

**MARYLAND**



**BOYS STATE**

## 2025 MD Boys State Citizen Orientation

(all info subject to change based off  
of restrictions of host institution of  
governments)

## Agenda and Topics

- Introduction to MD Boys State
- Commitment to Attend/Financial Responsibility for late cancellation
- Transportation
- Reporting Instructions
- City Assignment
- Party Assignment
- Clothing & Equipment
- Suggested Reading List
- Courses of Instruction: Information Classes and Simulations
- Subjects: Executive, Legislative and Judiciary Branches of Government
- Party Caucuses and Elections
- Debates
- Medical Care and Coverage
- SARS-CoV2



## Agenda and Topics

- Security Coverage
- Dining Facility
- Dorm Rooms
- Boys State Staff
- Scholarship and College Credit Opportunities
- Recreation, Band, and Newspaper
- Talent Show
- House Keeping Tasks
- Graduation
- Departure/Dismissal Instructions
- Contact Information



## Introduction to MD Boys State

- American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local and state government.
- Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for females called Girls State.
- At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices.



## Introduction to MD Boys State

- Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.
- High school juniors are selected by local American Legion posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion post, a local business or another community-based organization.
- In Maryland, Boys State is conducted annually, since 1947, and typically begins on Fathers Day and runs through the following Saturday. To be eligible for Boys State, a youth must be a male who has successfully completed their junior year in high school by the beginning of Boys State. Any boy who has previously attended a Boys State is not eligible.
- **MD Boys State is not an easy summer program and there is little down-time during the entire week. The schedule and curriculum is demanding and stressful at times.**
- **Come with a positive attitude and willingness to work together with others and the week shall fly by.**

**REMEMBER THIS MAY BE THE MOST CHALLENGING, YET  
REWARDING, THING IN YOUR LIFE**

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## Commitment to Attend/Financial

### Responsibility for Late Cancellation

- Boys Staters MUST attend the entire program beginning on June 15, 2025 at 1pm and concluding approximately Noon on June 21, 2025
- If issues exist please call or email the Director at [boysstate@mdlegion.org](mailto:boysstate@mdlegion.org) or 410-752-1405.
- Cancellation can be requested online at the Campdoc registration site if this requirement cannot be met.
- Parents must sign a Financial responsibility for late cancellation form that signifies they understand if cancellation is done within 30 days of start of session they will be responsible to repay the \$425.00 tuition to the Post that paid for their son's attendance
- Exclusions apply for emergency cancellations; see form

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## Medications (CRITICAL!!)

- Participants have been arriving without prescribed (in some cases emergency) medications
- They also have arrived with medications or medical conditions not entered into CampDoc, and no medication administration authorization form being uploaded.
- This places the safety of the participant in danger, and our medical staff in a position of not having proper authorizations from the parent and physician.
- **All medications for the participant must be completely and accurately entered in the medical history section of our CampDoc portal.**
- **Any student arriving to MD Boys State without prescribed medications, or without the medications being completely and accurately documented in the CampDoc portal shall be refused enrollment at the registration desk, and parents shall be required to provide transportation for any such student back to their home of record.**
- **Further if discovered after enrollment that parents did not provide complete and accurate medication information; parent shall be notified and participant shall be returned to the parent's or guardian's custody.**
- **If assistance is needed with the CampDoc portal please let us know**

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## Transportation

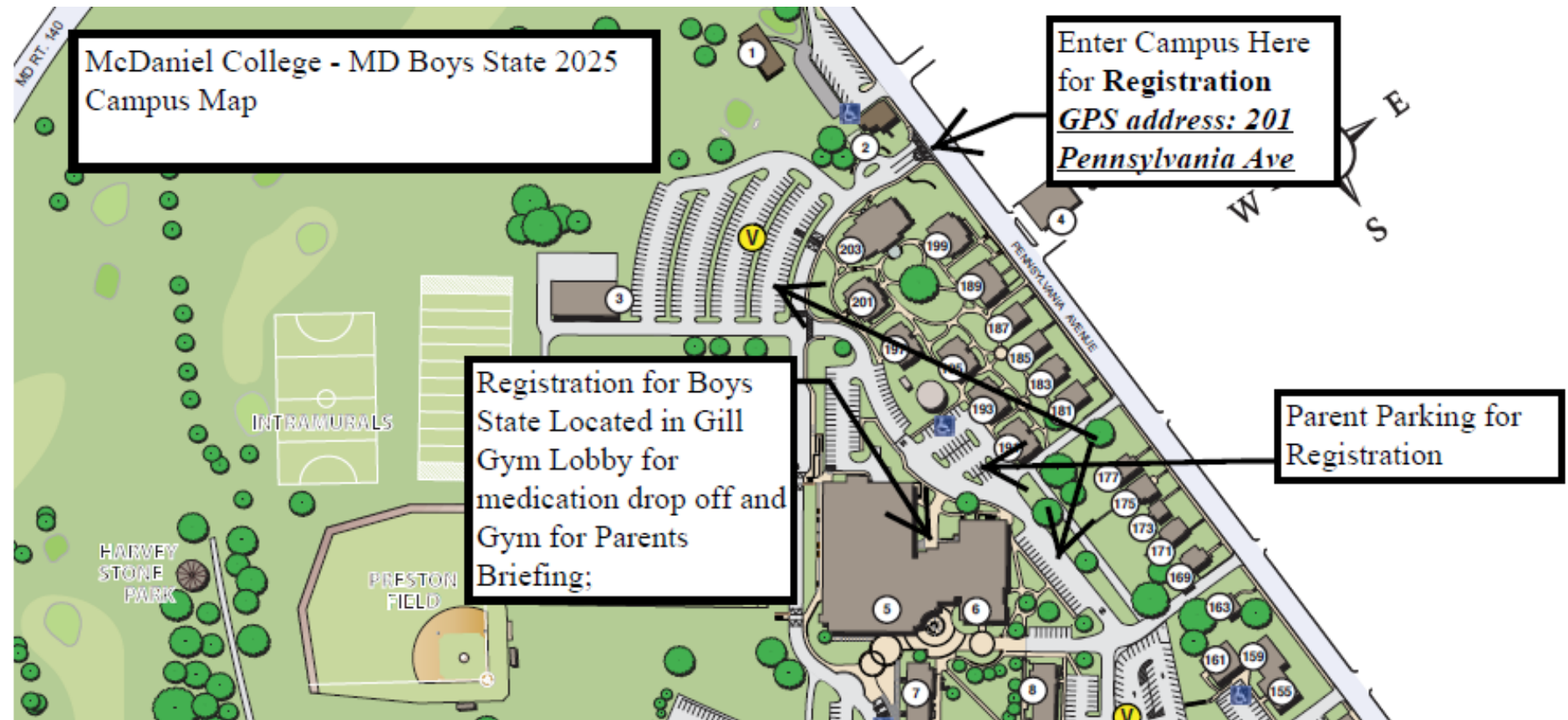
- Families are responsible for transporting the students to and from MD Boys State
- Local Posts may assist in cases where families cannot transport the students
- **Students should not drive themselves! The students will be exhausted after the week and the dangers and probability of injury due to accidents is much higher in this state of exhaustion.**
- If the student arrives in their own vehicle, the keys will be confiscated and student may not return to car
- If issues exist please call or email the Director at [boysstate@mdlegion.org](mailto:boysstate@mdlegion.org) or 410-752-1405.





## Reporting Instructions

- GPS Address to McDaniel College entrance to use for entry to Registration site is: **201 Pennsylvania Ave, Westminster, MD 21157.**
- Proceed through the entrance and make a left at first parking lot.



## Reporting Instructions

- Registration is held in Gill Gymnasium (see Campus Map previous page)
  - Arrival between Noon and 12:45 is suggested for check-in, city assignments, registration medication drop off and seating in the bleachers. The briefing and welcome begins Promptly at 1pm and all are expected to be punctual.
  - Bring items from packing list
  - Bring Medications in a gallon ziploc bag with Citizen's Name written on with Sharpie for identification.
- Medication will be given to the medical staff upon entry into the lobby
  - The staff has the information entered online for all medical records and medications.
- There will be check-in stations set up with staff to assist in check-in (Citizens will check-in & receive their City assignment with color coded wrist band)
- Parents and Citizens shall proceed into the Gym and take seat on bleachers as directed by signs. Bags are placed on far side of basketball court segregated by City.
- A brief time will be given for the parents to say their goodbyes to the students and some brief instructions (including leaving all cell phones and contraband with parents) shall be given.
- When requested Citizens will line up by City (wrist band color) with their bags to be taken to their Cities by the Counselors
- Parents will remain for a short briefing and question period
- All should be done by 1:30pm; but will require being on time



## City Assignment

- City Assignment is done by the Chief Administrator using a computer algorithm designed to avoid those from same schools being placed in same City.
- Failure to show for program places your City at a disadvantage because of population differences
- No changes are allowed without the Director's consent, and are considered on a case-by-case basis to eliminate or mitigate certain circumstances
- Assignment will be to one of 6 Cities (# of Cities carries with enrollment
  - Darr City
  - Flag City
  - Fort City
  - Key City
  - Goldstein City
  - Legion City



## Party Assignment

- Party Assignment is also done by the Chief Administrator. Balance in numbers is always adhered to ensure nearly equal populations of each party in each City and the State
- Failure to show for program places your Party at a disadvantage because of population differences
- No changes are allowed without the Director's consent, and are considered on a case-by-case basis to eliminate or mitigate certain circumstances
- Assignment will be to one of 2 Parties
  - Federalists
  - Nationalists



## Clothing & Equipment

- The Packing List is available online or Facebook. ([Packing List click here](#))
- This list should be adhered to and no additional items are required
- We provide shirts to wear during the day (only shirts for recreation are required per the packing list).
- Only money required (and is not mandatory) is **1 Roll of Quarters**. The citizens use these to pay taxes levied by the city and any fines they incur for code violations.
- Small Desk fans are permissible as some of our buildings have no air conditioning. (Students are rarely in rooms during daylight hours)
- If you play a musical instrument, PLEASE bring it with you along with assorted sheet music (pianos are available).
- If you have an on stage talent such as, but not limited to juggling, magic, martial arts, etc. and props are required, please bring the props with you.
- If you are in a ROTC rifle drill team, please bring your drill rifle with you (the drill rifle will be secured when not in use).



## Clothing & Equipment

- Athletic equipment is provided – Do not bring your ball glove, swimming trunks, and walking shorts; do not bring baseball bats, lacrosse sticks, tennis racquets, soccer balls, or footballs
- **DO NOT BRING PLAYING CARDS**
- **NO JUUL pods or e-cigarettes**

### **DO NOT BRING**

The following items are not required for the program and will be confiscated if brought:

**ANY TYPE OF CELL PHONE, SMART PHONE OR WATCH** or any type of electronic device or equipment (computers, radios, clocks, etc) / **drugs other than prescribed** / any type of tobacco product / food, drinks, candy, and/or gum / reading materials other than religious / knives, scissors, or multi-purpose tools / toys, games, playing cards, or stuffed animals / hats / sunglasses / sports equipment other than noted above / valuable items / jewelry other than medical alert bracelet or necklace / laundry detergent. Once again, these items are **NOT** needed for the program.



# Cell Phones and Electronics

- **Cell phones and electronics are prohibited for MD Boys State Citizens**
- **The initial shock of this for the Citizens soon wears off once immersed into the program. They are just that busy; and it forces personal interactions**
- **The PARENTS/FAMILIES have had a harder time dealing without the constant contact we now expect with our children**
- **The Facebook page will give every parent a window into the program and the Boys will not need any distractions. We also regularly get the question about bringing books or study material for another course. They should be left at home. There is no time for reading or studying outside the curriculum, and that is not an exaggeration.**
- **Boys State will probably be one of the most demanding weeks (both physically and mentally).**
- **The days are long and the Citizens wear out also.**

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## Suggested Reading List

- Read-ahead list is available [click here for MD Boys State 2025 Reading List](#)

The Boys State suggested reading list is not a mandatory list. The readings provide some insight into the curriculum and will also help with the Exam on Thursday. Those taking the college credit opportunity should review all these items and prepare.

- The readings, and a few YouTube videos, focus on the areas of emphasis for the week and studying ahead will assist in better understanding the lessons throughout the week.
- Reading the bills to be considered and reviewing a few Charters from Cities around Maryland will help in preparation
  - Go to:  
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Search/Publications>  
and search “All Years” and filter by word “Charter” to find all the charters.





# Courses of Instruction: Information Classes and Simulations

- The primary lesson for the week is the benefits of the form of Government in Maryland and the United States
- Several practical methods are used to accomplish this lesson
  - Citizens are placed into Cities where their normal rights and freedoms are curtailed
    - This does not include unsafe conditions for the youth
    - We strive to build the youth through this process
  - The Citizens will create a City Charter, conduct elections, govern their Cities. This process happens simultaneously with other activities
  - The first day and a half are lectures and briefings from leaders and elected officials discussing areas of interest to the Citizens to help them understand the challenges of self-governance in our democratic republic.
  - The next day and a half is a legislative simulation, or political simulation
    - This involves the Citizens sitting as a mock General Assembly
    - First in Committee and then as a full Assembly
  - The final two days include briefings, National Elections, and a field trip to Annapolis



## Subjects: Executive, Legislative and Judiciary Branches of Government

- All three branches of Government shall be explored during the week in a practical format
  - The operation of the City and the challenges of maintaining order and providing services demonstrate the Executive Roles in the City, and Elected/Cabinet Officials will provide their expertise and answer questions
  - The legislative functions are explored during our Political Simulation; this is always a highlight of the week
  - City judges will maintain justice in nightly hearings if required.
  - This system is outside the disciplinary system of the staff and is used if a citizen violates the code of conduct as stated in the Boys State manual and under the provisions of the City charter as published by the citizens of the City.
  - Fines can be imposed
  - Limit of 50 cents per violation and a maximum of \$2.00 per day, and \$5.00 per week for fines



## Party Caucuses and Elections

- City, State, and National Caucuses are held in place of primaries to select candidates for elected offices.
  - Caucuses are held by each Party, by office, before each election
  - Party Chairs at each level leads the Caucuses with assistance from Staff
- The Caucuses are blind to the candidates to maintain respect to the process
  - Candidates for office line up and give speeches
  - The Caucus then vote by electronic devices (supplied to each voter) with each candidate facing away from the crowd until a clear candidate is selected.
- General Elections are conducted by City Election Officials and all results are final when tabulated and certified by Director. NO recounts are permitted
- City General Elections are conducted Tuesday Morning at 7am
- State General Elections are conducted Thursday Morning at 7am
- National Elections are conducted Friday Morning at 7am



## Debates

- Wednesday Evening there is a one-hour debate between the candidates for Governor moderated by Staff
- Thursday Afternoon there is a 90-minute debate for the 4 candidates for Boys Nation Senate moderated by Staff
- Questions can be on any current topic and peer questions shall be received and reviewed. They may be asked as well during the debates
- The debates give an opportunity for the citizens to decide the caliber and qualifications of the candidates.
- They help ensure the best qualified candidates for the highest offices for Boys State and Boys Nation.
- DO NOT take the debate lightly; It is a tough session for the candidates

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## Medical Care and Coverage

- Boys State Medical Staff oversees the administration of medications and provides basic first aid to the citizens
- Higher level care is given by the Westminster Fire Dept ambulance service and Carroll Hospital Center
- **Medication authorization forms must be in the CampDoc portal for every over-the-counter and prescription medication to be given during the week**
- **Medication must be in Gallon-size ziploc with Students name written on the outside at registration (medical Drop-off will be in the lobby before entering the Gym)**
- Medical staff are available 24/7 and are on site with the citizens throughout the day
- Medical Transportation is provided and on-site to aid with minor injuries that require the citizen to refrain from walking
- **Bottled Water is provided; Citizens should come to Boys State hydrated as this is our NUMBER 1 health issue!!!!**



## Security Coverage

- MD Boys State Staff provides around the clock supervision and City Counselors provide direct supervision from wake-up until lights-out
- Each City has a fire/security watch that remains awake on a one-hour rotating basis through the night and has reporting/emergency instructions provided by their Counselor-in-Charge (CIC)
- MD Boys State Security personnel provide a roving patrol of the dorm areas and check in with the City fire/security watch personnel during the quiet hours; We have retired and current Law Enforcement Officers providing security at nights.
- McDaniel College has a Campus Security Department and they cooperate closely with MD Boys State for security, and make regular patrols and status checks of the dorms as well
- Westminster has a Police Dept and Fire and Rescue Dept



## Dining Facility

- McDaniel College has an excellent college dining facility that offers nutritional choices for the daily meals.
- Capable of providing for special dietary and allergy considerations
- **Please make us aware of these special circumstances by entering all the details on CampDoc Health Record. We will provide dietician with the report on or about June 1 for planning purposes**
- Three meals a day will be served in the dining facility



## Dorms and Rooms

- MD Boys State utilizes 2 Dorms (McDaniel and Rouzer Halls)
- Linens are provided
- If you have seen a freshman dorm room, you have seen the accommodations





## Boys State Staff

- **Sr Staff**
  - Director and Assistant Directors supervise the Staff and Operations of the program
  - The Sr Staff are Veterans and committed to providing future generations with the understanding of our form of government
  - All are volunteers and dedicate many hours to execute the program
  - The Administrative and Operations staff handle all the behind the scenes details
  - City Counselors are the key to our program
  - Each city has a Counselor-In-Charge (CIC) and up to 3 additional counselors
  - Political and Education Officers provide oversight of these academic programs
  - Many of the Staff are Alumni of the Boys State Program
- **City Mentors**
  - Young adult MD Boys State Alumni (usually attended 2-4 years previous)
  - Provide a perspective to the youth as a more recent graduate and they excelled during their time at MD Boys State
  - Serves as a mentor and assists the staff to combat homesickness with the knowledge and experience of previously being a City citizen



## Scholarships and Credit Opportunities

- Samsung Scholarship
  - Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. To date, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than \$5.3 million to approximately 1,970 applicants.
  - One National Finalist shall be chosen from the application submitted online by MD Boys State Citizens; The one selected will be judged against other States and a set of National Scholarship recipients named in October 2025.
  - **Application must be complete before June 15, 2025 (NO EXCEPTIONS)**
  - Eligibility: Scholarship applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current session of either The American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. - or a legally adopted child of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership. More details can be found at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>
  - Application is completed online at (available Feb 1st each year)  
<https://www.legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application>



## Scholarships and Credit Opportunities

- **McDaniel College Credit Opportunity**
  - Here is yet another exciting announcement and reason to complete your application and attend MD Boys State 2025!! We are excited to share with you a new opportunity for Maryland Boys State participants. McDaniel College is proud to partner with The American Legion, Department of Maryland to offer high school males who are interested in government, politics, and leadership the opportunity to earn two college credits this summer in the course GNI 1198: Leadership, Citizenship & Service.
  - To earn college credit, you must: • Pre-register (Before June 15, 2025) using the Registration Form provided at the link below • Fully participate in Maryland Boys State, June 15-21, 2025, at McDaniel College. • Pass the written exam given at Maryland Boys State. • Write a service plan showing how you will translate what you've learned at Boys State into positive action for your community deadline is July 21, 2025).
  - Registration is required in advance for you to receive college credit. To register, please follow the link below and complete the form, print, sign and either bring both the form and a non-refundable fee (2025 fee is \$400.00 for 2 credits) to be paid to by check to McDaniel College to submit when you arrive on campus for the program or mail the form and fee to McDaniel College, Office of Academic Life, 2 College Hill, Westminster, MD 21157. Any questions may be directed to [wmorris@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:wmorris@mcdaniel.edu), (410)-857-2521.
  - Please visit the links below to find further information about this opportunity, and to download the registration form.
  - [Link to McDaniel College Information Flyer by clicking here](#)
  - [Link to McDaniel College Non-Degree Credit Registration form](#)



## Scholarships and Credit Opportunities

- **McDaniel College Credit Opportunity**
  - In addition, regardless of whether you take advantage of the credit opportunity, all participants of Maryland Boys State 2025 guaranteed an annual scholarship of \$15,000 or \$60,000 total over four years at McDaniel College if they are admitted and enroll. Please note that if you are eligible to receive any other scholarships awarded by McDaniel College, the College will apply the scholarship that carries the largest monetary value. Contact McDaniel's Admissions Office at 410-857-2230 or [admissions@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:admissions@mcdaniel.edu) to learn more about applying to McDaniel.
  - McDaniel College, one of 40 "Colleges that Change Lives," is ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the nation. McDaniel offers more than 70 undergraduate programs of study, including dual and student-designed majors. The personalized, interdisciplinary, global curriculum and student-faculty collaboration develop the unique potential in every student.



## Scholarships and Credit Opportunities

- **Robert O. Allen Memorial MD Boys State Scholarship**
  - \$500.00 scholarships awarded to up to 20 MD Boys State graduates
  - Awards are given at the MD Boys State Session the year after graduation (i.e. ten 2024 graduates will be awarded the scholarship at our graduation on June 21, 2025)
  - Applications will be emailed to the MD Boys State 2025 graduates in September 2024 and be available at that time at the online portal
  - Application Deadline for MD Boys State 2024 graduates is May 1, 2025



## Recreation, Band, and Newspaper

- Time after dinner each day is allotted for these activities
- **Citizens must choose at beginning of the week between recreation and talent show activities as they are conducted concurrently**
- Inclement weather locations are provided in case of bad weather or extreme heat
- Bring Talent props, Drill Rifles (not operational of course), musical instruments, and music required for the talent portions
- There is a daily newspaper published and distributed to the Cities and via Facebook when practical



## Talent Show

- The Talent Show is on June 20, 2025 at 7 pm. Families are invited to these events. (restrictions may be in place for this event)
- This is a highlight event and the Citizens practice all week for the **BIG SHOW**
- We stress that the citizens can say a quick hi at Talent Show, but they are going to be ready for their City party to be conducted at the dorms that night. There are hotels in the area, the closest being the Best Western, which is just off campus, for those traveling to talent show and wanting to spend the night before graduation.
- The night of the talent show (starting about 6pm) the citizens will march up Green St in Westminster back to the College and then start the talent show shortly thereafter.



## Housekeeping Tasks

- Citizens shall keep their rooms neat and orderly per Staff instructions
  - Beds will be made everyday
  - The detailed layout for rooms shall be determined by City Staff and Citizen Leaders
- Common Areas shall be cleaned by Citizens
  - Including Bathrooms, Hallways, and Stairs
  - All trash will be removed to the trash storage area for McDaniel Staff to remove





## Graduation for Citizens

- This is the culmination of the week long efforts so take this seriously
- **An ironed pair of Khaki long pants, brown shoes and brown belt are the dress for graduation (We provide a Polo Shirt)**
- Family and Friends are invited to attend
- Medications are returned for storage in baggage
- Luggage will be stored in the Old Gill Gym just off the lobby where registration occurred



## Graduation for Parents

- Graduation is conducted **Saturday, June 21, 2025** at **9:00am**
- The location is in Big Baker Chapel but is subject to change due to size limitations.
- Starts promptly so don't be late
- Seating is not reserved; but ample seating is provided in bleachers and on floor
- Photos of each Citizen shall be posted to MyCloud in the weeks after the ceremony for the families to have free of charge
- Wear comfortable but appropriate clothing
- The entire commencement exercises last until approx. Noon



## Retiring of Colors and Dismissal Instructions

- Immediately following the graduation ceremony the recession of the Cities commences (Weather permitting)
  - Families are asked to remain seated to give the Cities a free path to the quad
- The Governor shall lead the final Retirement of Colors at the quad
  - Families should attend this ceremony and it is a short walk (200 meters) to the quad
  - The Cities will be dismissed from this location
- The Governor shall dismiss the State after Retirement of Colors
- Many congregate in the quad for pictures and to say goodbye to friends gained so plan a little time for this activity
- Citizens should gather their bags and secure medications
- Families are free to leave with students



## Retiring of Colors and Dismissal Instructions

- In case of inclement weather the State shall be dismissed by the Governor at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony
- No outside activity would take place
- The Governor shall lead the final Retirement of Colors in Gill Gym
- The Governor shall dismiss the State after Retirement of Colors
- Same instructions apply after dismissal



## Contact Information

- Director, Russell W. Myers Jr 410-752-1405
- Email: [boysstate@mdlegion.org](mailto:boysstate@mdlegion.org)
- There will be additional contact information distributed online and in a handout once the phone numbers are provided by the college for our office
  
- The Director is available in **EMERGENCIES** to assist 24/7
- Please refrain from calling to ask how your son is doing, or if there are any issues
- The Director promises that any issues that parents would be concerned about are addressed to the parents as soon as practical after the incident



# QUESTIONS?

