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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "06/05/1991 - Boys State Speakers Set" (1991). *Press Releases*. 1570.

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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91-249

June 5, 1991

FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOYS STATE SPEAKERS SET

CHARLESTON, IL.--Gov. Jim Edgar is among the dignitaries who will address the 56th annual session of the American Legion Premier Boys State which opens this Sunday and continues through Thursday on the Eastern Illinois University campus.

Edgar will speak to the Boys State delegation at 8 p.m. Thursday at Lantz Gymnasium.

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BOYS STATE

Other officials who will address Boys State during the week are Secretary of State George Ryan at 8 p.m. Saturday and Attorney General Roland Burris at 8 p.m. Monday, both in Lantz Gymnasium.

As many as 1,000 Illinois high school boys are expected to attend Premier Boys State, held at Eastern for more than a decade.

Premier Boys State may be regarded as a mythical 51st state, with the citizens performing the function of actual electors and office holders.

"The boys spend the week learning about the functions of government through hands-on activities and educational seminars," said Tom Johnson of Rockford, president of the Boys State Board of Directors.

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