



AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

"A Week That Shapes the Future"

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 20-25, 2021; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

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American Legion Jersey Boys State Coronavirus Pandemic Update #5 - April 18, 2020

We continue to be amid an unprecedented national health crisis. The leadership team at American Legion Jersey Boys State has been monitoring this situation daily. The well-being, health, and safety of our delegates, staff, speakers, and everyone else who supports ALJBS is of the utmost importance to us. We worked with public health officials, the State of New Jersey, the American Legion, and Rider University as far as how the coronavirus pandemic would affect this year's session.

We have made our final decision regarding our 75th annual session originally scheduled to take place from June 21st to June 26th, 2020. Please continue to monitor our website (www.aljbs.org) going forward for the most up-to-date information regarding ALJBS.

- **Effective today, April 18, 2020, our 2020 session has been postponed to 2021.** Our 2021 session, to be held **June 20th to June 25th, 2021**, will be a "joint session" with both seniors selected to be 2020 delegates and juniors selected next year as 2021 delegates. We explored a number of alternatives for our 2020 session and believe that we selected the best alternative that combines the well-being of our delegates, staff, speakers, parents, and Legionnaires along with our desire to give those selected as delegates the opportunity to experience Jersey Boys State in-person. We have addressed many of your questions regarding our plans at <http://aljbs.org/2021sessionfaqs/>. We did not take this decision lightly and wanted it to be informed, well-thought out, and as thorough as possible. We believe that we have accomplished that. That is the reason we did not make a hasty decision on our plans for the 2020. We apologize if our delay in coming to this decision caused you any inconvenience.
- **Effective April 15, 2020, all in-person County orientation meetings were cancelled.** We will post a "virtual" county orientation on our website at www.aljbs.org by May 1st. We will also provide a link to enable parents and delegates to ask questions about ALJBS. Information regarding 2021 in-person county orientations, including locations, times, and dates will be posted at a later date at <http://www.aljbs.org/events/orientations.php>.
- **We have put on hold posting the link to CampDoc for delegates to submit their medical information.** If you have already completed your application other than your medical information, a link will be emailed to you at some point in early 2021. If you have any questions about CampDoc or submitting your medical information, please send them to: medical@aljbs.org.
- Should you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at www.aljbs.org.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and support. Once again, the well-being, health, and safety of our delegates, staff, and everyone who supports American Legion Jersey Boys State is of the utmost importance to us. For those of you directly or indirectly affected by the virus, our thoughts are with you and your family. Please stay healthy and safe.

Post and County Jersey Boys State Chairman Information

Post Chairman should continue with their selection of 2020 delegates. At this time, we are extending all deadlines for the 2020 delegate selection process (see the FAQs at <http://aljbs.org/2021sessionfaqs/> for further details). This includes the deadline for checks and complete, signed delegate applications due to Department Headquarters.

Since there are Posts that did not yet complete their delegate selection process, we will be extending the time frame for delegate selection into the new 2020-2021 school year. As far as completing in-person interviews, our guidance at this time is to **NOT** conduct in-person interviews under any circumstance for the well-being of yourself, your family, the potential delegates and their family. In lieu of in-person interviews, we suggest either interviewing the delegates individually or in a group setting via Skype, Zoom, Facetime, or a phone call. In the event that may not be possible, we recommend having your delegates complete and return a questionnaire created by utilizing the questions found in our ALJBS Post Chairman SOP (www.aljbs.org/legion). Regardless of how you decide to select your delegates, **the respective American Legion Post must make the final delegate selection.** This is an American Legion Program and the local American Legion should be making the final delegate selection. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or need assistance.

It is very important to continue to send your delegate fees into Department Headquarters in Trenton. We will be extending the deadline for you to send in your delegate fees. Although this year's session is being postponed to 2021, please rest assured that you will not lose your delegate fees paid for 2020. Your delegate fees will be used to fund the 2020 selected delegates that will attend the 2021 session. In the event that your 2020 selected delegates or alternates cannot attend the 2021 session (and you cannot find additional high school seniors to attend in 2021), we will allow you to fill those slots with additional 2021 junior delegates. **Please continue to send in your checks and applications to headquarters.** For more details on this topic as well as answers to your other questions regarding our plans for 2021, please go to: <http://aljbs.org/2021sessionfaqs/>.

IMPORTANT: We would like to emphasize the importance of selecting delegates to attend this year's session. Selection to attend ALJBS is an honor and is very important to these students. Being selected to ALJBS helps the delegates in the college application process, is important if they are applying to one of the service academies and helps them on their resume for their career. We intend to make a letter available for all ALJBS 2020 selected delegates to download in case that proof is needed for a college or service academy application. **Please continue to move ahead with your delegate selection process.**

VERY IMPORTANT: The most important thing that our Post and County Chairman can do right now is stay in touch with your high schools, delegates, and parents keeping them up to date on the status of this year's program. Please give them our website address (www.aljbs.org) and ask them to monitor the website for the most up-to-date information on the status of this year's program and anything related to the program. You should also assure the parents and guardians of your delegates that we will have a comprehensive safety plan, with consultation from public health experts, in place prior to the 2021 session.

If you have any questions, please contact either President Ted Howarth (856-571-4441) or Executive Director Dave Bagatelle (646-408-1032).