

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

**BOYS STATE  
OF KANSAS**

# Delegate Handbook 2022 Session

revised 05/18/2022



## Program Introduction

Congratulations on your selection to attend the American Legion Boys' State of Kansas. In the following pages we will acquaint you with a program that many past delegates have called one of the best experiences of their lives. You may have never heard about Boys' State until now, unless your father, an older friend or your brother attended 'State.' The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas is one of the best kept secrets around. Since 1937, approximately 60,000 young men like you have spent a week at Kansas Boys' State learning about leadership in American government by creating their own virtual society.

Our mission during the week is to help you begin the development of individual political beliefs and to further the growth of leadership, responsibility and self-esteem in all participants of the program. Above all, the program offers different things to different people and your efforts are crucial to the kind of experience you will have. If you get involved, work hard and treat others as you would like to be treated, Boys' State can show you a glimpse of your capacity to achieve greatness. It can be one of the best experiences of your life if you accept the challenges and opportunities the program has to offer.

In writing this handbook, we have assumed that you are the type of person who plans to make the most out of the honor of being selected for Boys' State. This handbook will answer most of the questions that you and your parents may have about the program, so read it thoroughly.

Our program site is [ksbstate.org](http://ksbstate.org). You may want to visit that site to review several past sessions. You will want to tell others of our program site so they can follow online during this year's session.

Should you have other questions, please contact us at the following:

The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas

1314 SW Topeka Blvd.

Topeka, KS 66212

(785) 550-6492 (text enabled)

[officecontact@ksbstate.org](mailto:officecontact@ksbstate.org)

[ksbstate.org](http://ksbstate.org)

## Very Important

If you find you cannot attend Boys' State, please notify your sponsor IMMEDIATELY so that an alternate delegate can attend. If you have any problems or questions, please contact us by phone or email immediately. **No refunds will be made after May 20, 2022.**

## The American Legion

Founded in 1919, The American Legion has been a moving force for the fair treatment of our country's veterans, their families and disabled veterans. With more than 3 million members in the United States and seven foreign countries, The American Legion is the largest organization for veterans in the world. Members of the Legion are honorably discharged men and women who served their country on active duty in the Armed Forces of the U.S.

The Legion was the author of the GI Bill of Rights, which has benefited millions of service personnel since its passage in 1944. They also conduct programs designed to benefit the youth of America. Notable among these programs are American Legion Baseball, American Legion Boys' State and Boys Nation, American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, and the American Legion Americanism and Government contests.

Boys' State was founded by the American Legion in 1935 and remains a premier youth program. The

program in Kansas, which is conducted by the American Legion Department of Kansas, was founded in 1937.

### **The History of Boys' State**

Legionnaires Hayes Kennedy and Harold L. Card, both educators and members of the American Legion Department of Illinois, formulated the American Legion Boys' State program in 1935. They wanted American youth to develop a better understanding of our governmental system and instill a sense of ownership that would make them better people and better citizens, and create a better America.

The format of Boys' State was laid out by Card and fashioned from a method he successfully employed in earlier years to properly organize and conduct a Boy Scout camp. Shorthanded on staff, he permitted the boys to govern themselves by holding elections for mayor and city council — which in turn appointed other city officials. Card quickly found that the boys were so enthused in carrying out their city duties that they almost neglected their scouting assignments. This first Boys' State was conducted on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in June 1935.

Two years later, 200 young men assembled at Municipal University of Wichita (now Wichita State University) for the inaugural American Legion Boys' State of Kansas. The program moved to Wichita North High School in 1939. The program was also held at Wichita West High School until 1963 when Boys' State moved to the University of Kansas in Lawrence. In 1992, the program moved to its present location at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

There have been many landmark events in the evolution of the Kansas Boys' State program. Perhaps the strongest evidence of this heritage is the good reputation built by the delegates who participate each year.

Today's Boys' State program is a streamlined version of more than 80 years of successful sessions. The program has adapted to changing times, but many aspects of the program have been retained for their ceremonial and historical significance.

### **What is Boys' State to You?**

Boys' State is a political exercise. It simulates elections, political parties, and state and local governments.

Boys' State is an exercise in leading as well as following others. Elections at Boys' State are more than just choosing government officials. Elections are an opportunity to show your ability to lead under pressure and to show your character in the face of victory or defeat. Boys' State will test your skills in solving problems and working effectively within a team.

Boys' State is an opportunity to gain pride and respect for our form of government and the price paid by people to preserve democracy. Marcus McNeal, a 2008 delegate from Wichita, a Boys' Nation senator and former Kansas Boys' State staff member writes:

"My experience at Boys' State of Kansas was nothing short of phenomenal. I started the week out nervous because I didn't know what really to expect, and it went beyond what I expected. The beginning of the week was the campaigning for state positions. It really gave me an insight on the actual campaign process itself and showed me that just because I didn't raise much money in the primaries that I could still come out on top beating people who raised a ton of money from the different special interest groups and individuals. The second half of the week was an eye-opening experience for me, about how quickly people can get mad at their elected officials. As secretary of state, I had to reform the voting in the counties. I was able to effectively get my message across to hundreds of people. I got an insight on the workings of the actual state government and election process. Finally, I was elected to be one of the Boys' State of Kansas senators to go to Boys' Nation."

Boys' State is also an opportunity to express artistic and athletic talents. Delegates are encouraged to take part in the Boys' State band, chorus, and talent show. The band and the chorus rehearse daily, led by a member of the K-State staff, coming together for an evening of entertainment on Wednesday night. Actors, singers, musicians, and comedians perform at the annual talent show, also on Wednesday night.

Athletics are encouraged during organized daily recreation. Delegates are invited to participate in several team sports as well as individual sports.

Boys' State offers an opportunity to meet people who represent Kansas' diversity in heritage and culture. Moreover, many delegates develop friendships that last a lifetime. After Boys' State, you will recognize many of your fellow delegates who go on to become successful in college, politics, business and other areas of life.

So, what have you gotten yourself into? We hope that you can now see that the answer to that question depends upon your interests. Boys' State has meant something different to each of the 60,000-plus delegates who have preceded you.

Boys' State offers opportunities to understand government, to exercise leadership, to understand patriotism, to express oneself artistically and to meet new people. Boys' State cannot be all things to all people. However, more than 80 years of history and success has led the American Legion, and all of those who help make this program possible, to believe that Boys' State offers something meaningful and important to the future of Kansas and to the future of America.

### **Program Check-in and Attendance**

Check-in for all delegates is on Sunday, June 5, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. More information on your room assignment will come about a week prior to arriving. You will also receive specific information on where to park and where to enter the residence hall.

**MAKE SURE THAT YOU EAT LUNCH BEFORE ARRIVING AT STATE.** The first meal will be dinner at 5:30 p.m.

You are welcome to drive your own car to Boys' State. It will be parked in a campus parking lot that is patrolled by campus police and is under video surveillance. You will **not** have access to your car during the week of Boys' State. **A link was sent to you about requesting a parking permit if you plan on driving a car and leaving it.** There is no parking fee, but it is vital you request this in advance. If you did not receive the link to reserve a space or now have the need for a parking permit, please email [officecontact@ksbstate.org](mailto:officecontact@ksbstate.org).

If you are arriving by bus or air, Boys' State personnel can meet you at the bus station or airport. Please call us at (785) 550-6492 or email [officecontact@ksbstate.org](mailto:officecontact@ksbstate.org) by May 31, 2022, to make arrangements to be picked up.

If special circumstances arise that cause you to miss a portion of State, arrive late or need to leave early, this must be arranged through the Boys' State office, in writing, by May 31, 2022.

### **Special Event Notes:**

**Flag Retirement Ceremony** — American Legion Post 17 from Manhattan performs a moving ceremony in the proper disposal of an unserviceable U.S. flag.

**Talent Show** — The talent show is scheduled for Wednesday evening and is one of the highlights of the week. A piano will be furnished. If you need any other particulars for your act, bring them along. In the past, we have had solos, ensembles, magicians, dramatic interpretations, comic acts and many surprises. Tryouts for the Talent Show take place on Sunday and Monday, and rehearsal schedules will be distributed at that time.

**Band** — You are encouraged to participate in the Boys' State Band. Personnel from the K-State Band Department lead the daily rehearsal. Music is typically from the K-State pep band repertoire. You will need to bring your own instrument. You will also get a feel for what participating in a university music program entail. The band concert takes place Wednesday evening.

**Chorus** — You are encouraged to participate in the Boys' State Chorus. Personnel from the K-State Choral Department lead the daily rehearsal. Music varies but is specifically arranged for four-part men's chorus voicing. You will also get a feel for what participating in a university music program entail. The choir concert takes place Wednesday evening.

(Band and Chorus meet at the same time, so you may only participate in one or the other; however, you can be in the Band or Chorus and be eligible for the Talent Show.)

Family and friends are welcome to join us for these events.

### **Competitive Athletics**

Recreation will be at the K-State Recreation Center. We offer five organized team sports: Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and softball. You will play against other Boys' State counties. The competition is fierce, but fun. We supply all basketball, volleyball, and softball equipment — except that you need to bring your own baseball/softball glove. The sign-up for teams takes place on your residence hall floor with your counselors.

We also have table tennis, tennis, and badminton. If you want to participate, bring the appropriate equipment. We **DO NOT** have access to the weightlifting or swimming facilities due to insurance restrictions.

### **Color Guard and Flag Detail**

Two delegates from each county at Boys' State will be selected by their county counselor to represent their county in the color guard and flag detail. This team will care for the colors at all official Boys' State functions. Those interested should contact their county counselor at the first county meeting on Sunday afternoon.

**Boys Nation** — The Boys' State experience could continue to the national stage for two delegates who are elected as Boys' State senators. Two representatives from each of the 49 Boys' State programs represent their state at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., where the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of the federal government. Eligibility requirements include: 1) entering your senior year of high school in Fall 2022; 2) available for the full program dates of July 22 to July 30, 2022; and 3) are a U.S. citizen. Two alternates are selected if a delegate is unable to attend.

Most programs hand-select their senator, but in Kansas, we feel the program is best represented at Boys Nation through a selection process conducted by peers. Those interested in being a candidate for Boys Nation must confirm their eligibility at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, June 6, before filing a petition to be included on the ballot. You will be required to obtain 15 signatures. No more than eight signatures can come from within your Boys' State County. You will be required to obtain the rest of the petition signatures by meeting as many people as you can during mealtimes, recreation or other events. The primary election will take place on Tuesday, June 7, with results announced at the evening assembly. The general election will be held on Thursday, June 9. Boys Nation senators and alternates will be announced at morning assembly on Friday, June 10.

### **What You SHOULD Bring**

We encourage you to bring enough clean clothes to last one week without laundry. Bring a light jacket in case of rain or cool weather. For the day's activities, you will want to wear comfortable clothes — shorts, t-shirts, jeans, etc. You will be given two Boys' State t-shirts at check-in, which are already paid for. The schedule will note when these shirts are required to be worn.

Remember to bring athletic wear for softball, soccer, basketball, and other physical activities. Any group equipment, such as a volleyball, is provided. Personal equipment, like baseball/softball gloves, soccer cleats or a tennis racket, are not provided and should be brought with you.

Boys' State provides towels and bedding, but feel free to bring your own pillow if you wish. You will need to bring your own personal items: shaving kit, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

Bring several pencils and pens, a highlighter and a notepad or notebook.

We use smartphones for voting and text-polling. You are asked to bring your smartphone (those that are text-enabled with unlimited texting). You will be instructed when you should and should NOT use your phone. If you do not have a smartphone, you will be provided an alternative method for those voting situations. **Not having a smartphone will not diminish your experience in any way.**

At Boys' State, you may incur some expenses, but you should not bring more than \$50. Delegates have access to soda and vending machines and souvenirs at the Quik Cats convenience store. And if you are driving, you will need enough money for gas to get you to/from home. You will not need to buy any campaign materials with your own money. You can only use Boys' State dollars to buy these items. Please ask a counselor or visit the office in the Kramer Conference Center for assistance if you have a money problem or other special circumstances.

### **What NOT to Bring...**

You should not bring extremely valuable items with you to Boys' State. You will not be supplied with a key to your room. The room remains unlocked throughout the week. ***Boys' State is not responsible for missing, lost, or stolen items.***

Inexpensive watches are encouraged to help you stay on schedule. You will not need an alarm clock because a counselor will wake you up.

We do not allow illegal drug or alcohol use during State. If you are caught using or in possession of any of these, we have the option of calling your parents and sending you home immediately. If this happens, we will inform your sponsor and high school why you were sent home and why their fees will **NOT** be refunded.

### **The Layout of Kansas Boys' State**

At State, you will be assigned to a city made up of all the delegates on the same residence hall wing. Together, the two wings on your floor create a county. There are five counties that make up the State. Most activities will revolve around your city and county.

You will also be assigned to a fictional political party (Nationalist or Federalist) in which you will help develop a party platform and nominate candidates for state elected offices. You will also be assigned a fictitious occupation for the purposes of our simulation.

You will be housed in an air-conditioned room in Goodnow Hall. As part of K-State's COVID protocols, a Synexis Biodefense System is in each residence hall room. There are three meals per day, and you will eat them with your county in the Kramer Dining Center. There are many dining choices at each meal. Please let the staff know of any dietary restrictions. Your roommate will be assigned based on several factors, so you are not able to request a specific roommate.

We do march at the American Legion Boys' State of Kansas; it is a part of our daily routine. It is an efficient and timely way to move hundreds of people from point A to point B. It is closer to walking together and stepping in time rather than strict, always-cut-a-square-corner marching. Please keep an open mind — many really enjoy it.

### Overview of Offices

*(Note: some of these numbers may fluctuate once our session begins based on the total enrollment)*

#### **Political Parties**

Party Leaders 1 per party / per county

#### **Media Staff**

*The Delegate*, KSB WebTV, Debate Committee 2 per county

#### **City Council**

City Council Members 5 per city

#### **County Commission**

County Commissioners 4 per county

#### **County District Court**

Court Officials 6 per county

#### **Highway Patrol**

State Trooper 2 per county

#### **State Government – Elected Positions**

Governor Open to all applicants

Lieutenant Governor	LG will run with the governor candidate after the party nomination. The two nominees compete in the general election as a team.
Secretary of State	Elected within each party; competes in general election
Attorney General	Elected within each party; competes in general election
State Treasurer	Elected within each party; competes in general election
Commissioner of Insurance	Elected within each party; competes in general election
State Senators	4 elected per county (2 per city)
State Representatives	6 elected per county

**State Government – Appointed Positions**

Supreme Court Justices	7 appointed by the governor
Per Kansas Boys’ State statute, all persons appointed to the Supreme Court must be a district court judge, district attorney or the opposing governor candidate.	

**Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor**

Legislative Liaison	1 each, appointed by the Governor and Lt. Governor
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**Office of the Secretary of State**

Assistant Secretary of State	1 appointed by the Secretary of State
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**Office of the Attorney General**

Assistant Attorney General	1 appointed by Attorney General
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**Office of the State Treasurer**

Assistant State Treasurer	1 appointed by State Treasurer
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**Office of the Commissioner of Insurance**

Assistant Commissioner of Insurance	1 appointed by Commissioner of Insurance
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**State Departments**

<i>Each Department is headed by a Secretary/Chairman/Superintendent</i>	2 per county per department
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- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Humanities
- Department of Economy

Kansas Army National Guard Guardsmen (part-time)	2 per county
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## **Boys' State Positions**

Delegates can participate in the political parties, *The Delegate* (the newspaper), KSB-TV (Boys' State web TV), or city, county, and state governments. Each citizen will either be elected to or appointed to participate in one of these organizations. Below are brief descriptions of the positions available and how each position is filled.

**POLITICAL PARTIES** — The two parties are run by party leaders. Fellow party members elect one party leader from each party on Sunday. The leaders write the party platform, solicit election contributions, promote party candidates, and organize the political fair and caucus on Monday.

**MEDIA STAFF** — The Boys' State newspaper, *The Delegate*, is published daily. The Boys' State web-TV service, KSB-TV, is produced and uploaded four times during the week. Two media staff members are elected from each county on Sunday. They perform all management duties, including reporting, editing, layout and advertising sales for all services; plus, they host the State Candidates' Debate.

**CITY COUNCIL** — Each city government is composed of elected officials. These officials form a governing council, which may include a mayor, a city manager, a city clerk and a city treasurer, depending on how the members of the council choose to assign duties and titles.

They are elected at the first city meeting on Sunday. The city officials function as a team and their duties include preparing the city budget, passing ordinances, zoning property, hiring teachers and police, promoting the local economy, testifying before state departments, solving city government projects and suing state departments.

**COUNTY COMMISSION** — Similar to the cities, county governments are composed of elected county officials. These officials form a county commission which may include county commissioners, a county clerk, a county treasurer, and a county administrator, depending on how the members of the commission choose to assign duties and titles. They are elected at the first county meeting on Sunday. Their duties include promoting city cooperation and the county economy, preparing a county budget, solving county government projects, and representing the interests of the county to state departments, the governor and the legislature.

**COUNTY DISTRICT COURT** — Each county has a district court that reviews cases, holds trials, makes decisions and issues orders. District court officials are elected on Sunday.

**STATE** — The state government has three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. It is composed of elected officials and appointed officials.

**STATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH** — This branch is composed of five chief executive officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer and the Commissioner of Insurance. Delegates running for state offices first seek the nomination of their party in the primary election on Monday. Gubernatorial (that is the adjective form of 'governor') candidates are nominated by their respective party. The Gubernatorial Debate is hosted by the Kansas Boys' State media on Tuesday afternoon. The general election follows this debate. State officers perform a variety of activities, including meeting with constituents and department members, issuing executive policies, preparing the state budget, testifying before the legislature and other items of interest to the office.

Appointed officials (those not elected during Tuesday’s General Election) are announced on Tuesday evening and help the executive officials perform their duties. They also hold hearings before cities and counties, work with the legislature and make policy recommendations.

**STATE LEGISLATURE** — Representatives and Senators from each county make up the Kansas Boys’ State legislature. Each is elected within their county on Sunday evening. They work on a budget, hold hearings, write legislation, and pass state laws.

**STATE JUDICIAL BRANCH** — Seven justices, appointed on Wednesday by the Governor, make up the Kansas Boys’ State Supreme Court. They review district court decisions, hear oral arguments, interpret the law, and issue written rulings.

**KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD** — Delegates may run to be elected to the Kansas Army National Guard concurrent with their regular position. These Guardsmen will have an opportunity to travel to the National Guard Armory in Manhattan to meet with real-world Guardsmen, experience what “one weekend a month” looks like and hear what benefits the Guard has for Kansans.

### **Daily Government Projects**

Projects guide the various levels of government and the special interest groups through many of the problems faced by their counterparts in the real Kansas government. They often require multiple governments at various levels to work together to solve a problem devised by Kansas Boys’ State Executive Staff.

The purpose of government projects is to demonstrate:

- The complexity of modern political problems.
- That government actions may have unplanned and unexpected economic and social consequences.
- How easy it is for opposing interests to produce gridlock.
- That government action may be the only solution to a specific program.
- The impact that state, county, and city governments can have on each other.
- That there is usually no completely right or wrong answer to many problems.

Most importantly, government projects are designed to show each citizen in Kansas Boys’ State that they can solve problems and help improve society. Typical government project topics include cultural diversity, the relationship between mankind and the environment, the problems facing rural communities, economic development, government funding of the arts, crime, freedom of speech, health care, university admissions, water conservation, etc.

Government projects may require delegates to lobby legislators, testify before department hearings, meet with the Governor, or sue a branch of the government.

Government projects require actions that affect the lives of the delegates. For example, if a department builds a toxic waste site in your city, everyone’s property values will fall. Sometimes government officials act before they know the full effects they may have on the private sector. The computer-simulated society at Kansas Boys’ State helps you quickly learn the impact of your decisions.

## Common Questions

*What will I do if I don't get elected to an office?*

If you are not elected to an office, you will be appointed to one. It is in your interest to pursue an office you would like because it will occupy most of your time during the session.

*If I am one of the Party Leaders, can I run for another office?*

No. Leaders of the party work full-time and they may **not** seek another office.

*If I am a member of the Kansas Boys' State media (newspaper, web TV, etc.), can I run for another office?*

No, newspaper and broadcast staff members are full-time positions, and they may **not** seek another office.

*If I am elected to an office, may I resign to take another office?*

On Sunday, all delegates will be elected to a position. Anyone who is interested in running for a state office will have the chance to declare their interest on Monday. If you are elected to a state office, you will then have to resign your original elected position.

*How do I finance my campaign?*

Obtaining contributions from other delegates is one way to finance your campaign. You should not bring any campaign material with you. It can all be bought with Kansas Boys' State dollars once you arrive. (See section on Elections and Financing).

## Elections and Financing

While at Kansas Boys' State, you will campaign for one of several elected offices. Before you get to Boys' State, you should give some thought as to how you wish to compete for these offices. Most candidates use fliers, posters and ads in the newspaper for campaign material. Kansas Boys' State has an independent monetary system that uses Boys' State dollars. There is no exchange rate between real currency and Boys' State dollars. Boys' State dollars are accumulated through fundraising campaigns and from contributions by special interest groups. You may **not** bring your own campaign materials from home. Our goal is to keep everything on a level playing field.

The following campaign rules are provided to make the elections as fair as possible, prevent damage to university property and protect moral standards:

- Candidates may not prepare campaign literature before their arrival to Kansas Boys' State. Come with ideas, not finished products.
- Before any campaign material may be posted, displayed or otherwise used, the candidate must pay for the material in Boys' State dollars. An official seal placed on the front of all campaign material acknowledges payment has been made. Payment is made and seals are obtained from the main Boys' State Banking Center located in the Kramer Conference Center.
- No candidate or other person acting on his behalf may remove, destroy or otherwise damage another candidate's campaign materials.
- No candidate or other person acting on his behalf shall use any campaign material that harms or damages any building, surface, sidewalk or other property.
- No candidate or other person acting on his behalf shall use chalk or other semi-permanent materials to write directly on any surface, building or sidewalk.
- Posters and other campaign materials may only be posted by using either masking tape or non-adhesive methods.

- No campaign materials may contain offensive or obscene images, words or phrases. The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas reserves the right to judge material based on its own criteria. In other words: if you have a doubt, leave it out.

### **Samsung College Scholarship**

One delegate from The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas will receive a \$1,250 college scholarship. The entire application process is online at: <http://www.legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application>. It must be received by 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2022. It is better not to wait to complete the application.

To be eligible, you must have just completed your junior year of high school and be a direct descendant (son, grandson, great-grandson, legally adopted child) of a military veteran. A DD-214 discharge form is required as part of the application process. Locating this discharge form can sometimes take time, so it's better to begin early.

The winner from the Kansas Boys' State session advances to regional and national competition for larger awards.

### **Mail**

Friends and family members who want to mail letters/cards to delegates should address the envelope using the following format:

<Your Name>  
c/o American Legion Boys' State of Kansas  
Kramer Dining Center  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS 66506

Our office phone number the week of state is: (785) 550-6492. We will take a message and get that message to the intended party. The phone number is text-enabled.

### **Delegates with Special Needs**

Any delegate with special needs, such as hearing impairment or physical disability, should note these needs in the online medical authorization form (link sent to parents/guardians). Kansas Boys' State will provide use of elevators and special room accommodations, if necessary. If a delegate needs assistance to participate, including sign-language translation, the sponsoring organization must furnish a full-time aide to assist that student. All expenses for the aide, including transportation, meals, and lodging, must be assumed by the sponsoring organization. The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas Executive Director may choose to waive or lessen the cost of meals and lodging for the aide. The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas must be assured that proper insurance is provided for the handicapped student and aide. Any additional premiums will be assumed by the sponsoring organization.