

American Legion Boys State

Boys State is a nationwide program of the American Legion with a number of excellent organizations educating young men to be the leaders of tomorrow. **Boys State** is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high-school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government. **American Legion Petaluma Boys State program** sends 2 students from the 3 high schools in Petaluma.

Boys State was founded in 1935 by two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of **city, county and state governments**. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

Legion posts select **high-school juniors** to attend the program. American Legion Petaluma Post 28 pay the cost of attending the program. The participating High Schools are **Casa Grande High School, Petaluma High School, and St. Vincent de Paul High School**.

The schools make recommendations of a group of students. Between February 1 and April 15, the American Legion Post 28 interviews and chooses 2 delegates and 1 alternate from each school. The Post pays for the cost of the students to attend California Boys State.

**The 80th Session of Boys State is June 17-24, 2017
California State University, Sacramento, CA**

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

In 1940, the **American Legion Auxiliary's** dream of the **California Girls State** program became a reality. **California Girls State** is a leadership program of the **American Legion Auxiliary** designed to increase awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while learning about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Delegates come away with a greater appreciation of the American Flag and of the sacrifices made by our veterans. While at Girls State, they make friends with outstanding girls from around the

state and have a fun week they'll remember for the rest of their lives. California Girls State is a program sponsored by the **American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Department of California.**

Nearly **300 California ALA Units** work all year to raise money in order to provide scholarships to students to attend Girls State. Local Units recruit from area high schools and select young women who are just completing their Junior year to attend the summer session.

Past participants of **ALA Girls State** include members of presidential cabinets, mayors, governors, state representatives, company CEOs, national journalists and military officers.

ALA Girls State programs are conducted in nearly every state. Each American Legion Auxiliary department (state) manages its Girls State program. Most are held on college or university campuses that offer dormitory accommodations.

Girls State is limited to girls who are 11th grade students for the current school year (public, private, or home schooled). Each candidate must plan to continue high school and attend one or more semesters immediately following the Girls State Session. Girls under consideration for any other conflicting activities are not acceptable candidates.

Since there is not a American Legion Auxiliary Post in Petaluma. The American Legion Petaluma Post 28 pay the cost of attending the program.

American Legion Auxiliary's California Girls State, 75th Session, will take place June 25th through June 30th, 2018