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# STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT  
**Changed**  
MY LIFE

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## KS Boys State 2013 Kicks-Off *Staters introduced to new surroundings*

By Jackson Koger  
*Staters Union*

"I was super nervous; the first time we were in the assembly listening to the first speaker, Zach Wahls, I was actually shaking because I was thinking 'Wow, this is such a big experience, this is just something big-how do I take advantage of this opportunity?'" Tyler Walock of Wiles city, Sietz county said.

While some dealt with pre-camp jitters, other members of Boys State had preconceived notions altered following the conclusion of their first day.

"Before I got here I was expecting something a lot more formal and a lot more stressful than it really wound up being. It's a really laid back environment, friendly place. I am really liking that," Ray Winans of Bradley County said.

Then there was also the handful who were neither nervous or held any sort of idea of how their week in Manhattan would play out.

"I really had no expectations coming in. I had somewhat of an idea because my cousin was here before but really I had no idea coming in," Matthew Keener of Schultz city, Powell county said.

After all the Staters checked in and went through orientation, the counties marched in a handsomely organized groups to McCain auditorium where speakers Rex Gardner, Thane Chastain and Zach Wahls each talked about different subjects.

Gardner hosted the auditorium



Staff Photo

**GUEST speaker Zach Wahls  
talks to the Staters at Sunday's  
Opening Ceremonies.**

event presenting each of the two speakers.

Wahls gave all the campers advice as they embarked on their Boys' State journey and gave them advice to apply to each of their lives once they returned home. He encouraged them to not only take action once they were presented a great opportunity, he also advised that they always make sure they are prepared for opportunity arising.

"I didn't exactly agree with the guy (Wahls) who came and talked on his opinions but what he had to say about leadership and opportunities, I honestly enjoyed the whole speech quite a lot," William Miller of Powell county said

Following Wahls, Chastain spoke to the campers about the possible positions to run for and about the new text-to-vote system being used for the first time at Boys' State.

"I think it saves a lot of trees and it is a lot more eco-friendly and faster than having to go through all of the paper copies. Instead, they are able to do it electronically making it more efficient," Taner Sass of Klassen city, Marshall county.

The first day elections entailed selecting all of the city and county positions plus, governor nominations for the Federalist and Nationalist parties in each county.

"Some of the first elections were nerve-racking but I'm gaining confidence and starting to believe in myself more," Ross Purity of Johnson city, MacArthur county said.

Aspirations for many campers will drive and motivate them throughout the week towards accomplishing their goals.

"My ultimate achievement for this week would be to go to Boys' Nation but other than that it would be to get my political party to be elected as governor," Miller said.

Some hold out hope to become the Kansas Boys' State governor, to receive a Supreme Court position, be elected Treasurer, or simply for the candidate they are supporting to win out. No matter what it is, all those looking for a memorable experience have found a cause to support or a view to fight for.

Although the expectations coming into Kansas Boys' State varied as wide as the political spectrum, the resounding opinion at the end of the day was a positive one and the hopes going into the week are high.

## Sharing showers shouldn't be an issue

~ Editorial ~

By Tanner Boyle  
Staters Union

Regardless of any Staters mentality going into Boys State, one aspect of the camp caught people off guard: the communal showers and bathrooms.

Coming from all kinds of backgrounds, they have all been more or less pampered in terms of having their own toilet and own bathing facility.

"It doesn't bother me in terms of germs, but it feels like a breach of privacy. I am very used to showering by myself," Stater Hunter Hewitt said.

For most people germs is not the cause of their discomfort. Staters all seem to have their own take on why the shared facilities are a terrifying prospect.

"I am not a germaphobe, but I still would prefer not to share showers with fully naked men that I just met," elaborated Stater Evan Barnes. "It will be a very big change."

Nervousness aside, it is plain to see that there is no clear solution to these fears, other than manning up and facing the consequences.

The facilities cannot be changed and apart from total avoidance of bathing, the shower's are going to have to be used as they are. Some Staters have already come to realize this.

"I do not mind sharing the showers really," explained Stater Kit Rice. "As long as there is no sharing of blood or anything, it's not much of a bother."

Others have had previous experiences that made them grow accustomed to the situation.

"I am a Boy Scout. I got over that personal shower phase a long time ago," boasted Stater Joe Haug.

Staters could all take a lesson from Joe: become a Boy Scout and face even the most uncomfortable consequences.

It is an important part of being a leader.

## Staters need to come to terms with short meal times

~ Personal Column ~

By Jared Shelton  
Staters Union

Despite the few hours that this camp has been in session, Staters seem to already have concerns and comments about certain aspects of Boys State.

Because Boys State has only just begun, there are not too many criticisms about how it has been running; however, the majority of problems that have been circulating seem to be related to dining.

Some think that because the food is so unbelievably phenomenal, we should have more time to eat and fully appreciate it.

"During lunch, there did not seem to be enough time to eat the food we were given," said Karter Krokstrom.

Although this seems to be a relatively common concern, there may not be much the staff can do.

Due to schedulings that cannot be changed, as well as times designated for recreation (I do not think anybody would want free time cut down), there may not be enough wiggle room to use for longer lunch periods.

However, I am fairly certain that the concerns about lunch scheduling will be taken into account for planning in the years to come.

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](mailto:ksbsmedia@gmail.com).

**A candidate debate will be held Tues., 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](mailto:ksbsmedia@gmail.com).**

## Doc Radford serves county, Boys State

By Luke McGowan  
*Staters Union*

Throughout history men and women have proudly served and died for the defense and security of this country.

They have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the country that made them who they are.

But is this the only way to serve? Is the killing of an aggressor the only way to defend their nation's freedoms?

In truth, the answer is a simple no.

The healing and nurturing of United States warriors is equivalent to proudly serve one's country.

A wonderful example of this would be Boys State's own Dr. Bennett Radford, a veteran of 29 years in the United States Army, including 11 years in Active Duty Service.

Dr. Bennett has served overseas in both West Asia and Korea as an enlisted officer between 1970-1979, helping to rehabilitate soldiers who had received amputations due to wounds sustained in combat.

In 1980, entered the Army reserves and earned his master's and Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) degrees, becoming an officer in 1984 when he went to medical school.

In 1988, Bennett returned to Active Duty and would serve as a DO across the country, eventually joining the Boys' State Legion as a Medical Advisor in 1996, and would continue to serve until he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1999.

Dr. Bennett continues to this day to be a strong advocate for patriotism in the United States and notes that a Patriot does not have to be a veteran, but simply someone who recognizes the fact that people have served and sacrificed to give them the United States and are proud to call themselves Americans.

## Andrews trades in ejector seats for golf clubs

By James Stapleton  
*Staters Union*

While some people fought outside in the frontlines, some spent their time doing the repairs of the vehicles of the frontline.

Our legionnaire Larry Andrews was part of the Air Force, where he repaired jets. From 1981-2011, he was in the Technical Air Command (TAC) for two years, along with time in the Strategic Air Command (SAC).

Afterwards, he went into the Kansas Air National Guard for 22 years.

He was a System Mechanic, where he worked on and maintained the ejector seats of F-4 jets, then the F-16, and so on, so forth.

Once he began working on the B1 bombers, he was already a Shop Chief. His experiences on both jet engines

and ejector seats really do have an impact with war efforts.

Imagine this, the B1 Bombers he worked on, had 6 different seats that needed to be in top condition, for four ejected from the top, and two ejected from the bottom!

His job is to keep those said parts in top condition for whatever scenario it may come upon.

Larry Andrews and his 26 years of being a System Mechanic really do show quite the amazing efforts put into the war machines that protect our country.

After retiring from the United States Air Force, Larry now works as a substitute teacher for middle and high school students in the Wichita School District, and while not teaching, he enjoys pursuing his passion for golf.

*For more Boys State News, don't forget to  
tune in to the*

*>> **Boys State News broadcast** <<  
every day online and during assemblies at  
McCain Auditorium!*



<http://www.youtube.com/ksbstate>

## State draws Kansans from all over

By Dylan Crow, Kent Chrest,  
Taner Sass, Kevin Lansing,  
William Montgomery  
*Staters Union*

With over 400 students enrolled in the 76th Annual session of Boys State of Kansas, there are many different stories on how they found out and why they decided to attend this once in a lifetime experience.

For some students the program has affected their whole families.

This is the case for Stater Jack Curtis of Patton County.

Curtis's father had attended the Boys State of Georgia and it had a huge impact on him.

An impact big enough that he started volunteering by helping out with the program after he himself had gone through it.

Boys State's impact on Jack's father ultimately influenced him into encouraging Jack to attend Boys State of Kansas.

Curtis hopes that he will experience some of the life-changing moments from the Boys State program just as his father once did.

For others, a single moment of motivation is the reason for their being here today.

For one such Stater, Jun Chen, this

was the case.

"I wanted to do something really meaningful this summer," Chen said.

For him and others, a moment of motivation led them here to the Boy's State of Kansas.

This years staters hail from all over the state of Kansas.

Two campers hail from right here in Manhattan: Tyler Belin and Paul Wishman.

Brandon Powell, another State, comes from Augusta, and Andrew Rohleder, from Leawood, Kansas.

These Staters also all found out about the boys' state program in so many different ways.

Starting with high school counselors to friends who are former Staters and even to family relatives.

One stater even shared his story with us about his journey to Boys' State.

Damian Veoa, a nominee of his math teacher, chose to come because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"I am the first member in my family to attend Boys' State," Veoa said.

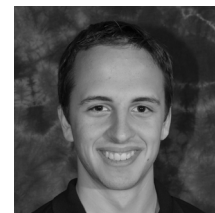
The reasons for why they came and how they found out may vary between students, but all agree that Boys State is a life-changing experience that they are looking forward too.

### Why they come back to State



Adam Doyle

There were a lot of exciting changes on the horizon that i wanted to be a part of before i stepped down as counselor.



Jonathan Volker

"When I was a stater, my life was changed. It was the best week ever and a great experience."

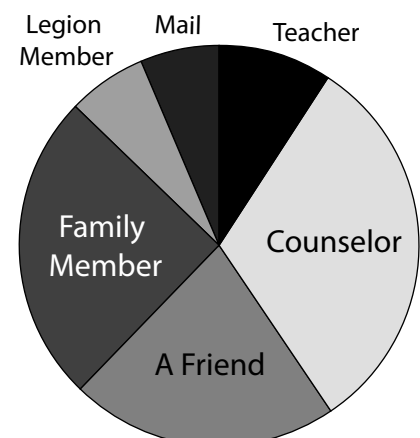


Marcus McNeal

"Because it is a transformitable experience that i like to take part in. Make difference in the way people experience things in life, especially reading

polotics. I think it brings light to a new way of thinking. I got a lot out of it and wanted to give back. Running for Secretary of State and winning gave me a skill set i would not have had otherwise had."

### Where they heard about State



### Staters travel from all parts of Kansas to get to State

