



5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG

(207) 873-3229

Dear DIRIGO STATE Delegate:

Congratulations on being selected as a delegate to The American Legion Family DIRIGO STATE program. DIRIGO STATE is a program designed to provide experiential instruction in the principles of state government. You will spend a week participating in the same political and governmental process as citizens and public officials of the State of Maine.

You will establish political parties, run, and lobby for positions and create a model government including town and county governments, a Governor and Governor's cabinet, a Senate and House of Representatives, and a Supreme Court. The function of this model government is to provide a forum for the discussion and debate of **your** ideas. This is an experiential learning program, and you will be encouraged to ask questions, speak your mind, and **participate**.

Running for elective office is one of the major ways to participate at DIRIGO STATE. Politics is an inseparable part of our government, and you should plan on running for some office. You can be elected Moderator of your town meeting, County Commissioner, State House of Representatives or even Governor of the State of Dirigo. Running for office gets you involved, and involvement is the main reason for your attendance at DIRIGO STATE. Please bring ideas that you would like to see enacted in the state of Dirigo.

Our staff will help guide you at DIRIGO STATE and many public officials provide keynote sessions about their direct experience in political office to set the framework of the State of Dirigo, however it is up to **you** to craft and mold Dirigo.

If you come to DIRIGO STATE with an enthusiastic attitude and a readiness to learn, we know you will have the same exciting experience that thousands of students have had before you. You will make new friends and you will get an inside look at how our state is governed. You will certainly find that both in Dirigo and in Maine, you can make a difference.

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- **DIRIGO STATE-** The original program was Boys State, it was started by two American Legion members in 1935 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The program is held in every state but Hawaii. Maine, during a pandemic, merged The American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State program in 2020. There are only a few states that merged the programs, in Maine it became DIRIGO STATE.

DIRIGO STATE has become the most respected and selective educational program of government instruction for U.S. high school students.

DELEGATE INFORMATION

The American Legion Family DIRIGO STATE Program

What Delegates should know about DIRIGO STATE:

- ✦ DIRIGO STATE will be held at Colby College
 - 4000 Mayflower Hill Dr., Waterville, ME. visit www.Colby.edu for directions.
 - ✦ CHECK-IN will begin at 12:00 p.m. Sunday, June 18, 2023. There will be signs directing you to the building. You will be assigned to rooms when you register.
 - ✦ DURATION will begin at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 18 and ends immediately after graduation on Thursday, June 22.
 - ✦ GRADUATION will start promptly 3:00 p.m. Thursday in the Event tent at Colby College. Parents are invited, no RSVP needed.
 - ✦ MEALS at DIRIGO STATE will begin with dinner on Sunday, June 18. No meals will be served to registrants at noon on Sunday. The last meal will be lunch on Thursday, June 22.
 - ✦ CARS ON CAMPUS during the week of DIRIGO STATE are not allowed. Please have parents or some other member of your family, or a friend, drive you. **Delegates who do bring automobiles to DIRIGO STATE will be required to leave the keys with the DIRIGO STATE office.**
 - ✦ ATTENDANCE for all delegates is to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the program. Due to the intensity of the program, late arrivals, early departures, and any request for a delegate to be released temporarily and returning on the same day will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the DIRIGO STATE Director and will be supported by the parent (s) of the delegate.
 - ✦ CANCELLATION for any reason, of your attendance to DIRIGO STATE, should be sent immediately to your school principal or guidance counselor and DIRIGO STATE so that a replacement can be made.
 - ✦ CERTIFICATES for citizens completing the course, including recognition from Maine's Secretary of State.
 - ✦ SCHOLARSHIPS for two individuals, based on their performance during the program, each receive \$500. These scholarships will only be presented to delegates accepted and enrolled at an accredited college or university or post high school vocational school following their graduation from high school. Additional scholarships from the Alumni Association will be offered year to year depending upon funding.
 - ✦ SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP is a \$1250 scholarship, presented by Samsung. Please see the Samsung Scholarship page in your acceptance packet.
 - ✦ BOYS AND GIRLS NATION is the national event, where they will learn about the functioning of our federal government. Two male and two female delegates in attendance are selected, based on their performance, and sent at Legion Family expense, to Boys and Girls Nation in Washington, D.C.
 - ✦ RECOGNITION for individual participation will be awarded during graduation with the most prestigious being the best citizen of DIRIGO. 1 male and 1 female will be chosen as the best citizen and those delegates will automatically be invited to join the DIRIGO STATE staff.
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Many American Legion Posts and American Legion Units across Maine have fundraised year round to make this program a success. Unfortunately there are no refunds due to the reservation process. Make every effort to attend.

DELEGATE INFORMATION
The American Legion Family DIRIGO STATE Program

What Delegates should bring to DIRIGO STATE:

- ❖ **BEDDING ARTICLES** such as two blankets or sleeping bag, sheets, pillow, and pillowcase.
- ❖ **BATHROOM ARTICLES** including enough towels for the week, all identified as yours, shower shoes, (flip flops recommended), usual toiletry articles, including soap, shampoos, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.
- ❖ **APPROPRIATE CLOTHING** for a week including shirts, at least 1 set of slacks/dresses/business attire (not jeans—for general assemblies and social events), casual pants or jeans for other activities, shorts, sweater or jacket, athletic wear, underwear, socks. It is recommended that you bring more than one pair of shoes and that they be comfortable for walking.
- ❖ **OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS** such as fan, watch, alarm clock, calculator, notebook/paper, pencils/pens.
- ❖ **MONEY** for snacks. DIRIGO STATE operates a canteen in the evenings, serving pizza, drinks, and other snacks for delegates to purchase. All proceeds return directly to the program.
- ❖ **CELL PHONE** use will not be allowed during scheduled activities.
- ❖ **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** such as team sport events, a dance team, band, and chorus. If you wish to participate in any of those activities, please bring appropriate clothes. Board games, pool, ping pong, quiz bowl, and open green spaces are also available during recreation periods.
- ❖ **COMPUTERS** on campus and internet access is not available. Delegates are welcome to bring laptops but will not have internet access.
- ❖ **ART SUPPLIES** and **CAMPAIGN MATERIAL** such as markers, colored pencils, sketch pads, poster paper, poster board, etc. Delegates are encouraged to bring art supplies for campaigning.
- ❖ **LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS** are encouraged to be written and brought to the program. LD's will be collected and reviewed and may become part of the legislative agenda you will debate.

Any questions or concerns, call Jason at 522-5471 or 692-7389.

The American Legion Family is excited to see you and happy you get to experience this once in a lifetime opportunity.

DELEGATE CHECK-IN

The American Legion Family DIRIGO STATE Program

- Check-in
 - **Sunday 6/18 starting at 12:00pm and until 2:00pm**
 - *If you will be late, please contact DIRIGO State (207) 692-7389*
 - **From 95 North**
 - Use exit 127, Kennedy Memorial Dr. Waterville (ME-137E)
 - Turn right onto Kennedy Memorial Dr. (ME-137)
 - Turn left onto Washington St.
 - Turn left into the Hillside Parking Lot at Colby College
 - **From 95 South**
 - Use exit 127, Kennedy Memorial Dr. Waterville (ME-137E)
 - Turn left onto Kennedy Memorial Dr. (ME-137)
 - Turn left onto Washington St.
 - Turn left into the Hillside Parking Lot at Colby College
 - **PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE TO STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE**
 - Students will follow the lower path to the AMS building to check-in.
 - Students will receive their dormitory assignment during check-in.
- Graduation
 - **Graduation is Thursday 6/22 starting at 3:00pm**
 - Graduation will be held in the event tent on Colby Green between the Diamond and Davis Buildings on Mayflower Hill Dr.
 - Please, park where you registered and follow the students to the graduation area.
 - Family and friends are welcome to attend.

