

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

**BOYS STATE  
OF KANSAS**



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# STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT  
**Changed**  
MY LIFE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021 • MANHATTAN, KANSAS • VOL. 83, ISSUE 1

## WE ARE BACK!

By LOGAN GIDEON  
Media Coordinator

Experience is often the best teacher. The essence of Boys State is a program in which participants learn about leadership by becoming a mock government.

This technique, which we refer to as learning-by-doing, was the goal Legionnaires Hayes Kennedy and Harrold L. Card wanted to reach when they founded Boys State in Illinois in 1935. Kansas was the fifth state in the country to adopt this program.

Since 1937 Kansas Boys State has brought together young men from all over the state. 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.

The Kansas program is unique in how it uses an interactive computer simulation to facilitate our mission. This simulation allows delegates to choose which issues they want to address.

The action of changing taxes, hiring police and educators, and passing bills in the legislature have a direct impact on everyone in the simulation.

Delegates are 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. In the history of the program, only two sessions have been canceled first for World War 2 in 1945 and last year due to COVID. Boys State Alumni have become City Mayors, State Senators, College Student Body Presidents, and most importantly leaders in their community.

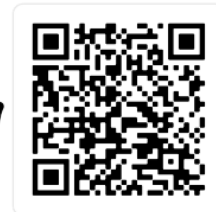
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(866) 241-9920

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

The Debates for elected government positions will be held on Tuesday August 3rd. If you want to submit a debate question...



SCAN ME

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 Goodnow Hall (Room 002). To contact the Staters Union, please email us at [media@ksbstate.org](mailto:media@ksbstate.org).



## Welcome to Boys State

By Tom Wierman  
Executive Director

First and foremost, welcome! Thank you for choosing to become a Boys Stater. It has been 785 days since the 2019 session ended.

Not a single month in the last two years has gone by without a meeting or conference call.

Two days ago, the majority of Counselors and Advisors arrived with great anticipation for the 83rd 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 2021! 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 2021 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



## A Fresh Start, With Fresh Challenges

By Justus Schremmer  
Media Counselor

For all of us on staff, this years session is the culmination of a long, nearly two year process. It has been a large hill to climb, but now we're here.

This program has been built on the traditions of those that came before us that we have carried forward.

However, recent events have put us all in a unique position. We now have the opportunity to make new traditions, and set new standards for those who come after us.



## New Cities

By Justus Schremmer  
Media Counselor

This year, to honor two of the most respected names in our program's history, we are introducing the cities of Lindholm, in McArthur County, and Schoemaker, in Powell County.

The city of Schomaker is named after Chuck Schoemaker, the former American Legion Commander. He is currently here as an advisor and we are happy to have him back.

The city of Lindholm is a posthumous honor to John Lindholm, WWII veteran, KSU professor, and Boys State advisor for over 25 years.



John Lindholm



Chuck Shoemaker



Interested in Journalism  
or Reporting?

Apply for the position  
Tonight!

There will be two  
delegates per county

Troughout the week, The Staters Union will be publishing profiles on the Leggionare and friends of the program.

