

(update #8 sent 19 May 2024)

**Update #8** | TXBS 2024 | 19 May 2024

Hello Legion Teammates!

This is likely the final update before we do this thing for 2024! As always, please further share these notes far-and-wide, so we can have the best connective tissue possible across the Department. We will endeavor to also send periodic updates to you during TXBS week, if we can—the days are non-stop and long!

All prior updates are attached, for ease in forwarding.

**(ACTION) Please note this is the last call for Legion Day (item #5 below). RSVP by Friday 24 May.**

1. Let's Go! We are a short 3 weeks away from start of this program that changes lives . . . your Legion program that creates something special in these young leaders, teaches them about service mindset, and about things bigger than them.
2. Historic. Due to amazing team efforts, we have the highest number of applications ever, since we started tracking the data.
  - a. We have a huge 1247 applications as of this morning (19 May)—yes, indeed!
  - b. The historic-based algorithms show we will probably have about 1,100 actually report.
  - c. **THANK YOU** for the exceptional teamwork with Posts as we maximized energy together to get to new schools, and otherwise, while maintaining premier quality.
3. It is really cool all the many events you all are doing locally as many of you assemble the selected Statesmen (and in some places the Stateswomen too!).
  - a. Your selectees getting to meet Legionnaires, and also their fellow Statesmen is, well—just very special. It is always about the people.
  - b. Plus it allows us to all tell the Legion story to parents and guardians that often also join at your events.
  - c. 2x photos below from Post 911 on both Boys and Girls they are sending this year!
  - d. So fantastic to see them together, break some bread, share about the programs they will experience, and see the excitement in their eyes.
4. 40+ schools confirmed for Friday AM college fair! And 245 pre-ordered shirt-bundles as of a few days ago (update #7, item 17, below)—oh yeah!
5. Legion Day is Friday 14 June 2024 at UT Austin. Bring it!
  - **We wish to maximize the presence of Legionnaires for so many reasons, including interacting with the Statesmen AND the ~900 parents/guardians/loved ones that will be in attendance that day.**
  - Department Commander Toohey will host and guide you Friday AM.
  - So we can plan, please register if you are going to attend the exciting festivities.
  - It is important that you register so we can ensure we have sufficient seating.
  - Further details will be shared when the time is right with those that register.
  - **Deadline for sign-up is 5:00 PM this Friday 24 May.** Thank you.
  - **Register here to attend:** <https://forms.gle/VBAAbAW5eC9kNkMmp9>

From Post 911 event last week:



Respectfully,

Your TXBS Executive Committee



*(update #7 sent 5 May 2024)*

**Update #7** | TXBS 2024 | 5 May 2024

A longer update this time, because all oars are in the water and there is huge excitement building. We are about 1 month out from go-time, baby!

- Please read below fully and carefully, as this is a primary way for us to keep the greater Legion team informed of all the moving parts.
- Plus, **please RSVP for Legion Day by 24 May (item #10 below)**. Bring on the Legion hats for that special day!
- As always, **please forward this note** for maximum sharing and awareness across the Department.
- All prior updates are attached (**attachment #1**) in PDF form (including this one) for ease in transmitting, along with being in the below email chain itself.

In no particular order:

6. **Wow & Thank You!** Thru Herculean efforts, and great partnerships with so many Posts, we have **1208 applications** for this year!
  - ✓ **Thank you for ensuring top quality and for this heavy lift across Texas! What you do locally is absolutely key.**
  - ✓ Given historic data and our algorithms, we are now **likely to have between 1,035-1060** Statesmen this year!
  - ✓ **Thank you to Mamie** at HQ for all she does processing all these payments and applications each year!
  - ✓ This may be one of our highest attendee rates in history!
  - ✓ And we are likely to have 24 cities this year – fabulous!
7. **Exceptional People.** Every year, I am amazed by the amount of work done by the volunteer team in this program. It is difficult to share all the complexities associated with making all these trains run—nor do we need to burden you with such; it is our job to just get it done—but my very **public thanks** to the **TXBS Executive Committee** for the *love and heart* the team pours into this thing. Without these volunteers, this program simply would not be what it is. Thank you!
8. And, by the way, this is the **85th year of Texas Boys State!** There simply aren't that many programs that survive that long at all, in this modern world . . . and that teach grit, civil discourse, and that are life-changing . . . like your Texas Boys State. Period. **85 years – oh yeah!**
9. With the help of the TALDF, and an immense amount of work by our volunteers, we have **~150 confirmed Sumners Scholars**, with a number more being processed.
  - Recall this initiative was primarily to seize opportunity to get into new schools across Texas that have not been represented at Texas Boys State.
  - With these funds that have been donated, not only did we reach new places across the State, these 150+ young leaders would not have otherwise had opportunity to attend your TXBS that tends to influence life trajectories.
  - Life changing indeed!
10. In partnership with the TALDF, we hope to open **full avenues for donation and fundraising** so we can: (1) keep tuition as low as possible by supplementing it; (2) build a long-term strategic plan with dollars to support that plan; (3) continue to improve the program and have flexibility to keep it cutting-edge; (4) continue to expand and evolve the program; (5) maximize energy and goodwill with the *thousands of people* that want to give specifically to Boys State (including our 40K alumni); and (5) lots of other things too!
11. Recall we have a **college fair on Friday morning** of the program. As of last week, we have over **35 institutions** that will be represented—and still growing!

- ✓ If you know of an institution that should be at the college fair, and have contact to the right folks at that institution, please contact Daren and share that contact info: [daren.brabham@gmail.com](mailto:daren.brabham@gmail.com)

12. Logo. To comply with National requirements, please see the 2024 Texas Boys State logo below.

- ❖ A team is also working later in this year to develop a longer-term TXBS logo, that will maximize the power of our brand, comply with all requirements, and really be something people gravitate to.
- ❖ We are, of course, selling out prior logo inventory—so in this transition year, Statesmen will wear both the old and new shirts.



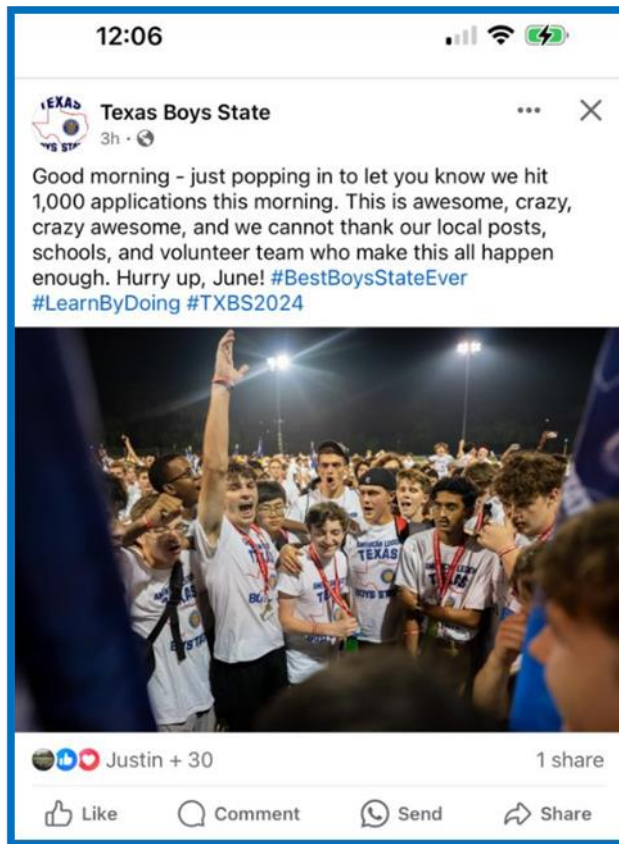
13. Given the many requirements from UT, since we have minors in our charge, and otherwise, counselor training began several weeks back.

- In addition to the UT training requirements, background checks, and more, we do 3 main internal sessions:
  - Session #1 – *Why We do What We Do*
  - Session #2 – *Managing Risk* in Doing What We Do
  - Session #3 – *How We Do What We Do*
- In addition to the live-virtual trainings, we do additional training eye-to-eye once everyone is assembled in Austin before the Statesmen arrive.

14. We have been, and will continue to **surge, on our social media platforms** that has strategic impact and benefit. Executive Committee teammate Lucas Turner is burning up the “airwaves” already, building such powerful excitement and energy.

- ❖ Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/texasboysstate?igsh=N2lxb215cnRqcZt>

- ❖ Twitter: <https://x.com/texasboysstate?s=21>
- ❖ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasBoysState?mibextid=PtKPJ9>



15. Legion Day is Friday 14 June 2024 at UT Austin. Bring it!

- We wish to maximize the presence of Legionnaires for so many reasons, including interacting with the Statesmen AND the ~850 parents/guardians/loved ones that will be in attendance that day.
- Department Commander Toohey will host and guide you that day.
- To ensure seating and so we can plan, and provide you details, please register if you are going to attend the exciting festivities.
- It is important that you register so we can ensure we have sufficient seating.
- Further details will be shared when the time is right with those that register.
- **Deadline for sign-up is Friday 24 May.** Thank you.
- **Register here to attend:** <https://forms.gle/VBAbAW5eC9kNkMmp9>

16. If you are not aware, once a Statesman is fully registered and paid, our team sends a very specific note to that Statesman with all sorts of deails.

- We centrally control the sending of those notes, for a several prudent and logistical reasons.
- The notes have been sent, at a rhythm for the last many weeks—but notes will not be sent until payment is fully processed, FYI.
- Merely for your awareness, **attachment #2**, is an example of the 2024 send so you can see specifics.
- Please do not send the attachment to any of your Statesmen. We will do so on behalf of the program, when the time is right for that Statesman. Thank you.



17. Shirts, Shirts, Shirts! Now Available for pre-order!

- Last year, as part of our attempt to continually innovate, we created shirt bundles for ease to see if it would create efficiencies – it sure did!
- With bundles purchased, we placed the shirts on the respective Statesmen’s bed when he reported to his room for the first time. Easy!
- This prevents some pile-up at the store, at least as it relates to shirts! But we love the store being busy! 😊
- If this is something you might wish to do in the future for your Statesmen, but can’t this year, no worries.
- We are refining processes and do intend to execute this pre-order plan again next year (2025), just FYI as you start to contemplate your 2025 operations locally.
- Pre-order shirt packs here if you wish (6-pack for \$40): <https://store.texasboysstate.com/>

18. The 2024 Chairman’s greeting is attached (**attachment 3**). This one goes to all parents and Statesmen, as part of the instructions email (#11 above).

- ❖ There is an additional (and different) welcome that goes in the Manual on behalf of us all, along with a greeting from the Department Commander.
- ❖ Recall that the manuals themselves are often kept as keepsakes (I still have mine from 32 years ago!).

19. Future Planning. Please be advised that we are likely to try, next year, to move to entirely digital applications and such—and no longer use any paper applications, for many reasons, as we know you can understand. More to follow as we better refine processes to make them easier for you!

20. If you have Statesmen that want to be in the band this year, please advise them to bring their instruments and music stand. We will take it from there when they report! There is no pre-sign-up requirement for Statesmen to participate in the band.

21. The Warmth With Your Statesmen. Thank you for sharing the many events you all have had (or are having) locally with your Statesmen and parents/guardians. That is such an amazing thing—all that Legion fabric that is being created by means of your local actions and get-togethers with the folks you are sponsoring. Just such a cool thing for them to break bread at your Post (or local location) with your Legionnaires, their fellow Statesmen that you have selected, and parents/guardians. Powerful!

22. If you are not yet aware, UT has advised us we are going to be at on the north side of campus this year – at Kinsolving Dormitory.

- We will not be at Jester for 2024 program.
- We know this matters to many of you on bus travels.
- Kinsolving Address = 2605 Whitis Avenue, Austin, Texas 78705

23. If you are not aware, **Texas won** one of the coveted **Samsung American Legion Scholarships this year** with our 2023 Statesmen David A David III. Yes! <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>

24. General Rhythm & Schedule.

- ✓ The detailed schedule will be posted to the website soon. [www.texasboysstate.com](http://www.texasboysstate.com)
- ✓ Attached (**attachment 4**) is the current draft (not final), just for your awareness of the fast-moving train that is Boys State!

- ✓ Below is general rhythm of the program, broad brush, FYI.
- ✓ Note that the parade this year will occur on WEDNESDAY morning (not afternoon). The Parade always draws a crowd!

## Daily Rhythms

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- **Sunday** – Statesmen Check-in in early afternoon, Statesman orientation, and City Structure formalized
- **Monday** – Party structure formation, Primary ballot fleshes out, Plenary Speaker
- **Tuesday** – Political process in full operation, Primary elections, Plenary Speaker is TBD
- **Wednesday** – Run-off Elections, Parade to Capitol; working to have a major Office Holder speak at the Capitol events
- **Thursday** – Final speeches, General election, Olympiad Championships, Talent Show, Election Results announced, Pizza Party, Plenary Speaker
- **Friday** – Parents and Legion Day, College and Career Fair, Final closing assembly with LTG Cucculo

25. As you might be aware, each city (likely 24 this year!) has its own guidon to build their city identity, help in logistics, and engender pride.

- It is amazing to see how, in such a short time, culture can be built in their respective cities—and relationships for life!
- And quite the statement as we march to the Capitol with those guidons proudly a blazing!
- You seen see those guidons in the picture below (update #6) of the 2023 parade to the Capitol.

26. As always, please also use the website as a primary source for information: [www.texasboysstate.com](http://www.texasboysstate.com)

- ❖ Lots of new photos uploaded.
- ❖ You can see the 2023 sizzle reel. <https://www.texasboysstate.com/promo>
- ❖ And we'll have the full agenda posted there in a few weeks!

**Please let us know how we might be of help to you.**

Cheers!

Your TXBS Executive Committee

Casey Z. Thomas

Chairman | American Legion Texas Boys State

[www.texasboysstate.com](http://www.texasboysstate.com) | [chairman@texasboysstate.com](mailto:chairman@texasboysstate.com)



*(update #6 sent 19 February 2024)*

## **Update #6** | TXBS 2024 | 19 February 2024

Wishing everyone a happy President's Day. Update #6 below for your further maximum sharing, forwarding to your units, and further via the hubmaster(s). District Commanders, as always, thank you for forwarding on to your crews.

All prior updates (including this one) attached as PDF for ease as the updates get forwarded (particularly because forwarding tends to do strange things to hyperlinks).

In no particular order:

1. **Deadline for TXBS registrations is 1 May 2024.** The requirements at UT continue to grow, since we are dealing with minors, amongst other complexities with lodging and otherwise—so thank you for your understanding and for working hard now (and over the next 2 months) to get all your registrations in by 1 May.
2. **ENERGY!** Our algorithms show we are trending towards 1,000 Statesmen this year (and possibly beyond) which will be ~24 TXBS cities this year! That is awesome!
  - Quality is always key, so thank you for your local processes that identify the best talent in the State.
  - We have never had as many applicants by February than we have had this year, since we started keeping records many years ago!
  - As of 17 February, **we already had 295 applications.** By this time last year, we had 152 applications – so thank you for what you are doing!
  - Let's keep up that energy and fire in the belly on this program that changes lives!
3. **Exciting!** The United States Military Academy (USMA – West Point) is sending 5 cadets (prior Statesmen) to serve as counselors for TXBS 2024 as part of their summer duty! Of course, there is great goodness in this on multiple levels for the Legion, the Statesmen, and the connection to our military heritage. Huge thank you to TXBS Executive Committee member Lucas Turner for making this happen!
4. If you have not seen the new short and powerful sizzle vid, click here: <https://www.texasboysstate.com/promo>. Share everywhere!
5. **THANK YOU**, many times over, for what you are doing locally. This program creates a connection with local communities that is very special, with the work you do. Encourage other Posts that might not be active to activate—we have time now!
6. **Legion Day** is Friday 14 June 2024 at UT Austin. Bring it!



- We wish to maximize the presence of Legionnaires for so many reasons, including interacting with the Statesmen AND the ~850 parents/guardians/loved ones that will be in attendance that day.
  - Department Commander Toohey will host and guide you that day.
  - To ensure seating and so we can plan, and provide you details, please register if you are going to attend the exciting festivities.
  - It is important that you register so we can ensure we have sufficient seating.
  - Further details will be shared when the time is right with those that register.
  - **Register here to attend:** <https://forms.gle/VBAbAW5eC9kNkMmp9>
7. We are dedicating additional specific resources to Social Media this year to maximize visibility, synergy, build positive energy for future programs, plus much more. Below are our platforms if you wish to connect in:
- ❖ Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/texasboysstate?igsh=N2lxb215cnRqcZt>
  - ❖ Twitter: <https://x.com/texasboysstate?s=21>
  - ❖ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasBoysState?mibextid=PtKPJ9>
8. This week, we reached to all prospective counselors. Just like Statesmen, we are very particular about the quality of counselors and there is a process by which we determine who has the honor of being a counselor.
- As always, we would love to have Legionnaires serve on staff for the week!
  - For awareness, there is a huge amount of walking around campus during the week, the days run from about 6:00 AM to midnight, in addition to a number of child-protection and other pre-requirements and otherwise that must be completed.
  - If you think you might wish to join as a counselor, please click the link below. Submission below does not guarantee selection as a counselor.
  - Please **submit by 15 March 2024** if you desire to be considered.
  - **Submit here:** <https://forms.gle/xZXSmpqJfdKZ21xP7>
9. If you are endeavoring into new schools in your local areas that have not participated in TXBS, and are unable to fund locally, there may be tuition funds available thru the Sumners sponsorships (now approved by the TALDF). Please contact Legionnaire Alex Rose for details and to discuss requirements. [alrose@smu.edu](mailto:alrose@smu.edu) or (214) 226-2481. These funds are available this year, but we do not yet have visibility on whether such sponsorship funds (via donation by Sumners or otherwise) will be available in the future. But, this year, we can create new connective tissue in new places as a team and maximize reaching to new schools!
10. Medical Personnel. Request for help! If you are a Legionnaire, with a medical background, and are willing to possibly assist during the week at TXBS, please send a note to [chairman@texasboysstate.com](mailto:chairman@texasboysstate.com). With our growing numbers of Statesmen, and medical requirements for conducting programs on UT campus, we may need some help. Thank you!
11. Based on multiple requests from Posts, and for a litany of other reasons, we are working to modernize and streamline the application process for the 2025 program, including a fully digital registration process (no longer sending in hard-copy documents). More to follow as we evaluate and plan for the 2025 session to leverage modern technology and make things easier at the Post level and otherwise.
12. As you likely know, we visit the Capitol during the week, to give opportunity for the Statesmen to experience the Capitol and visit with their elected leadership (if present). This is a very special event, on many levels, including the march to the Capitol. This year, we will share more details on the timing of the march to the Capitol in case you might wish to observe along the route if you are local (quite a sight to see all those Texas Boys State shirts en masse)!

13. Refunds. Please reinforce, as many of you always do, the importance of attendance by your Statesmen at the program. Some posts are requiring written confirmation of attendance (including parent signature) before submitting payment, to ensure full understanding. Given the many and varied sunk costs to operate TXBS, it is increasingly difficult to issue refunds to Posts if Statesmen cancel attendance (after 1 May). We know this is sometimes challenging, and it will never be perfect, but ask that you reinforce the importance of their direct commitment to attend with your Statesmen as you see fit. Thank you for your understanding.
14. We have a number of exciting guest speakers for whom we are finalizing attendance (more to follow once confirmed). Attached is the bio for Ray Zepeda, of the UIL, who will address the Statesmen on Day 1.
15. If you are not aware, UT Austin Army ROTC is our university sponsor, which permits us to conduct the program at UT. We are grateful for their continued partnership and will meet with them this week on various details for the 2024 program.
16. Thank you to the DEC for approving our 2024 budget request and to the TALDF for approval of our request to maximize the use of the \$100,000 in Sumners donations to change lives and ever-increase the high-touch nature of your Texas Boys State.
17. Sharing 6 photos below from last year, just as a real reminder of **just how special your Texas program is!** You make this happen – unlike anything on the planet.

Respectfully,

Your TXBS Executive Committee





Casey Z. Thomas  
Chairman | American Legion Texas Boys State  
[www.texasboysstate.com](http://www.texasboysstate.com) | [chairman@texasboysstate.com](mailto:chairman@texasboysstate.com)

*(update #5 sent 12 January 2024)*

**Update #5** | TXBS 2024 | 12 January 2024

As always, please share these updates across the Department. All prior updates are also attached as PDF.

1. **Video Sizzle** – oohhhh yeah – share far-and-wide!

- The team created a fabulous short (1:29) video to help tell the TXBS story. Crisp. Powerful.
- The content was from last year’s 2023 session and is intended to help show—so folks can better feel it—just a bit about how special TXBS is.
- Near the end, I find myself emotionally moved—maybe you will too. This program plants something indescribable in these young leaders.
- Please click on the “**Watch The Program Reel**” link at the top banner of the website pages to access the video.
- Thank you to counselor Matthew Hartmann for his efforts on the video and all other media work he did last year.



- Click here to get to the video banner: <https://www.texasboysstate.com/>
2. In addition to local Post efforts, our small (rockstar) recruiting team is **on fire**—activity working with 151 schools to try to maximize representation from around the state, particularly with schools that have never sent anyone to TXBS.
    - ✓ Since November, the team has reached to every Legion Post, Post Commander, Post Adjutant, Superintendent, School Board, Athletic Director, ISD Guidance Counseling Director, ISD Social Studies Director, and ISD Gifted and Talented Program Director in the state of Texas (including all public and charter school districts).
    - ✓ In addition, the crew has contacted hundreds of teachers, coaches, counselors, and administrators at public, private, charter, and even home school groups.
    - ✓ We get replies every day from new schools wanting to send student-leaders, but we need Legion help as much as possible.
    - ✓ Any Legion Posts that want to expand their sponsorship opportunities to new schools please reach to Legionnaire and outreach coordinator Alex Rose at [alrose@smu.edu](mailto:alrose@smu.edu) to partner!
  3. Mr. Ray Zepeda, the University Interscholastic League Director of Athletics, will share wisdom with all the Statesmen at an early session at TXBS.
    - Click here for more on Ray: [Zepeda Selected for UIL Athletics Director - Q&A](#)
  4. We know the Posts are firing up all their systems to select premier talent—thank you!
    - ❖ Below is a photo of a recent event at Weslaco HS . . . with a truly packed library of juniors that came to the info session!
    - ❖ Over 50 applications picked up that day! Impressive.



**Let's do this—2024!**

Your TXBS Executive Committee

(update #4 sent 3 January 2024)

## Update #4 | TXBS 2024 | 2 January 2024

We wish everyone an exceptional new year!

Please use and further distribute the below and attached as you see fit.

1. **Let's rock and roll!** Attached please find two advertising/info documents for your use and sharing, hot-off-the-presses:
  - 2024 Boys State Fact Sheet (**attachment #1**)
  - 2024 Boys State Brochure (**attachment #2**) (trifold)
2. The attachments can also be found at the TXBS website, along with other information, including processes and the like.
  - a. Send Legion folks here: <https://www.texasboysstate.com/for-legion>
  - b. Send others to the landing page here: <https://www.texasboysstate.com/>
3. Applications can now be submitted, and, excitingly, we had over 30 applications by 16 December—the most ever!
4. Sizzle Video. Our high-speed counselor that also does our photography and video—Matthew Hartmann—has used his awesome skills to create a short sizzle video from last year. We will post the video to the website as soon as able, and then share with you. The short video can help you tell the TXBS story and fire-people-up in a powerful way as people can directly feel the TXBS experience more directly. More to follow.
5. First Guest Speaker. Our opening guest speaker to set the tone with the Statesmen and also ground them in our values of servant leadership is Major General (Retired) Tony Cucolo, US, Army, who is also now President & CEO of an Austin-based non-profit ([PCSI](#)) that provides support services to hospitals, military bases, and private-sector clients throughout the United States. Tony's bio is here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tony-cucolo-67346135/>
6. Legion Day. We hope to have as many Legion hats present at UT Austin on Friday morning as humanly possible! Save-the-date. **Friday 14 June 2024**.
7. Registration Deadline. So we can best plan (there are hundreds of things we must contend with each year to make this operation tick), please have all your Statesmen registrations complete by 1 May 2024. We so appreciate for your help and understanding.
8. **Attachment #3** is all the 2024 updates in one spot (PDF) for ease in sharing across the Department.

Thank you, truly—again and again and always—for your work locally to find the best young talent across Texas.

Onward!

Respectfully,

Your TXBS Executive Committee



(update #3 sent 3 December 2023)

## Update #3: Texas Boys State 2024

Legion –

We hope everyone is super as we close out year 2023.

For your further sharing, as you see fit, please see [Update #3](#) for your TXBS 2024 below—inno particular order:

1. Communications:
  - a. We were excited to have had 118 of you sign up to receive these updates for 2024!
  - b. In addition to those who opted-in, we include:
    - Various Department Officials;
    - Department Vice Commanders;
    - District Commanders;
    - Some Department HQ staff;
    - Some members of Americanism Commission;
    - TALDF Board; and
    - TXBS Executive Committee.
  - c. **We defer to Commanders/hubmasters to further share/distribute these updates, if desired.**
2. Thank you, always, for what you do at the Posts/locally—always key to finding the very best talent!
3. Our dates of 9-14 June 2024 are confirmed with UT Austin for our program.
4. 1 May 2024 is our registration deadline, please. Thank you for planning forward to help us here. The logistics complexity, UT requirements, and all sorts of new factors to execute this program seem to multiply every year.
5. A few notes from the 2023 National Boys State Director’s Conference:
  - 34% of Boys State programs shrank last year across the country, and 100% are below overall Department averages since inception.
  - Engaging students is becoming more challenging as Post membership shrinks and key Post members pass and roles not backfilled.
  - A number of states are already doing integrated (male/female) programs (CT, MA, MO), with some doing so because required by legislation (California).
  - Given American Legion fundraising restrictions, and the challenges noted above and more, states have started to create entirely separate legal entities from AL Departments in order to build for the future.
  - Plus we gathered a number of other great innovations, techniques, and practices from other programs which we are evaluating to help keep our program absolutely premier in the Nation.
6. Please see the attached flyer, used in recruiting efforts into areas of Texas where there is no TXBS representation (you are free to use if helpful).

7. Our 2024 Brochure and Fact sheet are being revised, along with the website. We will report to you when all is fully updated.
8. As you are likely aware, there is a new(ish) American Legion logo.
  - a. We are required to now integrate the logo into our Texas Boys State paraphernalia.
  - b. While in transition, we will (of course) use the shirts we already have in inventory, in addition to ordering shirts that will incorporate the new logo (design TBD).
  - c. It is possible your 2024 Statesmen will have some combination of old logo and new logo shirts while we make the shift.
  - d. Legion Brand link: [Brand Mark Information](#)
9. Save the date now! Legion Day 2024.
  - a. Friday, 14 June 2024.
  - b. We would love as many “Legion Hats” to represent to the about 1,800+ people we’ll touch that day.
  - c. More to follow next year.
10. Thank you to our Sons of the American Legion who have kindly offered their assistance this year with some important initiatives. So grateful! More info later.
11. Our goal remains to have 1,000 Statesmen this year (this is also our planning factor on the budget)—so, thank you for doing everything in your power to help.
  - a. In addition to your local efforts, we have had a dedicated team working to maximize viz of your program.
  - b. Huge thank you to **Lucas Turner and Alex Rose for sending over 2,000 emails** in the last few weeks to schools where there has been zero TXBS representation!
  - c. Last year, we had 20 Statesmen from schools that sent Statemen for the first time ever. We are looking to hit at least 90 this year of entirely new schools (including from underrepresented areas).
  - d. We cannot express enough our thanks for the volunteer efforts of the people that bleed into this program, in addition to their normal work and family lives . . . like Lucas and Alex.
12. As always, prior updates are below in the email chain and also attached as PDF.

Wishing everyone the best as we head in to 2024!

Respectfully,

Your TXBS Executive Committee

*(update #2 sent 22 October 2023)*

## **Update #2: Texas Boys State 2024**

Dear Legion Teammates –

Below please find 2024 TXBS [Update #2](#).

1. **ACTION:** If you wish to receive any future 2024 TXBS updates, **please submit at the link below.**
  - a. Our lists have become bloated, with lots of bounces, and we never wish to spam.
  - b. If you have already submitted per the 27 August note below, no need to submit again.
  - c. District Commanders will be included on all updates, for their forwarding as they see fit.
  - d. All updates will also flow to the Hubmaster, for hopeful sharing thru that system as well across the Department.
  - e. The next update note will be sent only to those that submit at the link below. **This will be the last note sent to you**, without you completing the 3 questions at the link below. Thank you.
  - f. **Click here:** [Distro List 2024 Link](#)
2. The DEC approved our ability to conduct a 2024 program. Tuition remains \$330 per Statesman.
3. Tentative dates for 2024 Texas Boys State remain 9-14 June 2024. We have not yet officially finalized with UT, based on a number of factors.
4. We hope to have 2024 “sizzle” on the streets on or about 1 November 2023, helping you all lean-in as early as you might wish locally.
  - a. This will include the 2024 Brochure and 2024 Fact Sheet, and the update on the website for 2024 as well.
  - b. Always, however, the primary source of information for you (and for others) is the website.
  - c. Click here: [Texas Boys State - For The Legion](#)
5. Amazingly, the [Sumners Foundation](#), thru the TALDF, has granted another \$50,000 for use in 2024 for Texas Boys State.
  - a. In total, Sumners has granted \$100,000 to your program that changes lives. Awesome!
  - b. Thank you to TXBS Executive Committee member Cameron Jean, in particular, for his heavy-lifting efforts on all things Sumners.
6. Please see the attached regarding District/Post participation from 2014-2023. Attachments #2 and #3.
7. Attachment #1 is the 2024 updates in PDF (including this one), so as you forward the notes (with the PDF, please) the links will continue to work for anyone that receives them.
8. **SAVE THE DATE:** Friday, 14 June 2024 – “Legion Day.” Where we hope to assemble as many Legion hats as humanly possible that Friday morning to mingle with many 100s of parents/guardians and the Statesmen and represent. A few photos below from last Legion Day.

Please advise of anything we can do for you as you prepare to identify the very best talent across the state!

Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

Your TXBS Executive Committee



*(update #1 sent 27 August 2023)*

## **Update #1: Texas Boys State 2024**

Hello Legion Friends –

Below please find **Update #1** for **Texas Boys State 2024**.

Please share everywhere, along with attachments.

Remember one of the attachments (**attachment #4 in this note**) is always the updates (in PDF form), for ease in access to the links and the messages, as things get forwarded.

In no particular order:

1. **Thank you**, in advance, for all you will do for the 2024 program. You are key to success.
2. As always, **quality** remains most important. Thank you for selecting the very best, of the very best, for this life-changing week.

3. To get you **fired-up** as you start to think about 2024, please see the attachments. Your program has **unbelievable impact**.
  - a. Report from your Texas Senators about their Boys Nation experience (**attachment #1**) . . .
    - “Attending Boys Nation was like diving into a pool of overachieving and hyperactive piranhas.”
    - “It was apparent that just artificial networking or asking people to vote for you with the shake of a hand wasn’t going to cut it . . . instead, true connection had to be made, and that was the first “jolt” for me.”
  - b. Some powerful post-program thoughts from 2023 Statesmen (**attachment #2**) . . .
    - “Imagine 30, 17-year-old strangers, gathered in a room charged with the task to agree on hot topics like immigration, abortion, and gun laws.”
    - “Boys State . . . was one of the best experiences of my life . . . that will stick with me . . . and shape who I am for the rest of my life.”
    - “As a 6’3, 2-year varsity offensive lineman, I am not intimidated by face-to-face showdowns, but I was quiet.” (see attached for more of this story).
  - c. Article from Governor TG Barwa on his experience (**attachment #3**) . . .
    - “The crowd erupted in cheers as friends I had made over the week celebrated with me, making me feel as though I had known them for years.”
    - “The constant exposure to differing viewpoints compelled us to step out of our comfort zones and engage in constructive conversations with others who held opposing beliefs.”
    - And look at the fantastic picture with TXBS Governor Barwa at the end of the article (Governor Barwa with Lieutenant General Stuart Risch, graduation speaker).
4. Please click below to see the **2023 yearbook**. It is too large to send via email.
  - a. Thank you to counselor Jim Bynum for assembling that top-shelf document.
  - b. Thank you to counselor Matthew Hartmann for the exceptional photos!
  - c. Click here: [2023 TXBS Yearbook](#)
5. Tentative dates for 2024 Texas Boys State is **9-14 June 2024**.
6. If you wish to receive email updates regarding TXBS 2024, please complete the attached 3-question form at this link: [Distro List 2024 Link](#)

We will share more as we fire up our systems in the coming months.

Cheers!

Your TXBS Executive Committee

Casey Z. Thomas  
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