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STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

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Staff prepares for state

Staff Report

The first Boys State originally took place in the state of Illinois in 1935. Since then, 47 other states have also started the tradition of having the brightest young men in the country gather on an annual basis.

“At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments.”

Originally started in 1937, it has always been the goal the American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy to, “provide a relevant, interactive, problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork that develops self-identity, promotes mutual respect and instills civic responsibility.”

In one week a Kansas Boys Stater can “Distinguish you in the competition for college admissions and scholarships,” “expand your leadership and problem-solving skills that will help you throughout life,” “give you a huge head start in your senior government class,” “introduce you to some of the smartest, most motivated high school juniors in Kansas,” and “establish lifelong friendships.”

All of this leads up to what Boys State truly is; “the week that will change your life.” Understand, the previous was a powerful statement, but as most people who become truly involved in the Boys’ State government simulation will agree, it truly is a week to changes your life.

This could be for any number of reasons being the friendships you make or the things you learn about people in general and about yourself.

For KBS counselors, State does not start on the first week of June, but the Friday before. Counselors start on that Friday by checking in at the front desk



STAFF PHOTO

VOLUNTEERS serving as the 2015 Boys State counselors listen to a training presentation.

and picking up blue shirts, bags, water bottles, and the famous counselor baseball cap.

This year, after counselors checked in and settled into their rooms they started with meetings with a welcome from the Executive Director, Rex Gardner, followed by an icebreaker activity, training on curriculum and safety, and became acquainted with peers on the county floors.

The 2014 Stater year officially came to a close during the Saturday evening banquet.

A candidate debate will be held Tuesday, June 02, 2015, before the general election. If you have questions for the candidates, please get them to the Media Office located in the basement of Marlatt Hall (Room 20) by 5 p.m., Monday, June 1. You can tweet us your questions as well at @KSBSMedia or via email at ksbsmedia@gmail.com.

The Staters Union is a designated forum of free speech. The print edition is published every day of Boys State by the Staters Union Staff. It is distributed for no charge throughout Kansas Boys State. 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 and the writer’s county indicated to be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing for length, legal, grammatical and factual reasons. Letters should be taken to the Staters Union office in the basement of Marlatt Hall (Room 20). To contact the Staters Union, please email us at ksbsmedia@gmail.com.

Welcome to KS Boys State

Make the most of this opportunity

By **REX GARDNER**
Executive Director

First and foremost, welcome! Thank you for choosing to become a Boys Stater.

Nearly a year ago, the staff of The American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy started the process of preparing for your arrival.

Not a single month in the last year has gone by without a meeting or conference call.

Two days ago, the majority of Counselors and Advisors arrived with great anticipation for the 78th session of Kansas Boys State.

Parents, teachers, High School Counselors, Legion Posts, individuals and other groups, including the incredible staff of our host, Kansas State University, have spent countless hours preparing for this week.

All of this work has been for you, the Staters of 2015!

In just a few short days, the work, the failures, the successes, the friendships, the memories you have lived will be written in Boys State history, a history that in Kansas, dates back to 1937.

The story of 2015 is now yours to write! All that you have learned, all that you have done, all that others have done for you has brought you to this place, at this time.

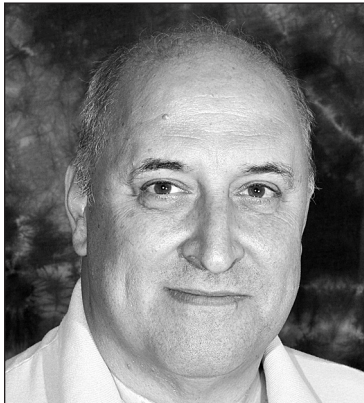
In front of you are opportunities, challenges and experiences that you may never have encountered in your life.

You have the complete confidence and support of everyone who has helped you to become a Boys Stater.

This is your one chance.

This is your time.

Vow to yourself that you will make the most of this chance, that you will leave after Closing Ceremonies knowing that you have just experienced the week that changed your life!



Construction around campus

Staff Report

Currently Kansas State University is in the process of renovating and building all over campus.

This construction will be ongoing during the week of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. The staff asks that Staters use their best judgment when traveling in between operations during their week.

Areas under construction and renovation include the K-State Student Union, Seaton Hall, Bill Snyder Family Stadium, Memorial Stadium Welcome Center, Seventeenth Street, the K-State Office park, the engineering complex, and the Kramer complex.

The most notable construction project Staters should watch out for is in front of the Kramer complex.

Here K-State is building a new \$70 million residences hall. In regards to the construction, Marcus McNeal, Curriculum Coordinator, stated, "It

is an exciting time to be on K-State's campus during this time of growth, it does however create challenges for the program that we will undoubtedly overcome." Marcus advised Staff and Staters to, "Stay away from areas of construction."

Jared Meitler, K-State Liaison, explained, "Construction started right after Boys State left last year. They've really kept us in mind the entire time. A lot of what they're doing right now is keeping us in mind. For instance, they've altered their schedules in the engineering complex so that the house and senate will be able to use the area."

The construction is part of the university wide goal of becoming a top 50 public research institution by the year 2025. Todd Vogts, Media Coordinator, stated, "The steps K-State is taking to modify the campus are going to pay off in the future. It's a great relationship we have with them."



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