



*A few quotes from Statesmen on the Impact of Texas Boys State*



“Thank you for this incredible, once in a lifetime experience. Thank you for investing in me and giving me an opportunity. This opportunity and this entire week were unforgettable, and one of the most impactful experiences I have ever had. I was so incredibly honored.”

“Texas Boys State has changed me for the better. This experience of a lifetime opened my eyes to the great person that I can truly be. One that isn’t afraid of a challenge, one that isn’t afraid of letting their thoughts be heard, and one that isn’t afraid of fear. I will never forget that week where I made new relationships, new memories, and new missions. Missions to do good with the ideas and talents I’ve learned about myself. Mission to fulfill my part in this world for the better. I thank Texas Boys State and The American Legion for creating such a wonderful life-changing programs and raising a great future.”

“I would like to begin by extending my most sincere gratitude for giving me the opportunity to attend and participate in Texas Boys State. Texas Boys State has truly been one of the most memorable experiences of my entire life. This past week has taught me more about life than any other program I have been a part of and has made me even more excited to go out into my community and generate positive change. Boys State is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I am beyond grateful that I was able to participate in this exceptional program. It was my honor and privilege to be a part of the program.”

“I can easily say that Boys State was the most valuable and impactful experience of my life.”

“It is hard to describe just how much I learned and gained from Boys State. I have a far deeper understanding, and therefore appreciation for government. I used to look at politics and government from a bird’s eye view, not quite realizing its intricacies. It had never occurred to me just how much work went into serving in the government, let alone at the state level. I also have a newfound respect for our great state. Having grown up in Illinois, I didn’t really have any land loyalties. I didn’t even know certain states had their own pledges! But upon learning the rich history of the state of Texas, as well as learning by doing - quite literally living the life of a government official, I have never been so proud to be a Texan.”

“This program made me see a different side of leadership, and its characteristics. I was immediately humbled upon the start of Boys State, as I had decided in my mind that I would be running for mayor of my city. I gave my hastily written speech, and I can say with utmost certainty that I was blown away by my fellow Statesmen. They were all exponentially stronger than me, and I realized that these people not only have experience and accolades, as it turns out that we all have that in common. These people are charismatic, forward thinking, and very passionate. Sometimes, it was just their voices that made me want to vote for them. There is just so much that goes in to being a strong leader, giving great speeches, and campaigning for oneself, and none of this had dawned on me up until this past week. It showed me my strengths, as well as my many weaknesses, all the while giving me countless examples and incredible figures to look up to and learn from. I was able to hear unforgettable stories and valuable insights on events of both the past and the present, thus cultivating a distinctly well-rounded perspective.”

“The most significant advantages of Texas Boys State for me can be explained by two main aspects of the experience— spending time with other young men who are just if not more politically engaged as me, and hearing new perspectives from accomplished guest speakers. These aspects of Texas Boys State were so profound because they completely changed the way I view certain problems in modern society. Specifically,



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marijuana legalization, nuclear energy, and race relations. The most prominent influence it had on me was that I had pre-existing beliefs about some of these topics that I had arrogantly thought could not be challenged, and the experience at Texas Boys State was humbling as it made me realize that my beliefs are not always correct. Through Texas Boys State, I have learned to be more thorough with my opinions, and always to consider the opposite side.”

“Thanks to this program, I believe that I am now a better leader. I also have lost my fear of public speaking because of it. I still get nervous before speeches but I wouldn’t be human if I didn’t get nervous. I would recommend this program to anyone and I will make sure to do so with next year’s Statesmen. Once again thank you for the opportunity to attend this program.”

“One of the most important things I learned was the importance of confidence as well as proactiveness. Not only did this week in Boys State make me a better citizen, but it also allowed me to listen to and learn from some of the best and brightest boys around Texas.”

“Boys State has opened my eyes to the commitment and good intentions of those around me who feel a passion for the United States government. Conflicting ideas presented at my time during camp never sparked any argument and were discussed in a civil manner. I believe Boy's State has aided to some of its participants' finding their passion in the field they want to pursue in college, which is undoubtedly great. My time there was demanding but fun, and ultimately my time in the House of Representatives was good-natured and lighthearted. Boys State has allowed me to recognize the blazing passion of those around me and the nature of the government on a state level, ultimately making me more informed and capable to pursue a law-based career or one in the government.”

“It was a truly transformative and unique experience for me. I am really grateful for the American Legion supporting my attendance and providing such an awesome Boys State.”

“Overall, it was an amazing experience and really improved my public speaking, campaigning, and appreciation for the local government. Once again, thank you and the American Legion for the opportunity, and I will try my best to keep representing the American Legion in a positive manner.”

“I wanted to start by expressing my gratitude to you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in Texas Boys State this year. Throughout this past week, I learned numerous life lessons from both the esteemed speakers and the engaging experiences that I will continue to hold for years to come. The experience of having to put together an official piece of legislation showed me the intricacy and complexity of government work. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in an experience I will never forget!”

“I learned a lot about the value of forming connections while running a political campaign as well as how much I deeply appreciate getting to know new people. I think that was not something that I realized about myself before this week.”

“Throughout this program, one important term that was constantly emphasized was reviresco. Reviresco is the ideology that one should never give up due to failure, but rather stand up again and face the



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challenges head-on. The Texas Boys State program taught me the importance of never giving up to reach success. I was able to form close bonds with my peers and dive deep into the program. Thank you for this fantastic opportunity.”

“TBS was easily the most exciting program I have ever been involved in. I was extremely dedicated and involved in the program from start to finish. I am so thankful that I was selected to participate, the experiences from this week will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

“It fascinates me how Texas Boys State moved me and many in such a brief period of time. I am proud to be a TXBS graduate. I have already spoken highly of the program and am eager to continue this trend during the upcoming school year. Thank you for everything!”

“I wanted to thank the American Legion for the incredible opportunity you all allowed me to have by attending Texas Boys State. The week was filled with rich discussions, inspiring speakers, and overall, just an enjoyable experience. I learned to listen to understand other perspectives and hear viewpoints others had helped me to grow. My week at Texas Boys State was awesome and I am grateful for the chance I had to be in the highly honored and respected program.”

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