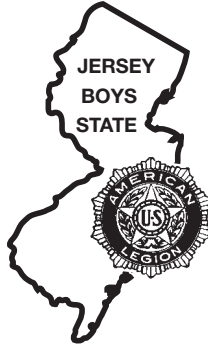


WELCOME TO
*AMERICAN LEGION
JERSEY BOYS' STATE*



*To develop good citizens in the United States of America by
inspiring the youth of New Jersey to take a more active and
intelligent interest in the operation of our State and nation
and in the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.*

**at RIDER UNIVERSITY
2083 Lawrenceville Rd.,
Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648**

sponsored by
**THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of New Jersey**

PREFACE

This booklet has been prepared to acquaint you, prior to your arrival at Rider University, with an overview of what the American Legion Jersey Boys' State program is all about, what will be offered to you, what will be expected of you, and what is provided to you by the staff of Jersey Boys' State and Rider University.

You will be attending Jersey Boys' State on the -recommendation of your high school officials and sponsors. While at Jersey Boys' State, you will be acting in the capacity as a representative of your school, as well as your community. It is hoped that you will uphold the confidence placed in you by your school officials and conduct yourself in such a manner as to reflect credit not only upon you, but upon your high school and community as well. Being selected to attend Jersey Boys' State is an honor which should not be taken lightly.

The goal of the staff of Jersey Boys' State is to educate and train **you**, a leader of tomorrow, in understanding one of this country's most precious freedoms; the democratic form of government. It is hoped that you will use the knowledge gained from this information to take an active role in the Jersey Boys' State program.

Upon finishing the Jersey Boys' State program, you will join a highly respected alumni of over 60,000, which numbers among its ranks President Bill Clinton, NBC News Anchor Tom Brokaw, Basketball Star Michael Jordan, former and present United States senators, judges, lawyers, educators, professional men, military leaders, and numerous state and local government officials.

Please review the information contained in this booklet with your parents, for this booklet will answer many questions that both you and they may have about the Jersey Boys' State program.

Questions regarding any aspect of the Jersey Boys' State program or requests for additional copies of this booklet should be directed to:

The American Legion Department of New Jersey
Attn: Jersey Boys' State
135 West Hanover Street
Trenton, N.J. 08618
Phone (609) 695-5418
Or www.aljbs.org

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN LEGION?

The American Legion is the largest veterans organization in the world, with a membership of over 3 million members in the United States and 7 foreign countries.

All members of The American Legion are honorably discharged men and women who served their country on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during the periods of World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and the Persian Gulf, either at military bases in the United States or overseas.

The American Legion was the originator and author of the G. I. Bill of Rights, which has benefited millions of ex-servicemen and women since its passage in 1944.

More recently, The American Legion was the largest single contributor to the building of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. with over \$1.5 million donated by our members and departments to this project.

Since the founding of The American Legion in 1919, this organization has been a moving force in the area of fair treatment of the nation's veterans, their wives and children, and especially the disabled veterans.

The American Legion has also for many years conducted programs which have been designed to benefit the youth of our nation. Notable among these programs are: American Legion Baseball, The American Legion Boys' State Program, The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest and The American Legion School Awards Program.

The American Legion founded the Boys' State Program in 1935, and began in New Jersey in 1946. Since that time, The American Legion Boys' State Program, regardless of what state conducts it, remains one of the premier youth programs in the nation today.

The American Legion Department of New Jersey, which conducts the Jersey Boys' State Program, is one of the largest departments in The American Legion organization with a membership of over 90,000 members who belong to 387 American Legion posts in the state.

The theme of The American Legion is, "Still Serving America."

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS' STATE PROGRAM

The creation of the concept of the Boys' State program is credited to Mr. Hayes Kennedy, who in 1935 was a professor at the Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, and Americanism Chairman of the Illinois Department of The American Legion.

Mr. Kennedy was concerned about a project underway at the time called "Young Pioneer Camps", which were being promoted by the Communist Party to show the uselessness of Democracy, and which advocated the virtues of the Communist System. Mr. Kennedy felt that a counter movement should be started among the ranks of the nation's youth to stress the importance and value of our Democratic form of Government and maintain an effort to preserve it.

The Illinois Department of The American Legion approved Mr. Kennedy's project, and in June 1935, the very first "Boys' State" in the nation was held on the Illinois State Fairgrounds.¹

From that beginning in Illinois in 1935, the program swiftly spread among other American Legion Departments. By 1941, 34 states were conducting a "Boys' State" program. Today, The American Legion conducts a "Boys' State" program in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Hawaii is the only state that does not have a Boys' State program.

Boys' State came to New Jersey in 1946 thanks to Harry Groome, who heard about it at a national convention in 1945. From the start, Harold Eaton was the Director, until his death in 1984. The first session in New Jersey was held at Douglass College in New Brunswick with only 250 delegates. The program quickly expanded and moved to Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Rider University became home to Jersey Boys' State in 1969. We currently have nearly 900 delegates attending every year. As of last year, over 40,000 delegates have participated in Jersey Boys' State.

¹History of Boys' State, Max E. Blessing, July 13, 1977

WHAT IS JERSEY BOYS' STATE?

Jersey Boys' State is a mythical fifty-first state organized and administered for citizenship training purposes under the auspices of The American Legion, Department of New Jersey. A session of Jersey Boys' State has been held annually since the first session in 1946.

The size and composition of the staff varies in accordance with the number of young men attending the annual session. We require a large part-time staff for administrative and instructional activities, as well as a full-time, on-campus staff of approximately 90 people to direct the activities of the nearly 900 statesmen.

Funds for operating the program of Jersey Boys' State are obtained by charging the sponsor of each delegates tuition fee for the week. This sum provides food, housing facilities, text materials and meeting facilities, for all citizens, as well as other miscellaneous items. There is no expense to the delegate after he arrives at Boys' State except what he might want to spend for personal items. Jersey Boys State is set up as a separate corporation under the auspices of The American Legion. A complete detailed annual report of all income and expenditures is made annually by the Boys' State Board of Trustees to The American Legion, Department of New Jersey.

Boys' State strives "to educate our youth in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship." The program is built upon the civics foundation that young men who are in the upper years of high school, may normally be expected to possess, and provides the ways and means through the participation of its citizens in the governmental affairs of a mythical state, for a broader understanding of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in a republic. Boys' State endeavors to provide a foundation for understanding self government, a rational approach toward the solution of public issues, and a live faith in the ideals and processes of democracy. The program of training and instruction consists of extending the citizen's acquaintance with the background of American ideals, expanding his knowledge of the underlying principles of governmental organization, and by means of active participation in the government of Boys' State helps him to set up constructive ideals toward all phases of representative government.

A complete program of educational and recreational activity is provided. A newspaper is published and seminars are held on a range of topics. A college fair attended by over 75 colleges and universities is offered. A portion of each afternoon is given over to an organized program of intramural activities under skilled supervision. Outstanding speakers and specialists contribute to rounding out the week long program.

ELIGIBILITY SELECTION AND ATTENDANCE

Each candidate must be in the 11th grade of High School, with at least one semester left. The young men selected to attend Boys State are selected on the basis of leadership, character, scholarship, patriotism, and service. Please note that this program is dedicated to teaching about responsible citizenship action in our present State and local government only. Young men that are not interested and cannot promise to live up to the level of citizenship required at Boys' State, should not attend.

In order to register, each boy, whether a delegate or an alternate, must have an application in the Boys' State file. He must have his Permit to Register form and Medical form properly filled in and his Medical Permit form signed by his parents or guardian and doctor. If an alternate, the young man must know for whom he is an alternate.

The above requirement will be strictly adhered to and, unless the young man can meet the above requirements, he will not be allowed to register. The Director reserves the right to send a young man home if he does not meet the qualifications stated and or will not obey the regulations of Jersey Boys' State.

Young men who are accepted for membership in Boys' State are expected to remain in attendance during the entire session. Only the gravest emergency will be accepted as an excuse to leave. Only the Director can excuse a delegate in such situations.

JERSEY BOYS' STATE ORGANIZATION

Jersey Boys' State is divided into 2 political parties, the Federal Party and the National Party. By the time you register at Boys' State, you will have been placed in one of the parties. Due to time constraints no third parties are allowed.

Jersey Boys' State is made up of "cities". Each city consists of approximately 60 young men. Each city is named after a former president of the United States. Two cities form a county. Each county is named after a US military leader. Each Jersey Boys' State city has 3 wards.

In every ward, each of the political parties elects a ward party leader. The three ward leaders get together and form the party-at-large. One of them becomes the chairman, one the vice-chairman and one the secretary of the party of that city. They appoint a sergeant-at-arms.

The city chairman and the city vice-chairman become members of the county party executive committee. The four members of the county executive committee select a chairman and a vice-chairman from amongst

themselves. The chairman and vice chairman of the county party executive committee become members of the state party executive committee.

The State Party Executive Committee will set up its rules, establish a platform, select various committee appointments, determine credentials, etc. for National and Federal parties.

The membership of each party elects a State Party Chairman at the State Party Convention.

Primary and general elections are held for each level of government. The primary election nominates candidates for city, county, and state offices for each party. General elections are held to decide the leaders of the various levels of government and are conducted according to secret ballot. All elections, except for municipal elections, use real voting machines.

As you can see, there is much activity, preparation, and planning crammed into one week at Jersey Boys' State.

LEARNING THE POLITICAL PROCESS

While attending Jersey Boys State, your introduction and instructions in the political process will be a stepped system, so that the knowledge you gain at one level is a step towards the next level of participation.

You will be taught:

- **The ABC's of politics and your responsibilities as a voter.**
- **The political units of government and their function.**
- **The branches of government and their jurisdictions.**
- **Functions of each office of city, county, and state government.**
- **Functions of political parties and their roll in the political process.**
- **Political party caucus & convention - the inner workings.**
- **Operating a functional government at all levels.**

Jersey Boys' State is about practical participation. The knowledge you gain in the political process will be transmitted into actual operation by you and your fellow Jersey Boys' Statesmen.

CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICE

As part of the Jersey Boys' State program, you are encouraged to run for a political office.

You may run for any Jersey Boys' State office, but you may only run for **1** office at each political level: 1 City office, 1 County office, and 1 State office.

WHAT OFFICE CAN I RUN FOR?

The political offices that you can run for at Jersey Boys' State -run the full gamut of offices that are to be found within the state of New Jersey governmental structure.

To become a candidate for any of the offices in the primary election, you will have to circulate a petition among your fellow delegates to obtain the number of signatures necessary to have your name placed on the ballot.

The offices of Jersey Boys' State that you can run for are:

- CITY:** Mayor
Councilman (5 in each city)
- COUNTY:** County Executive/or County Supervisor
Freeholder (5 in each county)
Sheriff
Clerk
Surrogate
Registrar
- STATE:** Governor
State Senator (3 in each county)
State Assemblyman (5 in each county)

These are the **elective** offices of Jersey Boys' State. Following the General Elections, there will be a great number of appointed offices which will be filled, so there are ample opportunities available at Jersey Boys' State for you to experience the workings of government at all levels.

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

As part of the Jersey Boys' State political experience, you will participate in your political party's convention to nominate the candidates for state office.

The party conventions at Jersey Boys' State are based on New Jersey Political Party Conventions held in some counties and will operate in the same manner and procedure as will be found at these real party conventions.

As a delegate, you have several opportunities to become active in the party convention process. You can either do so by being elected as a ward leader or you may be chosen by your State Executive Committee to serve in several positions.

Even if you do not serve in any of the capacities listed, you can still be an active worker in the political process by working for your political party and its slate of candidates to promote your party among the Boys' Staters prior to the time that they will go to the polls for the general election.

The value of the party conventions at Jersey Boys' State, just as with the rest of the program, is that all the preparation, organization, and participation is done by the delegates themselves.

The Jersey Boys' State staff will work with you to instruct and guide you, but the actual work will be done by each delegate.

STATE PARTY CHAIRMAN

One of the most influential members of a Boys' State political party and the one individual who can influence the success or failure of his party at the Boys' State polls is the STATE PARTY CHAIRMAN. As such, he can not be a candidate for governor.

The State Chairman has to concern himself with organizing the voters of his party into an effective voting body, working with the other members of the State Executive Committee in trying to find and develop what they believe to be strong candidates for the elective offices of Boys' State, and also trying to convince the voters of the other Boys' State political party to vote for his party's candidates.

The State Party Chairman will preside at all meetings of the State Executive Committee, as well as any committee caucuses or other party meetings.

The State Party Chairman at Jersey Boys' State will serve as his party's gubernatorial candidate's campaign chairman. As such, he cannot be a candidate for governor, but can run for Boy's nation senator.

BOYS' STATE GOVERNOR

The highlight of the week at Boys' State is the election of the American Legion Boys' State Governor. Elected by his peers, the Governor is the highest elected position at ALJBS and besides signing bills passed by the ALJBS legislature and making appointments, serves as an ambassador for ALJBS during the year he is elected.

Every delegate selected to ALJBS has an opportunity to run for Governor. One of the most exciting activities at Boys' State is when those who want to run for Governor literally run around Boys State seeking delegates who are members of their party to sign their petition in an attempt to be considered one of their party's nominees for Governor. Those that get enough Signatures (typically 6-10 delegates from each party) then move onto each of their party's primary. The members of each of the political party's select a nominee to represent their party in the race for Governor. After the campaign and a spirited debate between the two nominees, the delegates then vote for the candidate that they want to represent them as Governor.

BOYS' NATION SENATOR

The week's political activities end with the election of ALJBS's two Boys Nation representatives. These two Senators, elected by their peers, represent New Jersey at the American Legion Boys' Nation Conference held annually in Washington, D.C.

The process is very similar to the gubernatorial election. Each party selects their two nominees in a primary election. Then the two nominees from each party run against each other in the general election. The top two vote getters represent New Jersey at Boys Nation. The two runner-ups are the alternates should one of those elected be unable to attend.

At Boys Nation, the senators will have the opportunity to write and pass legislation, elect a President and Vice President, meet with national leaders (maybe even the President!), and visit landmarks in our nation's capital.

JERSEY BOYS' STATE STAFF

The staff of Jersey Boys' State is comprised of approximately 90 highly motivated and qualified individuals who work with one goal in mind: to make your week at Jersey Boys' State one of the most rewarding, educational, and worthwhile weeks of your life; one which you will remember for many years to come, and one which, in some small way, may assist you as you pursue your career goals.

The staff of Jersey Boys' State is drawn from select members of New Jersey's educational community, the New Jersey State Police, the New Jersey General Assembly, the United States military services, professional career fields, former Boys' State Delegates and The American Legion State Headquarters Staff.

Reflective of the value of the Jersey Boys' State program is the fact that many of the Jersey Boys' State staff members you will meet during the week are former Jersey Boys' State delegates themselves, who volunteer one week during the summer to the Jersey Boys' State program, taking time from their own careers and vacations to do so.

The staff of Jersey Boys' State is always available to assist you and you should never hesitate to come to any member of the Jersey Boys' State staff should a question or problem arise.

The Jersey Boys' State staff offices will be found in the Student Center.

JERSEY BOYS' STATE BAND

An integral part of the Jersey Boys' State program each year is the formation and performance of the JERSEY BOYS' STATE BAND.

The Jersey Boys' State Band will consist of approximately 100 Boys' State delegates who indicated on their delegate/alternate application form that they desired to play in the Jersey Boys' State Band.

The Jersey Boys' State Band is under the direction of Mr. Michael Kallimanis. The band is one other aspect of Jersey Boys' State which lends itself to the enthusiasm and atmosphere which is Jersey Boys' State.

The Jersey Boys' State Band practices daily and has concerts during the week of Jersey Boys' State. The Friday performance of the Jersey Boys' State Band is an especially important and moving part of the annual Family Day and closing ceremonies held in view of visiting parents, guests, American Legion officials and other distinguished visitors to Jersey Boys' State.

If you indicated on your delegate/alternate application form that you wished to play in the Boys' State Band, please be advised that you are encouraged to bring your own instrument (including percussion instruments), as there are only a limited number of instruments available through the assistance of the Lawrence Township School music department. Sheet music will be provided.

As a member of the Jersey Boys' State Band you will be able to participate in all other aspects of the Jersey Boys' State program in addition to your participation in the band.

BOYS STATE GENERAL INFORMATION

HOUSING

As a Delegate to Jersey Boys' State, you will be housed in one of the residence halls on the campus of Rider University.

The residence hall you will reside in and your room number will be given to you at the time you register on Sunday. You will have a roommate.

You must bring your own bedding, blanket, pillow and sheets which items **are not** provided by Rider University.

WHAT TO BRING

Bedding (blanket, pillow and sheets), towels, washcloths, shaving kit and toilet articles, sports clothes, swimming trunks, and any color pants (long). During the week, all participants wear specially designed sport shirts. One is provided at registration free of charge and others may be purchased during the week. Because of this, it is not necessary to bring a lot of clothing to Boys' State. You will wear the Boys' State shirts and slacks at all times except during the athletic/recreation periods, when shorts and sneakers or gym shoes may be worn. In addition to the foregoing, a comfortable pair of shoes, gym shorts and a raincoat or poncho and several pairs of socks are a must. You should also bring a small fan, small lamp for reading and personal sports equipment. DO NOT BRING ANY LARGE RADIOS OR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.

There is little need for large sums of money during the week and little time to spend it. \$50.00 should be the maximum amount. Souvenirs may be bought at the Boys' State College Book Store. Anything above \$5.00 should be deposited in the bank on Sunday. You will be given a bankcard and you may withdraw, during the afternoon banking hours, anytime after Sunday against this deposit.

PERSONAL AUTOS

It is acceptable for you to drive to Jersey Boys' State unless your County provides buses. However, once you arrive at Boys' State, and have registered, you **must** park your car and will not be allowed to drive it again until your departure. Upon your registration at Boys' State, you will be directed to a designated delegate parking area. After parking your car, you **will be** required to turn your keys in to your Counselor, who will hold them until the end of Boys' State. The parking lot is patrolled by campus security police.

MEDICAL CARE

Jersey Boys' State has its own first aid staff. Should you need any kind of medical attention, please inform your counselor. Should an emergency arise, your counselor is well briefed on procedures to follow to get you immediate aid.

DINING

While at Jersey Boys' State, your meals are provided at no cost to you. The meal cost is paid by your sponsoring American Legion Post or outside sponsor.

You will eat in the dining area at the assigned time for your Jersey Boys' State City.

You will eat with the other members of your Jersey Boys' State City.

ATHLETICS

Supervised athletics are scheduled daily, including swimming. Other sports include: softball, soccer, tennis, touch football, basketball, volleyball and water polo. **Participation in these events or use of athletic facilities is at the discretion of each Jersey Boys' State delegate.** Limited sports equipment is available thru the Program. You should bring your own.

MOVING AS A CITY

Whenever it is necessary to move all the young men who will be attending Jersey Boys' State as a group on the Rider University campus, a line formation divided by Jersey Boys' State Cities will be utilized. This is more a logistical reason than any other. Marching is not required but is left to the discretion of each city.

VIDEO YEARBOOK

Each year, Jersey Boys' State provides a video yearbook chronicling this years Boys' State session. The yearbook will be available for sale during the week for a nominal charge and will be shipped after the session is completed. The yearbook makes an excellent memento of your stay at Jersey Boys' State.

INSURANCE

You are protected by The American Legion with a group medical policy. Should a need arise for insurance coverage, full details will be provided you and your parent or guardian by Jersey Boys' State. This policy is excess coverage to your family health insurance policy.

JERSEY BOYS' STATE REGISTRATION

Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. and ends at 9:30 A.M. on Sunday (Father's Day).

Upon your arrival on the campus of Rider University by entering the main gate at the traffic light, proceed directly to the Student Recreation Center. Boys State staff will be on hand to direct you.

You will see a banner over the Gym entrance which says "American Legion Jersey Boys' State."

As you enter the Student Recreation Center, you will be pointed to our First Aid staff at two tables. They will review your medical form and discuss it with you. **If you do not have this form properly completed, you will not be allowed to register.**

Upon entering the Student Recreation Center, you will see the Alternate table. For those of you who are alternates, go directly to this table for further instructions. If you are a regular delegate, proceed to the tables set up on the right hand side. Locate your table by looking for the card that shows the first letters of your last name. Present to the person sitting behind the table your "permit to register" card. They will then give you a green card which will have your dormitory, room, and political party assignment.

Proceed toward the front of the Student Recreation Center where you will be given one Boys' State shirt. We recommend that you buy an additional shirt at this time. Others can be purchased during the week. Buy your shirt before you proceed to the center of the Student Recreation to get your free shirt.

After getting your shirt(s), proceed to your left to deposit your money into our bank. You can withdraw your money during the week as long as you have your bank card. You will be given a bankcard when you deposit your money.

Return to the rear of the Student Recreation Center and if you play a musical instrument, you can join our band. Before you leave the Student Reception Center, you will be given a map of the dormitories to help you locate the dormitory where you have been assigned.

When you arrive at your dormitory, you will be greeted by your counselors who will take your green card and get you started.

FAMILY DAY

On the final day of the program prior to Graduation, ALJBS in conjunction with the New Jersey Boys State Foundation, hosts Family Day. This is a fun day and we invite all family and friends to attend.

Family Day starts at approximately 11:00 AM and consists of a picnic (tickets available on Registration Day and are also available throughout the week in the Boys State Store), an opportunity to meet your son's counselors and fellow delegates and a chance to hear the Boys State Band. Immediately following the picnic, you are invited to watch our Graduation Ceremony which begins at approximately 1:30 PM.

Immediately after Graduation, delegates are to return to their city to receive their pin, diploma and yearbook. Delegates are not free to leave the program until after they receive their pin, diploma and yearbook.

BOYS' NATION

Two Outstanding Citizens of Jersey Boys' State are elected as US Senators and awarded a trip to Washington, D.C. to represent New Jersey in the week long American Legion Boys' Nation program, which draws together Boys State representatives from 49 States and the District of Columbia to experience and learn the workings of Government at a national level.

Delegates to Boys' Nation will meet with top Legislators from both Houses of Congress, administration officials, and may have an opportunity to meet the President of the United States.

Boys' Nation delegates will also tour many historic sites in Washington and participate in the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Boys' Nation follows the national political process and culminates its program with the election of the President of Boys' Nation.

The American Legion Boys' Nation program is conducted at Marymount College, Arlington, Virginia.

"Will anybody deny now that the Government in Washington, as regards its own people, is the strongest Government in the world at this hour? And for this simple reason: that it is based on the will, and the good will of an instructed people."

John Bright



PLEASE NOTE:

Early release will be made only in an emergency - accident or illness. Requests to leave early for other reasons will not be considered. Boys' State pin, diploma and yearbook will be given out only at the last Session. **Therefore, it is assumed that all boys who are accepted and report for Jersey Boys' State, and have signed the back of the "Permit to Register" card, along with their parents, understand that they will not be permitted to leave Boys' State before the end of the program on Friday.**

Families, members of sponsoring groups and school administrators will be welcome on Friday afternoon at 1:30 pm for the band concert and the final general assembly in the student recreation center. This assembly will officially close American Legion Jersey Boys' State and will end at approximately 4:30 pm.

THE REGISTRATION CARD WHICH WILL BE SENT TO YOU MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED OUT AND PRESENTED AT THE REGISTRATION DESK ON SUNDAY, ALONG WITH YOUR MEDICAL PERMIT FORM PROPERLY FILLED OUT. YOU WILL NOT BE ADMITTED WITHOUT THEM.

BOYS' STATE ADDRESS

Your Post Office address will be:

American Legion Jersey Boys' State Headquarters
Rider University
2083 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648
+ your name, your city name and room number

Phone (609) 896-5000
(609) 896-5029 (Rider Security)
www.aljbs.org

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I Believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

"I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.



