegates.** If we do not receive payment for your 2020 delegates by October 31, 2020, we will remove those delegates from our application system, they will not be able to use their selection to ALJBS for college application or service academy selection, and they will be not able to attend ALJBS in 2021.

2. *What if the delegates we select in 2020 are not able to attend the 2021 session?*

Obviously, our hope is that the delegates you select for 2020 are able to attend the 2021 session of ALJBS as high school seniors. In the unlikely event that they are not able to attend the 2021 session, you should fill those slots with 2020 alternates. We encourage our local American Legion Posts to select extra alternates this year to back-up your 2020 delegates in case they cannot attend. If your 2020 delegates cannot attend the 2021 session and your alternates either are unable to attend or you do not have enough alternates, you can fill those slots with additional delegates from the senior class (assuming they go through the normal selection process and they are worthy of selection to ALJBS). In the unlikely event that you are unable to fill your 2020 slots with seniors, you may select additional juniors over and above what your Post would normally send to fill those slots in 2021. If you normally send 4 delegates per year from your Post, we would like you to send 8 in 2021. Ideally, for 2021, that would be 4 seniors and 4 juniors. To summarize the order of preference for 2020 delegates attending the 2021 session of ALJBS:

- 2020 selected senior delegates (seniors in 2021);
- 2020 selected senior alternates (seniors in 2021);
- New 2020 selected senior replacement delegates that can attend the 2021 session (seniors in 2021);
- Additional 2021 selected junior replacement delegates (juniors in 2021).

3. *What if we did not yet select our 2020 delegates for ALJBS?*

We realize that some of you did not yet complete your 2020 selection process before high school's closed as a result of the corona virus pandemic. If you have completed your 2020 selection process, thank you. If you have not yet completed your selection process, you should select your 2020 delegates **no later than October 31, 2020.** We would emphasize the importance of selecting additional alternates for 2020 in the event that your selected 2020 delegates cannot attend the 2021 dual session. We would like to emphasize the importance of selecting delegates to attend the 2021 session as seniors (2020 delegates). Selection to attend ALJBS is an honor and is very important to these students. Being selected to ALJBS helps the delegates in the college application process, is important if they are applying to one of the service academies and helps them on their resume for their career. **Please continue to move ahead with your delegate selection process.**

4. *What should I be doing now as a County or Post ALJBS Chairman?*

Besides sending your sponsor fees to Department Headquarters and selecting your 2020 ALJBS delegates, the most important thing that our Post and County Chairman can do right now is stay in touch with your high schools, delegates, and parents keeping them up to date on the status of the program. Please give them our website address (aljbs.org) and ask them to monitor the website for the most up-to-date information on the status of the program and anything related to the program such as the status of in-person county orientations, the application process, medical forms and other important information. You should also assure the parents and guardians of your delegates that we will have a comprehensive safety plan, with consultation from public health experts, in place prior to the 2021 session.

5. *Will there be schedule modifications required for the 2021 session of ALJBS?*

Although the schedule has not yet been determined, there may be schedule changes required to accommodate the number of delegates that we expect to attend our 2021 joint session. Please continue to monitor our website at aljbs.org for all updates, including schedule updates, as we get closer to the 2021 session.

6. *What are the plans in 2021 for ALJBS County Orientations?*

Effective April 15, 2020, all in-person County orientation meetings for 2020 were cancelled. We will post a “virtual” county orientation on our website at aljbs.org by May 1st. We will also provide a link to enable parents to ask questions. We plan on having 2020 and 2021 delegates attend an ALJBS county orientation in 2021. Dates, times and locations will be posted [on](#) our website in 2021 once scheduled. We recognize there may be capacity issues at some of the venues where you typically hold your county orientations. ALJBS staff will work with you to find appropriate locations for your 2021 county orientations.

7. *2020 was supposed to be the 75th annual session of ALJBS. Will we be celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2021 or will we be skipping ahead right to the 76th annual session?*

Yes. 2021 will be the 75th session. We have many special events planned to honor our 75th anniversary. We plan on carrying over those special events to 2021.

8. *Given the uncertainty of the current situation, our Post is having financial difficulties. What are the options for paying for the 2020 delegates?*

The good news is that payment for 2020 delegates is not due until September 30, 2020. By extending the payment deadline, that will hopefully give your Post plenty of time to obtain the funds necessary to pay for sponsorship of your 2020 delegates. In the event that your Post is still having difficulty funding your 2020 delegates, you have several options. You can obtain co-sponsors who will subsidize the Post’s portion of the sponsorship of the 2020 delegates. You can also ask the parents to pay for a portion of the sponsorship fee. As a last resort, you can sponsor fewer 2020 delegates.

SPEAKERS

1. *If I was planning to speak or was scheduled to speak at ALJBS in 2020, will I be speaking at the 2021 session?*

Yes. We greatly appreciate the dedication and support of our speakers. If you were scheduled or planning to speak at the 2020 session, you should plan on speaking at the 2021 session scheduled to be held June 20th to June 25th, 2020. Formal invitations and details will be going out in the Spring of 2021. You should continue to monitor our website at aljbs.org for the most current updates regarding ALJBS.

STAFF

1. *I was invited to be an ALJBS staff member in 2020. Will I be invited to be a staff member in 2021?*

Yes. If you were invited to be a staff member in 2020, you will be invited to be a staff member in 2021. Be on the lookout for an invite to be a member of the 2021 ALJBS staff in late winter/early spring of 2021.

2. *If I was invited to be a staff member in 2020 and couldn't attend, can I be a member of the staff in 2021?*

Yes. You will receive an invite to be a member of the 2021 ALJBS staff in late winter/early spring of 2021.

3. *I would like to help plan for the 2021 session of ALJBS. How do I do that?*

Great! If you are interested in helping out in the off-season and help us plan for our joint session in 2021, you should contact either Dominic Santillo, Justin Giannendra or Joe Gould at: staffing@aljbs.org