



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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69th BADGER BOYS STATE SESSION BEGINS JUNE 12th
Student Leaders Convene to Establish 51st State

(Portage, WI)...The Wisconsin American Legion's Badger Boys State program will open its 69th session on June 12, 2010 at Ripon College. The annual week-long program will bring together hundreds of high school seniors from across Wisconsin to create a 51st state known as Badger Boys State.

"Badger Boys State is designed to educate our youth in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship." said Teddy Duckworth, Badger Boys State Director. "The program is sponsored by The Wisconsin American Legion and has been developed on the fundamental principle that youth learn best by actively participating in the process. As much as possible, the mechanics of government in Badger Boys State are patterned after the established agencies of city, county and state government," stated Duckworth.

Badger Boys State participants will develop their own party platforms, pass local ordinances and utilize a state patrol and judicial system to enforce the laws and constitution of the 51st state. Additionally, citizens choose from a series of schools of instruction such as: law, peace officer, leadership, public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and lobbying and campaign strategies, among others. Badger Boys State citizens also have an opportunity to participate in a variety of team sports that compete throughout the week, a band and choir that perform, and write for the Badger Bugle Citizen, the official newspaper of Badger Boys State.

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“To date, over 60,000 students have attended Badger Boys State as citizens. Badger Boys State graduates are prominent today as responsible leaders in public office, business and the professions, industry and the Armed Services,” said Duckworth. “This is a tremendous opportunity for many young leaders in Wisconsin and they are sure to have a tremendous week building life-long friendships.”

Planned highlights of this year’s session include guest speakers, Wisconsin Attorney General JB Van Hollen, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh-Bradley, Charles Wiley of the National Press Corps, Brigadier General Scott Legwold, Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton, and Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker, among others.

Currently, Badger Boys State is conducting orientation sessions around the state of Wisconsin and online at the organization’s website badgerboysstate.com. “The orientation sessions are a vital aspect of the Badger Boys State experience as they provide students an opportunity to learn more about the program prior to attending. Additionally, parents are invited to attend the orientation session so they may also learn more about the Badger Boys State experience,” said Bill Cosh, Assistant Director of Orientations and a Counselor for Badger Boys State.

Badger Boy State citizens are selected by local high schools throughout the state based on their qualifications as good students, exhibiting strong leadership skills and in the top third of their class. Previous Badger Boys State graduates are prominent today as leaders in public office, business and the armed forces and include former Governor Martin Schreiber (1956), Congressman Thomas Petri, jazz singer Al Jarreau, actor Daniel J. Travanti (all 3 in 1957), former Governor Scott McCallum (1967), US District Attorney James Santelle (1975), and Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker (1985).

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

- Phone interview a Badger Boys Stater from your local area
- In-person interview with your local Badger Boys Stater
- Receive a list of the delegates from your local area
- Information regarding elected offices for delegates from your area
- Significant accomplishments of delegates from your area
- Receive a copy of the Badger Boys State Citizen Manual
- Follow this week's program online at www.badgerboysstate.com

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