

Historical Marker - S618C - Wolverine Boys' State: The American Legion / Wolverine Girls' State: American Legion Auxiliary (Marker ID#:S618C)



Front - Title/Description

Wolverine Boys' State: The American Legion

On November 28, 1937, the board of directors of The American Legion established Wolverine Boys' State. American Legion departments in other states, including Ohio and Indiana, had existing programs. The American Legion sought to teach citizenship and leadership to boys by training them in the fundamental principles of American government. Individual legion posts sponsored local boys who were "mentally alert, vigorous and enthusiastic and honest and thrifty." The first Boys' State was held at Michigan State College (present-day Michigan State University) in East Lansing. Posts sent eight hundred boys at a cost of \$12.50 each for the ten-day event. In 1946 Boys' Nation was organized.

Significant Date:

Two World Wars and the Depression (1915-1945)

Registry Year: 1990 **Erected Date:** 1990

Marker Location

Address: 212 North Verlinden

City: Lansing

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Ingham

Township: Lansing

Lat: 42.73492400 / **Long:** -84.57714700

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

Wolverine Girls' State: American Legion Auxiliary

In 1941 the women of the American Legion Auxiliary established Wolverine Girls' State. The organization's original purpose was "to find and develop girls who show inherent tendencies toward leadership." The first Girls' State meeting was held in June 1941 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The eight-day program included sessions on entertaining, etiquette, drama, nursing, art and music appreciation, and citizenship. In 1952, to accommodate women's changing roles, the auxiliary shifted the organization's focus to inform girls about "the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship and self-government." Girls' Nation was established in 1947.