

(update #3 sent 3 December 2023)

Update #3: Texas Boys State 2024

Legion –

We hope everyone is super as we close out year 2023.

For your further sharing, as you see fit, please see [Update #3](#) for your TXBS 2024 below—inno particular order:

1. Communications:
 - a. We were excited to have had 118 of you sign up to receive these updates for 2024!
 - b. In addition to those who opted-in, we include:
 - Various Department Officials;
 - Department Vice Commanders;
 - District Commanders;
 - Some Department HQ staff;
 - Some members of Americanism Commission;
 - TALDF Board; and
 - TXBS Executive Committee.
 - c. **We defer to Commanders/hubmasters to further share/distribute these updates, if desired.**
2. Thank you, always, for what you do at the Posts/locally—always key to finding the very best talent!
3. Our dates of 9-14 June 2024 are confirmed with UT Austin for our program.
4. 1 May 2024 is our registration deadline, please. Thank you for planning forward to help us here. The logistics complexity, UT requirements, and all sorts of new factors to execute this program seem to multiply every year.
5. A few notes from the 2023 National Boys State Director’s Conference:
 - 34% of Boys State programs shrank last year across the country, and 100% are below overall Department averages since inception.
 - Engaging students is becoming more challenging as Post membership shrinks and key Post members pass and roles not backfilled.
 - A number of states are already doing integrated (male/female) programs (CT, MA, MO), with some doing so because required by legislation (California).
 - Given American Legion fundraising restrictions, and the challenges noted above and more, states have started to create entirely separate legal entities from AL Departments in order to build for the future.
 - Plus we gathered a number of other great innovations, techniques, and practices from other programs which we are evaluating to help keep our program absolutely premier in the Nation.
6. Please see the attached flyer, used in recruiting efforts into areas of Texas where there is no TXBS representation (you are free to use if helpful).

7. Our 2024 Brochure and Fact sheet are being revised, along with the website. We will report to you when all is fully updated.
8. As you are likely aware, there is a new(ish) American Legion logo.
 - a. We are required to now integrate the logo into our Texas Boys State paraphernalia.
 - b. While in transition, we will (of course) use the shirts we already have in inventory, in addition to ordering shirts that will incorporate the new logo (design TBD).
 - c. It is possible your 2024 Statesmen will have some combination of old logo and new logo shirts while we make the shift.
 - d. Legion Brand link: [Brand Mark Information](#)
9. Save the date now! Legion Day 2024.
 - a. Friday, 14 June 2024.
 - b. We would love as many “Legion Hats” to represent to the about 1,800+ people we’ll touch that day.
 - c. More to follow next year.
10. Thank you to our Sons of the American Legion who have kindly offered their assistance this year with some important initiatives. So grateful! More info later.
11. Our goal remains to have 1,000 Statesmen this year (this is also our planning factor on the budget)—so, thank you for doing everything in your power to help.
 - a. In addition to your local efforts, we have had a dedicated team working to maximize viz of your program.
 - b. Huge thank you to **Lucas Turner and Alex Rose for sending over 2,000 emails** in the last few weeks to schools where there has been zero TXBS representation!
 - c. Last year, we had 20 Statesmen from schools that sent Statemen for the first time ever. We are looking to hit at least 90 this year of entirely new schools (including from underrepresented areas).
 - d. We cannot express enough our thanks for the volunteer efforts of the people that bleed into this program, in addition to their normal work and family lives . . . like Lucas and Alex.
12. As always, prior updates are below in the email chain and also attached as PDF.

Wishing everyone the best as we head in to 2024!

Respectfully,

Your TXBS Executive Committee

(update #2 sent 22 October 2023)

Update #2: Texas Boys State 2024

Dear Legion Teammates –

Below please find 2024 TXBS [Update #2](#).

1. **ACTION:** If you wish to receive any future 2024 TXBS updates, **please submit at the link below.**
 - a. Our lists have become bloated, with lots of bounces, and we never wish to spam.
 - b. If you have already submitted per the 27 August note below, no need to submit again.
 - c. District Commanders will be included on all updates, for their forwarding as they see fit.
 - d. All updates will also flow to the Hubmaster, for hopeful sharing thru that system as well across the Department.
 - e. The next update note will be sent only to those that submit at the link below. **This will be the last note sent to you**, without you completing the 3 questions at the link below. Thank you.
 - f. **Click here:** [Distro List 2024 Link](#)
2. The DEC approved our ability to conduct a 2024 program. Tuition remains \$330 per Statesman.
3. Tentative dates for 2024 Texas Boys State remain 9-14 June 2024. We have not yet officially finalized with UT, based on a number of factors.
4. We hope to have 2024 “sizzle” on the streets on or about 1 November 2023, helping you all lean-in as early as you might wish locally.
 - a. This will include the 2024 Brochure and 2024 Fact Sheet, and the update on the website for 2024 as well.
 - b. Always, however, the primary source of information for you (and for others) is the website.
 - c. Click here: [Texas Boys State - For The Legion](#)
5. Amazingly, the [Sumners Foundation](#), thru the TALDF, has granted another \$50,000 for use in 2024 for Texas Boys State.
 - a. In total, Sumners has granted \$100,000 to your program that changes lives. Awesome!
 - b. Thank you to TXBS Executive Committee member Cameron Jean, in particular, for his heavy-lifting efforts on all things Sumners.
6. Please see the attached regarding District/Post participation from 2014-2023. Attachments #2 and #3.
7. Attachment #1 is the 2024 updates in PDF (including this one), so as you forward the notes (with the PDF, please) the links will continue to work for anyone that receives them.
8. **SAVE THE DATE:** Friday, 14 June 2024 – “Legion Day.” Where we hope to assemble as many Legion hats as humanly possible that Friday morning to mingle with many 100s of parents/guardians and the Statesmen and represent. A few photos below from last Legion Day.

Please advise of anything we can do for you as you prepare to identify the very best talent across the state!

Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

Your TXBS Executive Committee



(update #1 sent 27 August 2023)

Update #1: Texas Boys State 2024

Hello Legion Friends –

Below please find **Update #1** for **Texas Boys State 2024**.

Please share everywhere, along with attachments.

Remember one of the attachments (**attachment #4 in this note**) is always the updates (in PDF form), for ease in access to the links and the messages, as things get forwarded.

In no particular order:

1. **Thank you**, in advance, for all you will do for the 2024 program. You are key to success.
2. As always, **quality** remains most important. Thank you for selecting the very best, of the very best, for this life-changing week.

3. To get you **fired-up** as you start to think about 2024, please see the attachments. Your program has **unbelievable impact**.
 - a. Report from your Texas Senators about their Boys Nation experience (**attachment #1**) . . .
 - “Attending Boys Nation was like diving into a pool of overachieving and hyperactive piranhas.”
 - “It was apparent that just artificial networking or asking people to vote for you with the shake of a hand wasn’t going to cut it . . . instead, true connection had to be made, and that was the first “jolt” for me.”
 - b. Some powerful post-program thoughts from 2023 Statesmen (**attachment #2**) . . .
 - “Imagine 30, 17-year-old strangers, gathered in a room charged with the task to agree on hot topics like immigration, abortion, and gun laws.”
 - “Boys State . . . was one of the best experiences of my life . . . that will stick with me . . . and shape who I am for the rest of my life.”
 - “As a 6’3, 2-year varsity offensive lineman, I am not intimidated by face-to-face showdowns, but I was quiet.” (see attached for more of this story).
 - c. Article from Governor TG Barwa on his experience (**attachment #3**) . . .
 - “The crowd erupted in cheers as friends I had made over the week celebrated with me, making me feel as though I had known them for years.”
 - “The constant exposure to differing viewpoints compelled us to step out of our comfort zones and engage in constructive conversations with others who held opposing beliefs.”
 - And look at the fantastic picture with TXBS Governor Barwa at the end of the article (Governor Barwa with Lieutenant General Stuart Risch, graduation speaker).
4. Please click below to see the **2023 yearbook**. It is too large to send via email.
 - a. Thank you to counselor Jim Bynum for assembling that top-shelf document.
 - b. Thank you to counselor Matthew Hartmann for the exceptional photos!
 - c. Click here: [2023 TXBS Yearbook](#)
5. Tentative dates for 2024 Texas Boys State is **9-14 June 2024**.
6. If you wish to receive email updates regarding TXBS 2024, please complete the attached 3-question form at this link: [Distro List 2024 Link](#)

We will share more as we fire up our systems in the coming months.

Cheers!

Your TXBS Executive Committee

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