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# STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT  
**Changed**  
MY LIFE

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2014 • MANHATTAN, KANSAS • VOL. 77, ISSUE 1

## A State intro

### 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.”

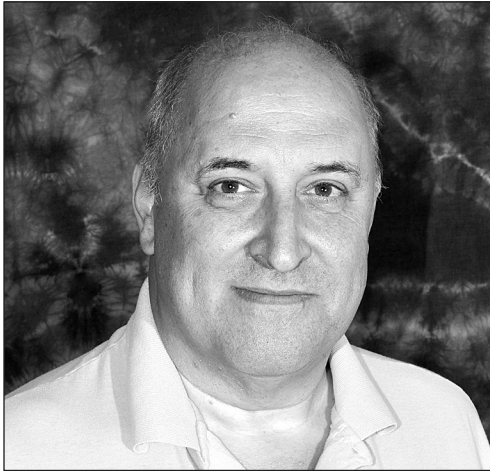
All of this leads up to what Boys State truly is; “the week that will change your life.” Understand, the previous was a powerful statement, but as most people who become truly involved in the Boys’ State government simulation will agree, it truly is a week to changes your life. This could be for any 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 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 in their meetings with a welcome from our Executive Director, Rex Gardner, then an icebreaker activity, then we listened to a speaker on being a 21st century leader, and finally got acquainted with peers on the county floors. After all this, we started our morning early at 8:00 for breakfast then had various meetings from 9:30 until 11:45. Afterwards, counselors broke for lunch and then more meetings from 12:30 until 4:40.



Staff Photo - Boys  
State counselors before  
Staters arrive during a  
training session

# Welcome to KS Boys State



**By Rex Gardner**  
**Executive Director**  
**Rex's Records**

**Stater Year: 1972**

**Stater County: Seitz**

**Years with Boys State: 42**

**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*

**F**irst 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 77th 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 2014!

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 2014 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 03, 2014, 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 2. 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!*

## Beating the heat

Summer weather is beginning to hit Kansas after an unusually cold winter.

With the potential for high temperatures in mind, it is important for Staters and staff alike to be cognizant of the daily weather forecast.

Staters will spend much time outdoors and likely already be tired from daily activities, so to stay hydrated they should drink plenty of water, not soda.

According to webmd.com some symptoms of dehydration include dry mouth, weakness, dizziness, confusion, decreased urine output, and fainting. Feeling thirsty is the best indication of insufficient water intake.

If a Stater notices he has stopped sweating, he should tell his counselor, go inside, and find water immediately.

Guzzling liquid is an inefficient means of hydrating because the human body is only able to absorb a small amount of water at one time.

To avoid dehydration continuously sip water, sports drinks such as Gatorade, or even milk.

No one should be embarrassed to ask for help if feeling ill; a person's health should always be taken seriously.

**Staff Photo - A counselor plays sand volleyball during free-time**



## Meet Your Boys State Coordinators



Shane Wilson  
Governmental Events



Todd Vogts  
Curriculum



Matt Wedel  
State Events



Gavin Smith  
Program



Michael Reichenberger  
Marlatt Hall



Marcus McNeal  
Goodnow Hall



## Plug-in with KS Boys State

**Counties:**

@KSBS\_Bradley  
@KSBS\_Eisenhower  
@KSBS\_Kennedy  
@KSBS\_King  
@KSBS\_MacArthur  
@KSBS\_Marshall  
@KSBS\_Patton  
@KSBS\_Pershing  
@KSBS\_Powell  
@KSBS\_Seitz

**State Offices:**

@KSBS\_House  
@KSBS\_Senate  
@KSBS\_Governor  
@KSBS\_Treasurer  
@KSBS\_AG  
@KSBS\_Insurance  
@KSBS\_SecofState

**Other:**

@KSBS\_Nats - ksbsnats@gmail.com  
@KSBS\_Feds - ksbsfeds@gmail.com  
@KSBS\_SupremeCt - KSBSSupremecourt@gmail.com



Be sociable!

**Connect with Boys State  
online!**

**Twitter:** @ksboysstate OR #ksboysstate

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

**Website:** [www.ksbstate.org](http://www.ksbstate.org)

# facebook

Join the group on Facebook for "The American Legion Boys State of Kansas"!

Share with others  
your amazing stories  
about Boys State and  
keep in touch with your fellow staters.

Search for  
"The American Legion  
Boys State of Kansas" on Face-book and join  
today!