

# UTAH BOYS STATE CLASS OF 2021

## WHAT TO EXPECT

### “A Once In a Lifetime Opportunity”

**BACKGROUND:** Boys that attend Utah Boys State are referred to as citizens or delegates. In past years, a typical in-person Utah Boys State class begins with assembling all participants on campus at Weber State University. Boys are greeted by the Governor, Lt Governor and Boys Nation Senators that were elected by the preceding class. All delegates have been separated into groups (Cities) and cities into Counties, and boys are assigned to a political party. On day one each city elects their Mayor and City Counsel and other key individuals. Political parties begin development of their platforms. Throughout the election process, the field of candidates are narrowed first, through Primary elections, (each party determines their candidates) and second, General elections where the separate party candidates go head-to-head for the open seat. Boys conduct county conventions and elect County Commissioners, County Attorney and other individuals. State conventions are held. Elections are conducted for state seats, State Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and other key individuals. Boys representing the separate political parties that are running for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the two Boys Nation Senators declare their candidacy and begin campaigning. Boys participate in a mock trial and conduct political rallies. On the final day of boys state the four election winners are announced, and assume the role of student leaders for the upcoming class (following year) of Utah Boys State. During our week-long event, delegates take part in over 60 hours of interactive learning opportunities. Once completed, certificates in hand, boys will forever be recognized among a very select few citizens in our country that demonstrated their willingness to learn more about democracy and the power of civic engagement in government. Nation-wide, this documented experience is a highly coveted, phenomenal resume item. After all it is a “once in a lifetime opportunity”.

**CLASS OF 2021:** This year, Utah Boys State will be conducted entirely online, there will be no in-person sessions.

The core element of our 2021 program will be Weber State University (WSU) online course, National American Government. On June 1<sup>st</sup> each participant will be provided a link via email that will provide access into the WSU Canvas learning platform. Boys will pull up the link and create an account in Canvas, (email + password) once established the course will be open from June 1 through July 31, 2021. You will/can work at your own pace, American Legion members (counselors) will monitor your progress and be available to help where/if needed. The course is estimated to take on average 45 hours to complete. When you successfully complete this course, you will be awarded three semester hours of college credit (elective, pass/fail, no letter grade). See FAQs on the home page of this website for more information about this credit. Some motivated boys will be able to complete the course in a couple of weeks, and others will

take longer. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a roster of participants will be sent to the WSU Political Science Department, notifying the University of your successfully completion.

The second element of our 2021 program will be video and/or audio modules that will be accessible on the Canvas platform. Modules will be presented by the American Legion, (the sponsors of Boys State programs nationwide) various Utah governmental entities, veterans, law enforcement, media etc. Viewing and/or listening to the modules is an element of the Utah Boys State course 2021. Completion of this element is a prerequisite of graduation.

The third element of our 2021 program will be elections. We will abbreviate this element. Election (online/electronic) for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and three Senators (two primary & one alternate). The alternate Senator will be called upon if, and only if one of the primary Senators is not able to fulfill his obligation. Once the alternate is called upon, he will become a primary and the boy that surrendered the seat will be removed from future consideration to reoccupy the seat. Boys that want to run for any one of these seats will have to send a resume indicating their declaration of candidacy, to arrive by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mailed to:

American Legion Utah Boys State  
P.O. Box 187  
Kaysville, UT 84037-0187

The Governor & Lt Governor positions will be filled by the two boys receiving the most votes for Governor.

The Senator seats will be filled by the three boys that receive the most votes for Senator.

The resume (Declaration of Candidacy) should state your full name, identify the office you are running for, (Governor or Senator) describe your qualifications, explain why you are the best person for the position and any other remarks/comments that will help your classmates make their decision. All qualifying resumes will be available for review shortly after June 1<sup>st</sup> on the WSU Canvas platform.

On June 14, boys that submitted a declaration of candidacy will be invited to join on a Zoom meeting (time and link will be provided) where they can provide a three to five minute narrative of their campaign pitch. The meeting will be taped and loaded to the WSU Canvas platform, accessible for review by the electorate.

On June 25, The General election will be conducted by way of online, electronic ballots emailed to the electorate. Successful candidates will be notified by phone as soon as the ballots are counted and verified. The election results will be emailed to the electorate. In the event of a tie for any available seat, the Utah Boys State staff will cast a tie-breaking vote based on the candidate's resume and Zoom meeting election pitch, if one was provided.

*A note of importance:*

*Boys that are elected as Governor, Lieutenant Governor and two primary Senators are expected to be available to participate as student leaders in the week long Class of 2022. Boys*

should anticipate the class of 2022 taking place the second week of June 2022 on the Weber State University campus. Student leaders are considered members of the staff and are essential to the conduct/operation of the Utah Boys State in-person program.

**SENATORS:** Boys that intend to run for election for the two primary and one alternate Senator Seats should plan on completing the online (WSU Canvas) National American Government course not later than the third week of July. Two Senators will be expected to participate in the American Legion Boys Nation program. The program is scheduled for the last week in July. Visit and monitor <https://www.legion.org/boysnation> for the latest updates. Boys Nation typically takes place in Washington DC on the campus of Marymount University. All expenses are paid and travel arrangements made by the American Legion. As of the publication of this information paper, a decision has yet to be made as to whether or not Boys Nation will be conducted in-person or remotely, online. An important factor in your decision to run for a senate seat is that during the registration process for Boys Nation, you will have to complete/submit a draft “Boys Nation Legislative Bill or Resolution”. You can view past legislation at the Boys Nation website mentioned above. Additionally, once we receive Declarations of Candidacy we will work with you and provide more information regarding the topic of Bill / Resolution.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Every boy that completes a registration, pays applicable fees and completes the course requirements will be eligible for a Weber State University scholarship based on ACT & GPA. Students offered WSU scholarships will be notified by the University.

Samsung scholarship: See eligibility at: (<https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>) To apply visit [apps.weber.edu/boysstate/default.aspx](https://apps.weber.edu/boysstate/default.aspx) under the scholarship tab. Deadline to complete your online application will be 11:59 PM, June 1, 2021. Once signed (electronically) and submitted, it cannot be accessed again for any purpose including printing. If you want a copy of your application print it before submission.

Needs based scholarships: Visit [apps.weber.edu/boysstate/default.aspx](https://apps.weber.edu/boysstate/default.aspx) under the scholarship tab to learn the criteria and complete an online application. Deadline to complete your online application will be 11:59 PM, May 31, 2021. Mail a printed copy of your application to: American Legion Utah Boys State, Attn: Academic Adviser, PO Box 187, Kaysville, UT 84037-0187.

**KEY DATES:**

- May 15, registration closes.
- May 19, all money and mailed registration packets must arrive in our PO Box, address provided above.
- June 1, Course is open. Declaration of Candidacy must arrive in our PO Box, address provided above.
- June 1, 7:00 PM Zoom meeting, everyone must participate.

June 6, last day to withdraw without penalty from Utah Boys State 2021. Withdrawal must be in writing, signed by parent/guardian, post marked by or on this date. Withdrawals after this date will not receive a refund.

June 14, Zoom meeting with candidates. Time TBD

June 28, General Elections are conducted via email.

July 31, all course work must be completed, including the final exam.

Note: Due to the extended timeframe of this year's course and the potential for conflicting schedules, there is no plan for frequent or repetitive Zoom or Google meetings. If it is determined that a meeting is warranted, advanced scheduling notice will be provided and every effort will be made to accommodate the majority of our students.

A final word, it is imperative that your email and mailing address be accurate. All contact for course work will be over email. We will mail T-shirts and lapel pins as well as graduation certificates to the address that you provided.

We know that many of you have undergone a long school year of remote learning and congratulate you on completing your junior year, that's a great accomplishment. We understand your reluctance and perhaps your intuition is tugging at you to take the summer off, but we'd ask you to consider the potential, life rewarding implications of having a Utah Boys State certificate, forever in your tool box. The Boys State program is recognized Nationwide as a premier youth education program and graduates are a highly coveted group of citizens. Our certificates open doors that you don't yet know you'll be knocking on. We look forward to mentoring you and counting you among an elite few Utah Boys State Alumni.