

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

BOYS STATE  
OF KANSAS

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# STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT  
Changed  
MY LIFE

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## WELCOME TO BOYS STATE

BY LOGAN GIDEON  
Media Coordinator

**T**his session of Kansas Boys State marks the 81st year of the program.

The first session took place in 1937 on the Wichita State University campus. Due to World War II, Kansas Boys State was not held in 1945.

Other locations that have hosted the program include Wichita North High, Wichita West High, and the University of Kansas. Since 1991 the program has been hosted on the campus of Kansas State University -- this is the 26th year at the location.

Each summer young men from all over the state attend our program. Our mission is to provide a relevant, interactive, problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork that develops self identity, promotes mutual respect and instills civic responsibility.

No two years are the same; every year Kansas Boys State changes to remain relevant. Our program is unique in how it uses an interactive simulation to facilitate our mission. This simulation allows delegates to choose which issues they want to address in their virtual community.



**KRAMER Dining Center, the newly remodeled home of State.** Staff Photo

Among other things, they can set taxes, hire police and educators, and pass bills in the legislature.

Delegates are then provided feedback about projects completed at the City, County, and State level about their performance. Also within the program we have the Media and Highway Patrol.

The Media reports on everything happening at state and hosts the state officer debate. The Highway Patrol works within the simulation to assist in enforcing laws that are created by the

legislature.

New to this year is an increased focus on city and county projects along with the use of a caucus during the election process.

With an increased focus on local government, the goal is for staters to have an immediate impact on their communities.

Boys State Alumni have become City Mayors, State Senators, College Student Body Presidents, and most importantly leaders in their community.

### KSBS Radio is now ON THE AIR



Find us on SoundCloud at /ksbstate



### VOICE OF THE STATE

BY IAN BUHMAN-WIGGS  
Media Counselor

The Kansas Boys State Radio program is live again this session, marking its second year. I sat down with Jordan Waymaster, the media counselor who helped get the program off the ground. With a simple recording studio setup his staters produced the very first KSBS radio shows.

The tradition continues this year,

and Waymaster is enthusiastic.

"I came in [this year] with a lot of gear, and about four months of work experience at a radio station", he stated. "I'm taking the knowledge I got from State and trying to put it back in to State."

When asked what his advice was for any staters considering media representative, Jordan replied, "It doesn't matter what your background is... If you want to have a great time, run for media."

*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 throughout Kansas Boys State for no charge. 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 Wefald Hall 329. To contact the Staters Union, please email us at [media@ksbstatesim.org](mailto:media@ksbstatesim.org).*

# Message From the Director

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!

# Tips for Staters

BY THANE CHASTAIN  
Director of Development

- 1 Try new things. If you usually don't speak up in groups, see what that is like. If you are usually the first to speak, count to 10 and let others get in the conversation first.
- 2 Don't view losses this week as failures. View them as ways to learn about yourself and about the people you are with.
- 3 Don't be a one-and-done guy. Keep engaging all week long in as many ways as you can.
- 4 Meet 5 new people each day. Meal times can be great for that. Look for new groups of people and for folks that might be sitting alone as someone new you could meet.
- 5 Know that everyone is nervous. We are all afraid of looking dumb or foolish. Do what you can to get past that. Just lean into the discomfort.



## 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!

The paper is also published online daily at <https://issuu.com/ksboysstate> and more articles can be found at <http://ksbstate.org/news/>



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