

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 KSBS 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 2016 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, Jake Ellis, followed by an icebreaker activity, training on curriculum and safety, and became acquainted with peers on the county floors.

The 2015 Stater year officially came to a close during the Saturday evening banquet.

A candidate debate will be held Tuesday, June 07, 2016, 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 **JAKE ELLIS**
Executive Director

Thank you for taking the time to invest in yourself and attend the American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy. Boys State provides the opportunity for young men from across Kansas to be put into a new environment that facilitates learning, self-discovery and shared experiences.

During your time at Boys State I hope that you are able to learn more about yourself. During the week we use state government as the vehicle to teach leadership principles that will help you as you head into your last year of high school.

This week will be full of opportunities, but no one is going to tell you which ones to take and what to do with these opportunities. It is up to you to decide what you want to make of your time here.

Boys State provides a safe environment for you to step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself. Think about your personal tendencies, if you're often the first to speak up, see what happens when you let others talk. If you sit back, see what it is like to lean in and immerse



yourself. The results may surprise you.
This week is yours, do what you want with it. My challenge is at the end of the week, make sure that you have no regrets. If you want to run for governor, do it! If you want to try out for the talent show, do it! If you want to be in the color guard, do it! No one is going to tell you “no”, or that you cannot do something.
Let's have a great week!

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, the K-State Office park, the Kramer complex, and more.

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, Coordinators advise Staff and Staters to stay away from areas of construction.

The construction crews want Boys State to proceed without issue. They will be doing their best to facilitate Stater safety. The construction is part of the uni-



versity wide goal of becoming a top 50 public research institution by the year 2025.
Todd Vogts, Program 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.”

Want more news?

Follow the QR code to the Kansas Boys State Media website where articles and updates will be posted all week long.



Interested in Journalism or Reporting?
Run as your county's delegate for the Media Corps tonight!
Only two from each county will be elected. Good luck!