



THE American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staters Union

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photo by Scott Johnson

Rex Gardner, advisor and mentor, welcomes staters to Boys State and tells them about the registration process.

Andrew O'Malley
Staff Writer

New beginnings An intro to State

Counselors, coordinators and advisors come in for a close huddle to prepare for registration and get motivated for another great year of state.



photo by Scott Johnson

Today, as high school students from around the state of Kansas gathered here in Manhattan a new chapter in life began. A thousand feelings ran through the minds of Staters as they surrounded Rex Gardner for their first, of many, introductions to Kansas Boys State. For many, their first thought was "What have I gotten myself into?" Some came prepared: packing guitars, mandolins or their own voices to display their talents. Some arrived still indecisive, not even sure on what office to run for.

The majority, however, found that their trepidations were unfounded. Boys State has presented an opportunity to enrich them in almost every way. Surrounding each Stater are hundreds of others with a great diversity of ideals; each expected to express themselves before the week is through. One would expect a significant amount of animosity to dwell at Boys' State, where conservative meets liberal and moderate meets radical, yet, an unexpected easiness rests in each Stater. Dozens of new personalities thrust upon them at once have created a fresh and friendly atmosphere.

As the week's events commence, there is sure to be a great sense of adventure while the government is organized. Some will tackle the serious issues headlong and some will ride along for a more relaxed ride, but all are sure to find themselves quickly absorbed into the motions of the simulation. However, it's easy to see that by the end of this single week-- regardless of how short seven days seems-- lives will be changed. Buckle up.

Energy & Information

Motivational speaker, Dustin Galyon, and Thane Chastain, Director of Marketing, provide information and motivation for staters.

Dustin Rhoads
Staff Writer

After seeing an official police color guard post the flags, most Staters were probably expecting a long droning speech about responsibility, stories about when the staff were in Boys State and a list of rules and regulations to lull them to sleep.

When Dustin Galyon ran up on the stage, he was the alarm clock the assembly needed to "get up," both literally and figuratively. He forced the whole auditorium to rise and engage in a rapid, loud and entertaining routine, setting the stage for the motivational speech of a lifetime. He told everyone three true stories that let him see what life was really about and how three simple lessons from other people can empower anyone to change the world.

First, Galyon talked about getting into the basketball program at a Virginia college, and his two requirements: working hard every day and mandatory volunteer time with the Special Olympics on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He wasn't expecting to learn much from the latter, but one snowy night he discovered something that made him the success story he is today. After a one-on-one practice, Galyon's partner Ralph asked him if he was busy. He replied that he was, indeed, very busy. Unintentionally he returned the question to Ralph. Ralph blew him away with his response. Ralph himself was busy. Busy changing the world, that is. That led to the first life lesson: believe you can change the

world every day and do it.

Galyon quickly jumped into a second story about a tale of two sisters. One was well off and the other, not so much. The poorer was offered to clean the rich sister's house. Eager for the extra money, the sister accepted the offer. After doing an impeccable job on the rest of the house, the poor sister stumbled upon the one area she hadn't cleaned yet: the several thousand dollar vase collection.

Even though she was careful, she accidentally dropped a vase or two. Fearing her sister's wrath, she hid the remains of the vases and played sick until next Thursday. She then walked straight to the crime scene only to find a beautiful mosaic where the vases had been. Her sister then told her that she found the broken vase and instead of making a mess, she

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photo by Scott Johnson



photo by Scott Johnson

Above:
Dustin Galyon, motivational speaker, gets the crowd pumped up before his speech.

Alex Wise, county counselor, speaks to his country before the presentations start.

MEET THE PRESS The Staters Union 2009



Ben Hundley is a hopeful Oklahoma Sooner and loves all athletics. Look out for Pershing County Athletics.

Schmitt, Pershing



Tyler Downs is a die-hard Texas Longhorns fan (Hook 'Em Horns!). His favorite band is 3OH!3. Go MacArthur!

Johnson, MacArthur



Derek Symes is a direct descendant of a stater. He enjoys tennis. City of Klassen, Marshall County. We are Marshall.

Klassen, Marshall



Rob Williams is probably the only libertarian atheist attending Boys State. He attends Shawnee Mission South.

Newman, Patton



Samuel Cott, Design Editor, currently attends Rock Creek High School and is very active in both debate and forensics.

Alyward, Bradley



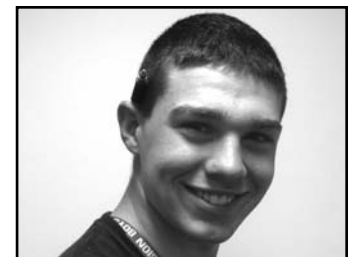
Morgan W. Wilson does many things and one of them is not journalism, although he hopes to learn.

Sullivan, Seitz



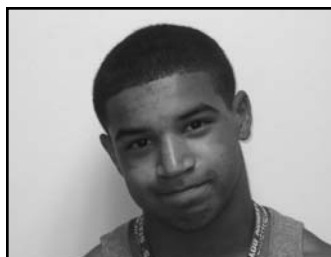
Evan Ogborn goes to Wichita Northwest High School and enjoys playing Pokemon Yellow, go King!

Harris, King



Interior Crocodile Alligator, I drive a Chevrolet movie theatre. Oh and I'm awesome. -Dustin Rhoads

Finley, Kennedy



Tevin Pratt, Advertisements, addicted to football and having a good time, and that's that.

Schulz, Powell



Andrew O'Malley, writer, attends Colgan High School. He is active in photography and drama, and is yearbook

Crum, Eisenhower



THE NEWSPAPER

All stories pertaining to Boys' State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorial license may have been used to report the 'facts' of such stories.

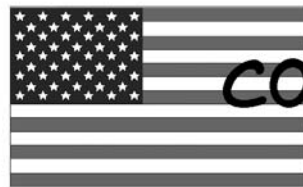
Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed to be considered for publication. All letters will be edited for space, grammar and legality. Letters should be taken to the Stater's Union office.

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From Energy page 2

made a beautiful piece of art. This was the second life lesson.

Lastly, Galyon mentioned Sarah, a friend of his, and her moment of truth in Africa. As a nurse in a country with heavy civil strife, she came across a small child that was on the verge of death, and in desperate need of a doctor. She ran into the night across the bridge that led into the richer side of the nation that contained the resources to help the child. However, the other side had other plans. As Sarah crossed the bridge, flood lights blinded her and several men stopped her and told her to stop and turn around. However, Sarah stuck to her foundations and moved forward. As Galyon said, there will be a 'Moment of Truth' that everyone must

face, and you must hold onto your foundations to make it through.

After this energetic speech, Thane Chastain boarded the stage with a less energetic but just as informative speech. With a large and detailed PowerPoint he answered questions such as, "What is Boys State?", "How is it set up?", "What does my ID card mean?", and many others. When Chastain was finished the anxious crowd stood for the National Anthem and the Stater color guard. All of which was followed by the rest of Boys State marching back to the Counties for the many elections to come. As for who gets elected, stay subscribed to the Staters Union for your best shot at making an informed vote.