

What to Expect

Utah Boys State is “all about the boys”. The student leaders of your class will be the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and two State Senators of the last year’s class. These young men in effect run the program.

You should have already read/absorbed the criteria for graduation, one item worthy of note is the three academic papers that you’ll have to write; one on your choice of “Obligations of Citizenship”, “Power of the Vote”, “What Democracy Means to Me” or “The Two-Party System”. The other two papers will be on your choice of any two guest speakers that take the podium during Boys State. All three papers must be signed off and collected by our faculty staff by Thursday evening.

To begin you have been randomly placed in one of two political parties, Nationalist and Federalist.

Once you arrive at Weber State University and get checked in you will meet your City Counselors (Boys State Staff).

You should note, each day/evening in addition to city, county and state meetings you will attend general assemblies to hear from relevant guest speakers.

Each city will be representative of half of each party. After a short orientation and welcoming at a “General Assembly, State Meeting” each city will adjourn to their respective city meeting rooms.

City Counselors will guide you through the necessary steps toward electing your city leadership. You will select a chairman and secretary for each political party. You’ll learn what a caucus is, begin developing your party platform, and work on campaign slogans. By the evening of day one you will have elected a Mayor, City Councilmen and Recorder/Auditor, you’ll choose Election Judges & Watcher, and delegates will be chosen for county and state conventions. At this point the City Counselors will step back from active management, their function is now helping to steer the city leadership. From this point on to your graduation, the Mayor is

responsible to lead/manage his city. Yes, the City Counselors will still be with you throughout every hour of your day, helping steer.

A word about campaigning. You will only be allowed to use the materiel provided by Boys State for the purpose of campaigning. No prepared items e.g. posters, business cards, flyers etc. that you bring or have delivered to Boys State will be used, this includes cell phone or other social media. Violation of this rule will cause your removal from running for office.

Day two finds you getting deeply engaged in the work-up for county elections, declarations for candidacy, delegate duties & responsibilities, more guest speakers. A choir director will be chosen, a request will be made for participants to be part of the choir, you'll be given a chance to sign up for a position as an active participant in the mock trial, and you'll sign up for one or two athletic events, all cities will field teams to participate in athletics. Some of the events offered in the past include, swimming, bowling, billiards, flag football, Frisbee, dodgeball, volleyball. County Primary elections are conducted and the campaign begins for county elected positions.

Day three the polls open for County General elections, more guest speakers, and the results of the election is announced. Boys wanting to run for State wide elected positions will submit their declaration for candidacy. You'll participate in state political party conventions and spend another couple hours participating in choir, athletics, continue work on your papers. All boys will participate in a special mock trial either as active participants or observers, the trial is conducted with oversight by the State of Utah District Court this event is a highlight of Boys State you won't want to miss. Finally, there's more campaigning.

Day four polls open for State Primary elections, more guest speakers, work on getting your papers signed off. Choir and athletics continue. Dinner is a barbeque on the quad followed by State political convention, boys running for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the two State Senator candidates will take center stage to try their best to gain your support and your vote. Yes, you can vote for yourself or anyone else, regardless of party, but only vote once.

Day five graduation day! You'll move out of your dorm rooms after which the polls will open for the State General elections.

Preparation will be made for the graduation ceremony and the results of the State General election will be announced, *except for Governor/Lt Governor & two Senators* these four officers will be announced at graduation. You'll meet and greet your parents, loved ones and friends then the graduation ceremony will be held, after which you'll be released to depart campus.

A final note about those three papers you'll need to write: As a special bonus and thank you for reading this far we're pleased to offer you the option of completing one paper of your choice on one of the four topics mentioned at the start of this information and bring it with you to Boys State. This is the only paper you'll be able to type, it should be between one and three pages in length. The other two papers that you'll complete while at Boys State will be hand written / hand printed.

Utah Boys State is all about the boys who will become the men better equipped to contribute civically to their communities, cities, the state and the nation.