



March 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends:

It is with great sadness and disappointment that I write to inform you that, based on the recommendation of the staff, the Department of VT Executive Committee voted to cancel the Green Mountain Boys' State Program for 2020. This decision was based on the current national and state-wide effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Boys' Nation, the Samsung Scholarship program and all other youth programs held at the national level in July and August have been cancelled for 2020. Vermont becomes the 12th state program to cancel Boys' State this year, with surely with more to come.

While we hope things will improve soon, the health, safety and security of our delegates, staff, and many volunteers remains our primary consideration. With schools physically closed, and Vermont educators working diligently to put distance learning opportunities in place, it seemed unfair to ask them to continue with the nomination and selection process. Legion Posts are closed and recruiting and fund-raising activities are suspended. No Posts, no recruitment and/or financial support for delegates.

Moving Forward: Schools and Posts are encouraged to send 2020 applications to me without a delegate fee. GMBS intends to recognize these outstanding young men who would have been the backbone of our program this year with a letter and certificate to recognize their nomination. High schools are asked to acknowledge these delegates by adding this distinction to their high school transcripts.

I allowed myself to be disappointed and sad yesterday. Today, I'm working to inform and involve all involved parties, and on Monday, I'll start working on GMBS 2021: June 20 - 25 at Northern Vermont University - Lyndon. Please pencil in the dates.

Please feel free to reply or call with questions, concerns, or (my favorite) frustrations. Thank you. Please be safe and take care of you and yours!

For God and Country,

Dave

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