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STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

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Technology abounds at 2013 State *Staters to take part in text polling for all voting*

By **JOHNATHAN VOLKER**
Media Counselor

There was a time when checking text messages, organizing events, and reading emails was unacceptable at Boys State. Using a cellphone during State was completely inappropriate.

However, it is no longer a crime. Staters do not have to make poor attempts at being covert when checking their phones throughout the day. In fact, it is encouraged to take advantage of today's technology in order to enhance the efficiency of Boys State.

A great deal of thought has gone into determining what to do about cellphones and the growing ability to access the internet from one's pocket.

During the 75th session of Boys State in 2012, text polling was implemented for the first time to be used for minor decisions at State. This was the first time a Stater could use his phone in McCain Auditorium without out fear of reprimand.

The text polling was used to test the waters of this potentially dangerous direction toward modernization. Many worried if Staters had phones they would become distracted by excitement at home and disengage from Boys State.

The actual result of the text polling was increased speed in counting votes, and it also created time for Staters to make more decisions for themselves.

It gave the delegates a chance to choose.

This year, the 76th session of Kansas



Staff Photo

VOLUNTEERS serving as the 2013 Boys State counselors listen to training presentation discussing text voting in preparation of the arrival of Staters.

Boys State, will see the implementation of text polling for all voting, including simple questions such as, "What is your favorite color?" and even the election of the Boys State Governor.

The process of text polling is quite simple.

Delegates will be given a number to which they will send a text message. The text message itself will contain either a number code, name, or phrase based on the voting topic.

The message is recorded by a website, which then matches the code in the message itself to the designated answer. Each phone is registered with the website making it impossible to vote more than once, and this prevents

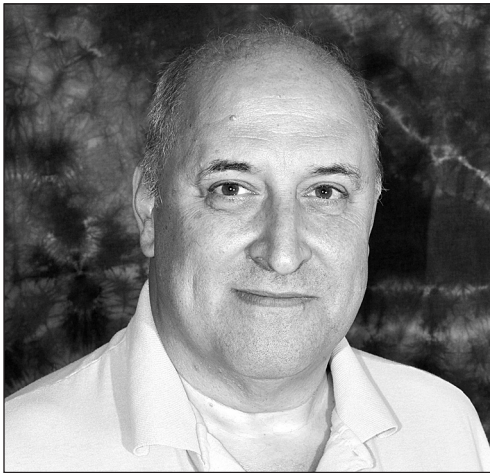
people who should not be voting, friends and family outside of state, from casting a ballot.

Staters who do not have a cellphone will be provided a paper ballot.

In the past counting votes could take hours even when using Scantron machines, but the text polling happens real-time. This means the individuals who would have counted votes in the past can now use this extra time to assist other areas of Boys State.

This is the first time this much freedom will be given to the young men of Boys State. It is important not to take advantage of this privilege by using common sense in deciding when to use one's phone and when not to use it.

Welcome to KS Boys State



By Rex Gardner
Executive Director
Rex's Records

Stater Year: 1972

Stater County: Seitz

Years with Boys State: 41

Profession: Manager

Hometown: Atchison, KS

Fondest Memory of State: I met my life-long best friend when I was a Stater. We were bestman at each other's weddings.

Make the most of this opportunity

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 76th 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 2013!

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 2013 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!

A candidate debate will be held Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 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 10. 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.

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!

Counselor turns State experience into service

By Dustin Hermesch
Media Counselor

Every year when Boys State meets dozens of counselors donate a week of their time to help run this program that targets gifted individuals across the state. These counselors are all Boys State Alumni who have taken their experiences from State and used them to take their lives to further levels than they were before. One such staff member is Rory Pugh.

Pugh was an individual whom in his younger years was extremely motivated in all aspects of his life; however, he had no direction in which to focus his motivation. Rory believes it was his experience at Boys State that helped direct him in what he wanted to do in life.

He says it was what motivated him into joining the military to serve our nation.

It also is what led him to have a strong sense of pride in and desire to be more involved in his community.

Pugh, deciding he wanted to do more to improve his hometown of Harper, thought it would be a good idea to run for an office on his city council. Not only did he



Staff Photo

RORY Pugh is the mayor of Harper. He ran for mayor after experiencing Boys State. He is the Head Marlatt Hall Counselor this year.

gain a position on his council, he became his hometown's mayor.

Pugh was recently re-elected to serve his second term, and he says he believes being a mayor and a politician in general is about something greater than the individual.

"We're here to serve others, not ourselves," he says.

Meet Your Boys State Coordinators



Adam Doyle
Program



Josh Cleek
Goodnow/Marlatt



Rick Wohlfarth
State Events



Matthew Root
Curriculum



Tag Wall
Personnel

State reaches out via social media

By **NATHAN MILLER**

Media Counselor

Eleven years ago, Assistant Director Jake Ellis wouldn't have dreamed of taking out his cell phone while he was attending Boys State.

Yet on Friday he was standing in front of a room full of the 2013 counselors and coordinators and introducing them to all of the ways that this year's Staters will be encouraged to use their cell phones to add to their experience while at State.

Early on in the week Staters will be introduced to the Twitter accounts that are dedicated to each of the 10 counties in which they find themselves.

Kevin Mechtley is an adviser who organized the program that allows Staters to tweet through these accounts.

Mechtley believes this gives delegates another opportunity take ownership of their county experiences and to interact with other counties.

This may be the first time Kansas Boys State has used social media to supplement the internal program, but Kansas Boys State has been active on Twitter, Facebook, and other services for years in order to present what happens here at State to the outside world.

"We used to call Television stations and attempt to get coverage here at State," Mechtley said.

However, he said he now finds it much easier to publish photos, videos, and updates to the world through the social media tools available.

The program directors want to be sure that Kansas Boys State has an online presence that is appealing to families following along at home as well and potential future attendees.

Delegates are encouraged to interact with the @KSBoysState, county, and @KSBSmedia accounts on Twitter.

Rex Gardner, Executive Director of Kansas Boys State, said he believes Twitter and the other outlets of communication are good for the program.

"We encourage the responsible use of social media," he said.

Main Kansas Boys State Accounts

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/ksbsfb>

Twitter: @ksboysstate

Instagram: @ksboysstate

Vine: Boys State of Kansas

Youtube: ksbstate

Flickr: ksbstate

Website: <http://ksbstate.org/>

County Twitter Accounts:

@KSBS_Bradley



Staff Photo

ASSISTANT Director Jake Ellis snaps a quick picture before tweeting it via the Kansas Boys State Twitter account, which is being used this year.

@KSBS_Eisenhower

@KSBS_Kennedy

@KSBS_King

@KSBS_MacArthur

@KSBS_Marshall

@KSBS_Patton

@KSBS_Pershing

@KSBS_Powell

@KSBS_Seitz

Boys State Media Twitter Account:

@KSBSmedia

Your Ad Could Be Here!!!

Contact the Staters Union staff for prices and details.

Marlatt Hall Basement — Room 020

Be sociable!

Connect with Boys State online!

Twitter: @ksboysstate OR #ksboysstate

Facebook: search for "American Legion Boys State of Kansas"

Website: www.ksbstate.org