



AMERICAN LEGION
TEXAS BOYS STATE PROGRAM
DEC MEETING - 2020 VIRTUAL SESSION

Founded in 1935



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Key Criteria in planning the Virtual Program

For 79 years, the American Legion Texas Boys State program has been an incredible program that teaches servant leadership via the two party Political Election process. As we plan for this 80th installment of the program, we have a chance to solidify American Legion Texas Boys State as a world class organization approach in its approach to teaching servant leadership. To do this, we will follow 3 guiding principles:

- Keep the culture of “Learn by Doing” approach to our program...not a “lecture and learn” or a “PowerPoint and Test” curriculum
- Ensure the American Legion history and heritage is woven throughout all of our various discussions and sessions
- Serve with excellence – the program will be innovative/cutting edge in its usage of technology, well planned, and very well executed. We will be sophisticated in planning, using PH.Ds and other teachers from our staff in designing the final approach to curriculum

So you know, each day will begin and end with a city meeting so that any challenges are dealt with as the day begins and ends via small group problem solving. In addition, online check-in will occur at each scheduled meeting time to ensure consistent involvement.



Key Criteria in planning the Virtual Program



To bring the program to life virtually, here are the components of the existing program that we will retain, which include:

- Setting up the 2 party system (Nationalists and Federalists)
- Having Platform, Campaign, and Rules Committee meetings
- Setting up precincts within cities so that “small group” learning can take place
- Electing a House and Senate with bills on real topics to both debate and pass throughout the week
- Setting up select State offices that young men can run for (primary, runoff, and general elections process is taught)
- Conducting our Visiting Dignitary program
- Closing each night with our Plenary Speakers
- Showcasing Talented young men via prepared Talent Show videos sprinkled in throughout the week
- Providing a College Fair (virtual) meet and greet for students and parents alike



Big Picture of Texas Boys State



City



Mayor / City Council
Olympiad Director
Color Guard

Political

Candidates
Delegates
Platform
Campaign
Rules



Elected

Governor
Lt. Governor
Attorney General
3 other offices TBD





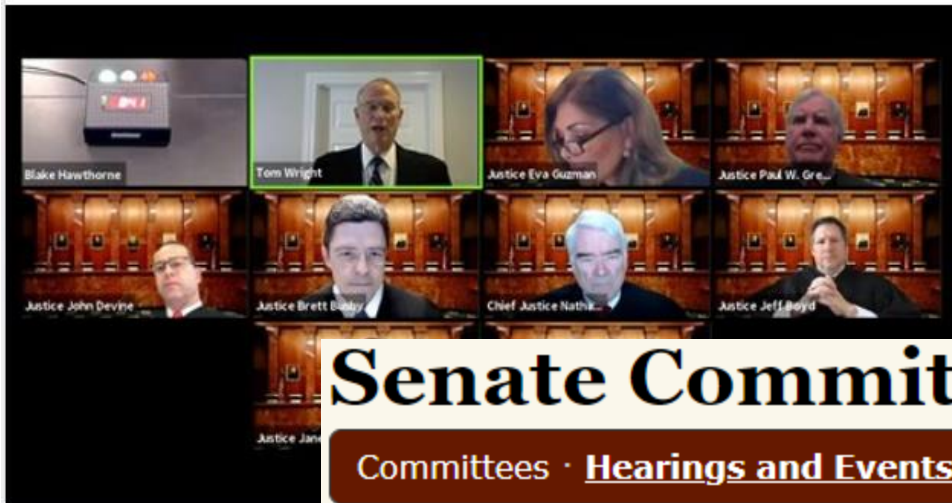
Real Life Political Examples of meetings occurring virtually in Texas



Kevin P Yeary

1 hr · 1 person

Proud of our sister court, the Supreme Court of Texas, who held oral arguments this morning remotely and live streamed them on Youtube. Great job, Justices!!! #BeatingCoronavirus



YOUTUBE.COM

W&T OFFSHORE, IN

Paso Robles school board trustees meet online via Zoom

Posted: 5:36 am, April 8, 2020 by News Staff



Senate Committee Hearings and Ever

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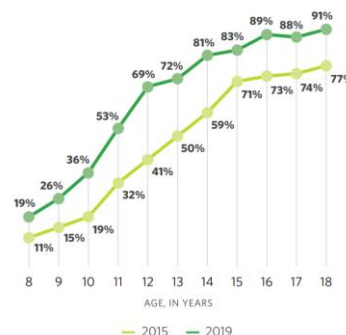
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Key Facts of Online Learning and Student Summer Programs



FIGURE D. Smartphone ownership, by age, 2015 vs. 2019



Arkansas and the World: Model United Nations Summer Camp

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are planning to sponsor "Virtual Model United Nations" Summer Camps during the weeks of July 5-10, 2020 and July 12-17, 2020. The first virtual Model UN summer camp is for beginning Model UN participants and the second virtual Model UN summer camp is for experienced Model UN participants. All interested high schools students entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grades are encouraged to submit the online application form below.

online learning

78%

of students prefer
digital course
material for learning¹

technology use

88%

of 17-year olds own
smart phones²

virtual programs

2+

peer programs (as well
as Texas A&M Fish
Camp) are moving to
virtual format and target
similar students for their
programs³

Moving to a virtual format presents a challenging opportunity which keeps American Legion Texas Boys State on the cutting edge of the most prestigious college preparatory programs⁴

¹ [Survey](#): 78% of students prefer digital course material, VitalSourceTechnologies, USA Today, September 2017

² [2019 The Common Sense Census](#): Media Use By Tweens and Teens

³ [Arkansas Model UN](#) and [EFL Summer Program](#)

⁴ [College Vine](#): Most Prestigious Summer Programs for High School Students

American Legion Texas Boys State already has a significant online presence via Social Media

Texas Boys State Retweeted



Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · Jun 14, 2019

.@txlegion plays such an important role in serving the community and teaching these kids the true meaning of civic engagement and servant leadership. Honored to speak to these @TexasBoysState graduates in Austin today.



Whataburger @Whataburger · 2h

Replying to @TexasBoysState

We appreciate the love!

2

51

86



Texas Boys State @TexasBoysState · 2h

Of course, this is not an official law of the State of Texas. We just wanted @Whataburger to know how much Texas Boys State loves them!

2

4

34



OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



@TXBSNETWORK



@TXALBS



@TexasBoysState



@TexasBoysState



TEXASBOYSSTATE.COM

Texas Boys State Retweeted



Cesar Blanco @CesarJBlanco · Jun 11, 2019

Great conversation about leadership, duty and public service with the young men of @TexasBoysState @AmericanLegion #txlege





DRAFT Schedule for the week (Virtual)



- *Two weeks prior to program beginning* – Mail out the information packet (2 T-Shirts, Lanyard, Nametag, their Manual, and the like). Test the access to the technology portals on the Wednesday prior to the program beginning (like a Freshman Orientation at a High School does with their computers)
- *Saturday afternoon and early evening* (2 sessions that are 2 hours each) -- City Orientation; begin Servant Leadership curriculum process; hear from John Brieden on Flag etiquette and Texas Pride as well as from the Director and Chairman; review weekly schedule with all statesmen; sign Boys State pledge
- *Sunday afternoon and early evening* (4 different sessions beginning at 3:00 p.m. that are 45-60 minutes each) – Setup Political Party process; begin seeking office via solicitation of signatures; setup of Party Politics; hear Keynote speaker General (Ret.) Tony Cucolo https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Cucolo
- *Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.* (5 different sessions that are 90 minutes – 2 hours each with some concurrency) -- Begin speeches for office; debate party platforms; participate in House and Senate hearings; meet Visiting Dignitaries; hear keynote speakers (including Marine Corps Commandant 4 Star General (Ret.) Michael Hagee https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Hagee, Department of Texas Commanders, and several Texas governmental office holders, such as Judges Kevin Yeary and Michael Keasler and State Representatives Jared Patterson and Kevin Ellzy)
- *Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon* (Different sessions for College fair and a closing session)– Conduct virtual College Fair (over 30 institutions want to participate); conduct graduation ceremony with final keynote speaker which is Bluebell Creameries President and Boys State Alumnus Ricky Dixon <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ricky-dickson-5301135/>



What Statesmen will gain this week



Among many life lessons, our curriculum will affirm the following criteria are met:

- A new appreciation for patriotism (flag etiquette, service to both our state and our country, and an understanding of the part they are to play in society as they become adults)
- New and lasting friendships with young men from across the state
- Intimate policy knowledge to key issues facing Texas at the moment
- A better understanding of how to build consensus through civil discourse and debate
- Knowledge of the two party political system and putting that knowledge into action
- An eagerness to be a servant leader in their schools and communities (if they do not already possess such a characteristic)



It is an honor to attend Texas Boys State!



There are innumerable reasons why the program must continue in 2020 in this virtual way – here are just a few:

- This is a “once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity for these young men....they will be hungry to both attend and will dive in to participate....their current furlough from school will only serve to make them hungrier for something of substance
- The Department of Texas will be seen in a very favorable light by both the general public and the media...like the history and heritage of our state, we overcome challenges and we lead the world in innovative ideas
- We must capitalize on the Documentary positive press – we have the chance to enhance the Legion’s brand here unlike anything that has come along in the past 80 years, and we must not sit silent and miss this chance
- We can show the world this can be done....and we will all “Learn by Doing” as we plow forward with the program
- Most of all, it is right and proper for us to do this for these young men and their families – they are counting on this as they apply to colleges, military academies, and make life decisions about what to pursue as they grow into adulthood
- American Legion Texas Boys State is a milestone program for these young men!



Questions and Answers



Here are some of the questions we have been asked thus far:

- How much will this Virtual Session Cost? *We are targeting \$100 per Statesman.*
- How many boys can attend? *To date, we have 630 applicants (as of Friday, April 10). We believe we could accommodate up to 1,000, as technology tools can handle large volumes; however, we would expect about 600-750 will be the number of students “opting in” to the program once they know about the virtual approach.*
- How will we keep the Statesmen engaged? *A robust curriculum will entice and engage the Statesmen. In addition, they will be very hungry for a meaningful simulation when they have been doing “homework at home” for many weeks...anything different and meaningful will be a welcome change!*
- Other programs across the country are cancelling, including Boys Nation – should we do the same? *Texas is seen as an economic and business leader around the world, and we will continue that legacy by producing a well designed program for all to see across our Legion (including National) – this can and should be done!*