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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOYS STATE SPEAKERS SET

CHARLESTON, IL.--Gov. Jim Edgar is among the dignitaries who will address the 57th annual session of the American Legion Premier Boys State which begins Saturday on the Eastern Illinois University campus.

Edgar will speak at Boys State at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 11, in Lantz Gymnasium. Attorney General Roland Burris will talk at 8 p.m. Monday, June 8, also in Lantz.

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BOYS STATE

Tom Johnson of Rockford, president of the Boys State Board of Directors, said a record number of Illinois high school boys will attend Premier Boys State, with participants numbering 1,000.

"Those selected to attend Boys State are outstanding student leaders who are picked by their instructors and administrators to represent their high schools and communities," Johnson said.

Premier Boys State, which has been held on the Eastern campus for more than a decade, may be regarded as a mythical 51st state, with the citizens performing the function of actual electors and office holders. Educational seminars on the functions of government and hands-on activities are part of the program.

At the end of the week, awards are given for various achievements and graduates become eligible for college scholarships. Two delegates to Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., are also selected.