

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
TAR HEEL BOYS' STATE
CITIZENS HANDBOOK**



**Catawba College
Salisbury, North Carolina
June 18-24, 2017**

PREFACE

This web site information has been prepared to acquaint you prior to your arrival at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program held at Catawba College. This document outlines The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program — in broad terms how the program is structured, what we, The American Legion, expect from you, what will be offered to you, and what is provided to enable you a better understanding of our form of government.

The goal of the staff is to educate and train you, a leader of tomorrow, in understanding one of this country's most precious freedoms: the democratic form of government. It is hoped that you will use the knowledge gained from this information to take an active role in the Tar Heel Boys State program.

Upon finishing The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program, you will join highly respected alumni of over 30,000 plus. Among the ranks are former and present Governors and Senators from North Carolina, judges, lawyers, educators, professional men, military leaders, and numerous state and local government officials. Many of these individuals credit their success, in part, to the experiences they gained from attending the American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program.

Please review the information contained in this manual with your parents. Many questions that both you and your parents may have about The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program will be answered.

What Is The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State?

It is a week of individual participation and ROLE PLAYING in the operation of our Democratic form of government, the organization of a political party and the practical application of the knowledge gained from both.

During your week at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State, you will learn many facets of the political system; from electing a Mayor to drawing up a platform, and selecting nominees for Governor of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State.

You will learn how government operates on a city level, county level, and state level as well as the duties of the offices associated with each level.

Opportunities will be available to broaden your skills by attending special training sessions of law, leadership, speech writing and presentation, and legislature; conducted by selected members of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Staff.

What Is The American Legion?

The American Legion is the largest and fastest growing veteran's service organization in the world, with a membership of over 2.7 million members in the 50 United States and 7 foreign countries.

All members of The American Legion are honorably discharged men and women who served their country on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during the periods of World War I, World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, Grenada, Lebanon, Panama, Desert Storm and the War on Terrorism either at military bases in the United States or overseas.

The American Legion was the originator and author of the GI Bill of Rights, which has benefited millions of ex-servicemen and women since its passage in 1944.

More recently, The American Legion was the largest single contributor to the building of the WWII and Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. with over 1.5 million dollars donated by our members and departments to the Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial project as an example.

Since the founding of The American Legion in 1919, this organization has been a moving force in the area of fair treatment of the nation's veterans, their wives and children, and especially the disabled veterans.

The American Legion has conducted programs for many years, which have been designed to benefit the youth of our nation. Notable among these programs are The American Legion Baseball, The American Legion Boys State Program, The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, The American Legion School Awards Program, and The American Legion Americanism and Government test. We are the 2nd largest sponsor of Boy Scout Troops in the Nation.

The American Legion founded the Boys State program in 1935 and since that time The American Legion Boys State Program, regardless of what state conducts it, remains one of the premier youth programs in the nation today.

The American Legion Department of North Carolina, which conducts The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Program, is one of the departments in The American Legion organization with a membership of over 40,000 members who belong to the American Legion Posts throughout the state.

The National Headquarters of The American Legion is located in Indianapolis and serves as the main office of the National Commander of The American Legion.

The theme of The American Legion is "Still Serving America."

History of The American Legion Boys State Program

The creation of the concept of the Boys State program is credited to Mr. Hayes Kennedy, who in 1935 was a teacher at the Loyola University Law School in Chicago and Americanism Chairman of the Illinois Department of The American Legion.

Mr. Kennedy was concerned about a project underway by the Communist Party to show the uselessness of Democracy and advocated the virtues of the Communist System. Mr. Kennedy felt that a counter movement should be started among the ranks of the nation's youth to stress the importance and value of our Democratic form of Government, and to maintain an effort to preserve it.

The Illinois Department of The American Legion approved Mr. Kennedy's project and in June 1935 the very first Boys State in the nation was held on the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

From that beginning in Illinois in 1935, the program swiftly spread among other American Legion Departments. By 1941, 34 states were conducting a "Boys State" program. Today, The American Legion conducts a Boys State program in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Hawaii is the only state that does not have a Boys State program.

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Staff

The Staff of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State is comprised of highly motivated and qualified individuals, who work with one goal in mind: to make your week at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State one of the most rewarding, educational and worthwhile weeks of your life, one which you will remember for many years to come, and one which, in some small way, may assist you as you pursue whatever career in life you choose to follow.

Reflective of the value of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program is the fact that many of the Boys State staff members you will meet during the week are former Tar Heel Boys State Alumni themselves, who devote one week during the summer to the program, taking time out from their own careers and vacations to do so.

ALL THE AMERICAN LEGION TAR HEEL BOYS STATE STAFF, including the Director, are volunteers. The staff of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State is always available to assist and you should never hesitate to approach any member of the Boys State staff if a question or problem arises.

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State staff offices will be found in the Hurley room in the Cannon Student Center on the Catawba College Campus.

The American Creed by William Tyler Page

"I Believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes."

"I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies."

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Registration

SUNDAY, June 18, 2017, starting at 11:00 AM, ENDING AT 2 PM. Upon your arrival on campus of Catawba College, proceed directly to Robertson College Community Center located on Innes Street. You will see a sign, which says "Tar Heel Boys State Registration."

Upon entering the Robertson College Community Center you will find registration tables to assist you in finalizing the registration process and to start your "week to shape a lifetime" at Boys State.

At your assigned table, please give the individuals seated there your name. These individuals are staff members and counselors assigned to you for the week. You will proceed to different registration tables where you will receive a packet that has the week's schedule of daily activities, your room key and your Tar Heel Boys State T-shirt.

Your counselor has other instructions for you. After you complete registration, you are free to move your luggage into the Residence Hall.

The first meal will be the evening meal at approximately 5 PM, so **eat lunch prior to registration** and sign-in. Once you have registered for the program you are NOT allowed to leave the campus again, please make sure you have everything you need for the week before registration.

Only those registering for the program will be allowed into the registration area, parents are welcome to browse the store while waiting for delegates to register for the week. Please make sure you have your key deposit and Samsung Scholarship application with you when you enter registration.

Boys State General Information

Before You Arrive

Before you arrive at the American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program, you are responsible for writing a bill to be submitted at registration. Please visit our website (www.ncboysstate.org) and visit the ***How to Write a Bill*** section. There is a tutorial on how to write your bill along with the form to write your bill on. Please type your bill on the form provided and turn it in at check in. Your bills will be reviewed and assigned to the House and Senate for consideration.

What to Bring?

There are many things that you should consider bringing to the Boys State program. Remember, you will be staying in a dorm room that only includes a bed, mattress, dresser, desk and chair. Some of the things that are necessary for you to bring are two sheets (for a single bed), pillow and pillow case, and a blanket. Some prefer to use a sleeping bag, but that is your option. You will also need to bring at least two towels and washcloths, and an alarm clock, along with all of your personal articles (i.e. soap, shampoo, shower shoes, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving supplies, etc.). If you are participating in any athletics, you will need to bring gym clothes and shoes and any other equipment you may need. You may need money for vending machines and other things that will be for sale throughout the week. There will be a Boys State store and the campus store will be open as well. Neither the American Legion nor Catawba College accepts any responsibility for anything that you bring with you. You need to make sure all items are secure while attending the program.

You may also want to consider bringing a sweater, raincoat, or umbrella because we do have rain days occasionally. If you plan to participate in the band, please bring your instrument. However, Catawba College will provide percussion instruments and large horns. If you plan to participate in the talent show, please bring whatever equipment or instruments needed for your performance. You also

may want to bring a camera to capture moments throughout the week, and you should consider bringing snacks and drinks. **There are NO refrigerators and microwaves in the rooms.**

Dress Code

Khaki shorts or pants will be worn. Tar Heel Boys' State will supply delegates with two (2) Boys' State shirts. Delegates wishing to purchase additional shirts may do so for \$8.00 each. It is suggested that delegates mark their clothes before or after your arrival with a clothing marking pen or pencil. There are washing machines and dryers in all the dormitories. Closed toe, comfortable walking shoes and socks will be worn at all times. Baseball type caps are not a part of the uniform code for citizens. They will not be worn by citizens at anytime except during their outdoor athletic events. These requirements must be observed for the following reasons:

- (1) Identification purposes, especially important since there may be other programs on campus during this week.**
- (2) Uniformity of appearance brings a sense of equality among all persons in attendance, and for pictures.**
- (3) Comfort and health reasons.**

Delegates should bring their preferred clothing and equipment for the afternoon athletic activities. The college athletic department will have certain athletic equipment available for use during the Boys' State program, if needed.

Housing

As a Delegate to The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State, you will be housed in one of 5 Residence Halls within the campus of Catawba College: Woodson, Stanback, Barger-Zartman, Hollifield, and Salisbury-Rowan Halls

The Residence Hall you will reside in and your room number will be given to you at the time you register on Sunday, June 18th between 11:00 am and 2:00 PM.

You will be staying in a 2-person room and will be given a key only to your room. The key, T-shirts, and your nametag are your responsibility while at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State. The key must be returned before you leave for graduation on Saturday. If you lose your key, report it immediately to your counselor.

There will be NO changing of assigned rooms. Also you will not be staying in a room with any one from your high school or town, so please do not pack with anyone else that may be attending the program.

Make sure your key works the lock as soon as you check into your room. You will NOT be with your roommate for most of the activities during the week. If it does not work, contact your counselor immediately.

There is a \$20.00 key deposit that will be collected from each Delegate at Registration on Sunday. This deposit will be returned when the room key is returned at check out on Saturday. Make sure you have the deposit ready to turn in at Registration. No delegate will be allowed to complete registration without the deposit. NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE DEPOSIT.

Mail

Incoming mail will be distributed to counselors once a day through the Boys State Headquarters Office on campus. Mail to be addressed: Boys State Citizen, The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State, c/o Catawba College, Salisbury, NC 28144.

Dining

While at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State, your meals are provided at no cost to you. The meal cost is paid through your registration fees.

You will eat in the dining area located in the Cannon Student Center on the Catawba College campus. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals are served daily at the following approximate times:

Breakfast 7:00 AM

Lunch 12:00 Noon

Dinner 5:30 PM

Your Boys State shirt and name badge are required to enter the dining area. You must eat meals at the assigned time as the dining room will not be opened any other time of the day.

Personal Cars

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program assumes no liability for theft, damage or loss incurred if you drive a vehicle to attend the program. Parking fees of \$20.00 (minimum charge) is the responsibility of the person bringing the vehicle to Boys State. Payment and display of required parking pass is the responsibility of the vehicle owner. However, once you arrive at Boys State and have registered, you must park your car in the Catawba College assigned parking lot and will not be allowed to drive it again until your departure. Upon your registration at Boys State, you will be directed to a designated Delegate parking area. After parking your car, you will be required to turn your keys in to The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Director, who will hold them until the end of Boys State. Campus security police patrol the parking lot. Once signed in at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State you will not be allowed to leave until after graduation on Saturday. NO EARLY RELEASES!

Telephones

Bringing your cell phones or other outside communication devices to Boys State is allowed as long as they are turned off during program activities. The distractions and interruptions these outside devices introduce will not be tolerated, nor will The American Legion cover the loss of an outside device. Use of your personal communications devices will be limited to non-activity periods due to lack of public communications located within Residence Halls. None of these devices will be allowed in the classrooms and auditoriums.

Medical Care

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State will have a 24-hour medical care. Hospital emergency facilities are only 5 minutes away. **ANYONE USING MEDICATION MUST REPORT, WITH MEDICATION, TO THE NURSE OR DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY ON REGISTRATION DAY FOR PROPER HANDLING.**

Insurance

You are protected by The American Legion with a group insurance policy underwritten by Sentry Insurance. Should a need arise for insurance coverage, full details will be provided to you and your parents or guardian by The American Legion. This policy is excess coverage to other collectible insurance plans. **THIS MEANS IN THE EVENT YOU INCUR MEDICAL BILLS WHILE AT BOYS STATE, THE BILLS WOULD BE PROCESSED THROUGH YOUR PARENTS' OR GUARDIANS' GROUP INSURANCE FIRST.**

Departure

Boys State citizens will be free to leave The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State after returning from Graduation (approximately 12 PM, noon), **Saturday, June 24, 2017.**

Boys State Citizens will be given "EARLY" release for two reasons: medically documented illness or disciplinary action by the Director. **IF SCHEDULE CHANGES REQUIRE EARLY DEPARTURE, OR CITIZEN IS NO LONGER ABLE TO ATTEND BOYS STATE PROGRAM, WE REQUEST YOUR NOTIFICATION SO ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO MAXIMIZE THE \$350.00 INVESTMENT IN YOUR ATTENDANCE.**

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Awards & Honors

The American Legion Samsung Scholarship Program

Application program and application form is provided to you for consideration of your submission. Submission requires proof of military service to be attached for minimum of one direct descendent of Combat period service to be considered for the Samsung Scholarship. While this is a National scholarship program, Tar Heel Boys State awards one scholarship to a participant of our program. Additionally, the award winner is submitted to our national organization for consideration at the national level for Samsung \$25,000 scholarship. The competition at the national level includes all 49 Boys and Girls State programs nationwide for the limited award of the scholarship. **Please note that you must submit this application to The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Chairman upon arrival at the registration table for this year's session. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED LATE!**

The American Legion Boys Nation

Two Citizens of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State are selected for a trip to Washington, D.C. to represent North Carolina in the weeklong Boys Nation program, which draws together all 98 Boys State representatives to experience and learn the workings of Government on a national level. Delegates to Boys Nation will meet with top Legislators from both Houses of Congress when in session, administration officials, and have a possible opportunity to meet the President of the United States. Boys Nation delegates will also tour many historic sites in Washington and participate in the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The American Legion Boys Nation follows the national political

process and culminates its program with the election of the President of Boys Nation. The American Legion Boys Nation program is conducted at Marymount College, Arlington, Virginia.

“Will anybody deny now that the Government in Washington, as regards its own people, is the strongest Government in the world at this hour and for this simple reason: that it is based on the will, and the good will of an instructed people.”

John Bright

There are several other awards that are given out during the graduation ceremony. These awards include several legislation awards, the Rex ‘Tiger’ Tillotson award, and several Judicial awards. These awards are given out based on evaluations of the counselors throughout the week.

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Talent Show

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State wishes to include talents and abilities into your Boys State experience. The Boys State Talent Show features acts ranging from hard rock drum solos to stand up comedy acts. All citizens are welcome and encouraged to audition. These programs are for interested and dedicated citizens. You will find that participation in these programs adds to your overall Boys State experience.

If you wish to play an instrument, please bring your own, as instruments are unavailable. Make sure you indicate this on the Afternoon Activities form included in the mail-out.

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Newspaper

Tar Heel Boys State publishes a daily newspaper, The THBS Daily, for all Boys State citizens and staff. We like to have at least one reporter from each city that can do stories daily for the newspaper. There will be a lead editor chosen. There is a THBS staff member that acts as the executive editor before the newspaper goes to print each night. Like all other segments of the Boys State program, the THBS Daily is a "hands on" learning environment under the guidance of trained staff members and will also utilize other facets of social media to promote the Boys State program. Boys State citizen with school newspaper, yearbook, sports reporting, or other journalism experience are encouraged to make application to join the staff of the newspaper.

Athletics

Supervised athletics will be scheduled as time permits. Participation in these events or use of the Catawba College athletic facilities is at the discretion of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Staff. If personal sports equipment is brought to Boys State, the citizen will assume full responsibility during his week at Boys State. Please indicate on the Afternoon Athletics form which activity you want to participate in. You are REQUIRED to participate in at least one activity every day of the week.

There are other programs during the afternoon activity period that many choose to participate in. We have the Tar Heel Boys State Band and the Tar Heel Boys State Chorus. We also have a Moot Court program for those who are interested in practicing law at Boys State and the Oratorical Contest. The Oratorical contest will have three days to prepare speeches to recite and be judged by members of staff. The winner of the Oratorical contest will be announced during graduation.

Candidate for Political Office

As part of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program, you are encouraged to run for a political office, but some restraint is asked in your decision.

You may run for any of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State offices, but it is suggested that you limit yourself to holding one office in each of the following categories: one State office, one County office, one position in the General Assembly, one City office.

This suggestion is made in the interest of fairness to you and the other young men who will be with you at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program. If you choose to run for different city offices and are elected to all, there would be no way you could fulfill the duties of each office, thereby failing to serve the constituents who elected you and defeating the intent of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State program. You will be required to vacate all previous elected offices before being added to the ballot for another position. Your counselors will have a form that indicates which offices you can run for based on offices that you may already hold

What Office Can I run for?

The political offices that you can run for at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State runs the full gamut of offices found within North Carolina's government. The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State election process consists of a county ballot and a state ballot. All county and state elections are held on-line and results are announced as soon as all have been tallied.

Any citizen that wishes to run for Attorney General or any seat on the Supreme Court **MUST** participate in the Moot Court program and **MUST** pass the Bar Exam given by the Judicial Coordinator.

Candidates for the State Offices of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State are selected through a Party Convention.

Some offices you can run for at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State are:

- City: Mayor, Chief of Police, City Manager, and City Councilman
- County: State Senate, County Commissioners, Clerk of Court, District Attorney, Treasurer, County Judge, Sheriff, and School Board
- State: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, Commissioner of Insurance, State Auditor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State House and Seven members of the Supreme Court.

These are the elective offices of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State. *The Governor will appoint his Cabinet.* The cabinet will be confirmed by the Supreme Court.

If you plan to run for a state position, you will be required to file an Intent to Run form with the Boys State Board of Elections. You will also have to collect campaign funds from your fellow citizens to be eligible to take your parties nomination during the State Party Convention on Tuesday. ****Filing fees are paid in Boys State monies, not real money.***

Government

The Government team has two weeklong focuses. Executive Commissions of cities and counties turn out position papers. These are short write-ups that explain the groups' consensus opinion in relation to problematic issues ranging from health care, education, and resource management to crime. The emphasis is to give the citizens extra opportunities to discuss timely issues in a format that is conducive to making candidates more genuinely grounded in the politics of our State.

The other focus of the Government team is to provide the framework for the Governor's executive boards. Example boards are — Labor, Treasury and Education — which advise the Governor on general legislation. The Government Team also runs the gubernatorial debate as well as oversees all elections.

Judicial System

As part of your Boys State experience, you will be able to participate in the judicial system. The purpose of this program is to show how the state system runs, as well as to allow citizens to get hands-on experience. The Judicial System encompasses a wide range of positions including attorneys and Supreme Court Justices. Even if you do not serve in any of the capacities listed, it is still more than likely that you will encounter the Judicial System during the week. This could be by serving on jury duty or being arrested for violating an ordinance. Working with the Judicial System can be fun, exciting and educational. You are required to work in the Moot Court program throughout the week if you are going to run for any Judicial position, including the Supreme Court.

Legislative

Comprised of the Senate and House of Representatives, the legislative program involves heated debate over bills; fierce partisan battles and fights for the interests of constituents; all to decide the laws of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State. Citizens elected in their cities and counties will work in general session selecting bills to be presented to the Governor for his signature or veto.

Bills are the backbone of the legislative process. In order to make this process as exciting and controversial as possible, citizens are asked to bring information, ideas and drafts of bills dealing with current issues in the State of North Carolina.

Political Party Organization

The mythical 51st State of the union, The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State is divided into two political parties, the Federalist and the Nationalist. By the time you register at Boys State, you will have been placed in one of these parties.

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State is made up of multiple cities. Each city consists of young men who have just finished their Junior year in High School. Each city is named after a Governor of North Carolina.

Three American Legion Tar Heel Boys State cities form an American Legion Tar Heel Boys State county, so there are up to four counties in the Boys State.

One Nationalist and one Federalist will be selected for their respective county, constituting the party's State Platform Committee. Then each party's State Committee will elect a Party Platform Chairman. The Party Platform Committee will write a platform to represent the party. This platform will be debated on in the State Party Convention and presented to the delegation so every person has the opportunity to vote for the party they want as their next leadership for Boys State.

Candidates for State Office, including Governor of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State, are nominated at the State Convention.

Learning the Political Process

While attending The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State, your introduction and instructions in the Political Process will be a progressive system; so that the knowledge you gain at one level progresses you toward the next level of participation.

You will learn about our Judicial System, Legislative Processes, Political Parties, Government and special programs in addition to other subjects far too numerous to cover here in detail.

Political Parties

Another part of your American Legion Tar Heel Boys State experience will be participation in one of two political parties. Each citizen is randomly placed in one of two opposing political parties. Because there is no way to accommodate everyone's political beliefs, ROLE-PLAYING will be a key element. Due to limited time, one week, we must stick with the two party systems. Again, this is simply ROLE-PLAYING and has nothing to do with your personal political beliefs. Within each party, each citizen will have numerous opportunities to become involved. Opportunities include, for example, State Party Chair, Party Secretary, Platform Committee, and their Chairs to name a few. Finally, citizens have the opportunity to become an active, voting member of their party, a position that is crucial to the success of each party.

Political Conventions

As part of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State political experience, you will participate in your political party's rally to nominate the candidates for state offices.

The Party conventions at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State are based on North Carolina Political Party Conventions and will operate in the same manner and procedure as will be found at these real party conventions.

The Boys State Conventions will adopt a Party Platform representing the goals and ideas of your political party and establish convention credentials.

As a Boys State Citizen you may have several opportunities to become active in the party convention process. The value of the party conventions at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State, just as with the rest of the program, is all the preparation, organization, and participation the Boys State citizens do themselves. The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State staff will work with you to instruct and guide you, but each Boy State citizen will do the actual work.

State Party Chairman

One of the most influential members of a Boys State political party and the one individual who can influence the success or failure of his party at The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State polls is the STATE PARTY CHAIRMAN.

The State Party Chairman is traditionally elected from within the ranks of the Political Party. The State Chairman has to concern himself with organizing the votes of his party into an effective voting body, working with the other members of the State Party in trying to find and develop what they believe to be strong candidates for the elective offices of Boys State, and also trying to convince the voters of the other Boys State political party to vote for his party's candidates.

The State Party Chairman will preside at all meetings of the State Party.

The position of State Party Chairman could lend itself to a choice appointment on the Staff of the Governor of Boys State or the state organization, thereby increasing the political power of the State Party Chairman to an even greater degree.

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State Gubernatorial Debate

The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State attempts, as part of the learning process into North Carolina politics and government, to mirror the real North Carolina political structure and environment.

In the spectrum of a North Carolina political campaign, the two major party candidates seeking the office of Governor will debate each other on the issues and philosophies of their respective campaigns. The debate between the two Boys State Governor candidates will be held prior to the opening of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State polls for the General Election. A member of The American Legion Tar Heel Boys State staff will moderate the debate, so that the voters may see and hear for themselves where each candidate for Governor stands on issues affecting the Governor's race. This helps prepare the voters to make an intelligent decision on whom to vote for when they cast their ballots.

Tar Heel Boys State Laws

The following laws are in effect in Tar Heel Boys State from the time you register until the graduation ceremony ends. Besides these laws, all the laws of the State of North Carolina as contained in North Carolina Code are a part of the laws of Tar Heel Boys State.

- SEC. 1. No citizen may leave the Tar Heel Boys State area of the campus of Catawba College during the entire period of Tar Heel Boys State, except by a written pass signed by his City Counselor and countersigned by the Director. (Leave passes will be issued only in cases of extreme emergency.) In the event of an accident requiring immediate medical attention, the Office Manager may act in lieu of the City Counselor and Director. The Office Manager will report the absence to both parties to maintain the communication within the State. Any citizen violating this section will be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 2. All equipment is the property of the American Legion or Catawba College. Any citizen who willfully damages, destroys, or steals property shall be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 3. Any citizen who shall use or possess liquor or other drugs in any form in Tar Heel Boys State shall be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 4. Any citizen, who shall use his or any other automobile during the period of Tar Heel Boys State without the written permission of the Director, shall be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 5. Any citizen who shall possess or handle firearms on the grounds of Tar Heel Boys State shall be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 6. Any citizen, who shall possess personal property of another citizen without the express consent of the owner of that property, shall be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 7. Any citizen who shall gamble, or engage in any game of chance or hazard, for money or thing of value, shall be guilty of a felony.

- SEC. 8. Any citizen, who shall exhibit any obscene, vulgar or licentious book, picture, or painting, shall be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 9. Any citizen, who shall fail to attend a General Assembly, unless excused by the Director, Chief Counselor, or Program Coordinator shall be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 10. Any citizen who shall fail to attend a meeting as requested to attend the same by his Counselor, or other authority, shall be guilty of a felony.
- SEC. 11. Any citizen who shall be accused of a felony shall be brought to the Director.
- SEC. 12. Any citizen who shall throw hulls, peelings, matches, papers, cigarette stubs, soft drink bottles, or other litter on the grounds of Catawba College shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- SEC. 13. Any citizen, except a police officer in the exercise of his duty, who shall make noise that disturbs the sleep of any person after lights out shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- SEC. 14. Any citizen who shall not be in his bed by the time designated in the official schedule for “lights out” shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, unless excused in advance by his City Counselor, Chief Counselor, or Program Coordinator.

Any questions or concerns about this handbook or any portion of the program should be directed to the Director or the Program Coordinator. Please visit our website at www.ncboysstate.org to learn more about the program.