

**Below is a structured set of interview questions that The American Legion Post can use when interviewing a candidate for The American Legion Texas Boys State program, and a separate set for the candidate's parents. The questions assess leadership potential, civic understanding, character, and alignment with the program's goals. You can adapt or extend them as needed.**

## **Interview Questions for the Candidate**

### **Personal Background & Character**

**Tell us about yourself and what motivates you to participate in Boys State.**

**What do you consider your greatest strength, and what is an area you're actively working to improve?**

**Describe a time you faced a challenge or failure. How did you respond, and what did you learn?**

**How do you handle teacher, coach, or peer criticism or feedback?**

**How would your friends or teachers describe your leadership style?**

## **Leadership & Civic Involvement**

**Can you provide an example of a leadership role you've held (school, community, extracurricular)?**

**What was your approach and the outcome?**

**How do you plan to contribute to your Boys State team if selected?**

**What makes a good leader in a community or government context?**

**Describe a time you worked as a team to solve a problem. What was your role, and what was the result?**

**How do you handle disagreements within a team or organization?**

## **Knowledge of Government & Civics**

**What is one current event related to Texas or the United States government that you have followed recently, and why is it important to you?**

**Explain the difference between the local, state, and federal governments. How do these levels interact?**

**Why is it important for young people to be involved in civic processes?**

**If you could propose one civic improvement for your community, what would it be and how would you implement it?**

**How would you balance personal beliefs with public service responsibilities in a Boys State setting?**

### **Problem-Solving & Ethics**

**How would you approach a controversial issue in a simulated government setting at Boys State?**

**What would you do if you observed unethical behavior by another participant or mentor?**

**Describe a time you had to make a difficult ethical decision. What factors did you consider?**

### **Communication & Public Speaking**

**Tell us about a time you had to speak publicly. How did you prepare, and what was the outcome?**

**How do you ensure your communication is inclusive and respectful when discussing sensitive topics?**

**How would you persuade a peer to support a civic initiative without compromising your integrity?**

### **Commitment & Fit**

**Why do you want to attend Boys State specifically, and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

**How do you think participating in Boys State will influence your goals after high school?**

**What do you bring to a group that you believe will benefit the program?**

**If you notice a fellow participant being excluded in a social setting, how would you handle it?**

### **Interview Questions for the Candidate's Parents**

## **Understanding of the Program**

**Have you and your child discussed the Boys State experience? What aspects do you hope your child will gain?**

**What qualities do you think Boys State will help develop in your child?**

## **Support & Expectations**

**How will you support your child during and after the program (logistics, time management, reflection)?**

**Are you concerned about your child's participation in a competitive or structured environment like Boys State?**

## **Character & Preparation**

**How would you describe your child's character and values? Can you share examples?**

**How does your family approach community involvement or civic engagement?**

## **Communication & Safety**

**What is your preferred method of communication with program staff (email, phone, text), and what level of updates would you expect?**

**Do you have any accessibility or safety considerations we should be aware of to ensure a positive experience for your child?**

## **Post-Program Involvement**

**How do you plan to integrate or discuss the Boys State experience with your family and community after the program ends?**

**Are you willing to participate in any post-program alum activities or feedback opportunities?**

## **Quick Tips for Conducting the Interview**

**Start with a warm, respectful tone to help the candidate and parents feel comfortable.**

**Use open-ended and scenario-based questions to gauge thought processes, leadership, and ethical reasoning.**

**Take notes on leadership potential, clarity of thought, community awareness, and communication skills.**

**Ensure fairness and inclusivity; avoid questions that may be discriminatory or unrelated to the program goals.**

**Provide the candidate with a brief overview of the program at the start, and allow time for them to ask questions at the end.**

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