

# STATERS UNION

## *Executive Director Welcome*

By Tom Wierman, Executive Director

Welcome! Thank you for choosing to become a Kansas Boys' stater. We've been eagerly awaiting your arrival and beginning this session of The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas. Nearly every week for the past nine months, the planning team has been meeting in person or by conference call preparing for this week. Two days ago, our Counselors and Advisors arrived with great anticipation of the 84th session. We thank our incredible host, Kansas State University, for the time and effort they have spent in helping us ensure a fantastic week. All this work has been done for you, the delegates of 2022. In just a few short days, the work, the failures, the successes, the friendships and memories you have lived will be written in Boys State history, a history that dates back to 1937. The story of 2022 is yours to write. All that you have learned, all that you have done, all those others have done for you has brought you to this place, at this time. Before you are opportunities, challenges, and experiences that you may never have encountered in your lives. You have the complete confidence and support of everyone who has helped you become a Boys' Stater. This is your one chance. This is your time.

Promise yourself that you will make the most of this chance, that you will leave this week knowing that you have just experienced a week that truly changed your life.



## A Brief History

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. 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 II in 1945 and 2020 due to COVID. Boys State Alumni have become City Mayors, State Senators, College Student Body Presidents, and most importantly leaders in their community.

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION | **BOYS STATE  
OF KANSAS**

## Tips for Success

By Jay Shelton, Dean of Advisors

- ✦ Get Involved
- ✦ Don't Isolate
- ✦ Make Friends
- ✦ Ask Questions
- ✦ Have fun!

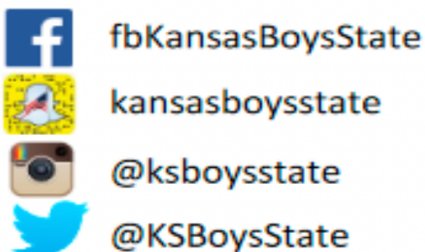


## Bowling Champion

John Black, IT Counselor wins the staff weekend bowling competition medal.



## Follow Us Online



## Honoring a Legacy

This year Dole County has been added in honor of Robert "Bob" Dole. Dole was born and raised in Russell, Kan., graduating from Russell High School in 1941. He enrolled at the University of Kansas before joining the U.S. Army's Enlisted Reserve Corps in 1942 to fight in World War II. In April 1945, while engaged in combat in the Apennine mountains southwest of Bologna, Italy.



Dole was wounded by a German shell that struck his upper back and right arm, shattering his collarbone and part of his spine. Dole's injuries left him with limited mobility in his right arm, but he minimized the effect in public by keeping a pen in his right hand.

Dole was decorated three times, receiving two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star with "V" Device for valor for attempting to assist a downed radioman. Dole finished his education and embarked on a legal career. He was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1950, then elected Russell County attorney in 1952. Dole won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1960 and the U.S. Senate in 1968. He also served as chair of the Republican National Committee (1971-73) and chair of the Senate Finance Committee (1981-85). He served as Senate Majority Leader twice (1985-87 and 1995-96). Dole was the vice presidential running mate for President Gerald Ford in 1976. Dole ran for president in 1980 and 1988 and was the Republican nominee in 1996.

The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, housed at University of Kansas was established to bring bipartisanship back to politics. During his life, Dole



was presented with many honors and awards, including the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal and the American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal. He passed away December 5, 2021, at age 98.

