

STATERS UNION

The American Legion Boys State of Kansas

Celebrating 85 Years

By: Media Staff

Experience is often the best teacher. The essence of Boys State is a program in which participants learn about leadership by becoming 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 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. Only twice in the history of Boys State has there ever not been a session. first for World War II in 1945 and 2020 due to COVID. Boys State

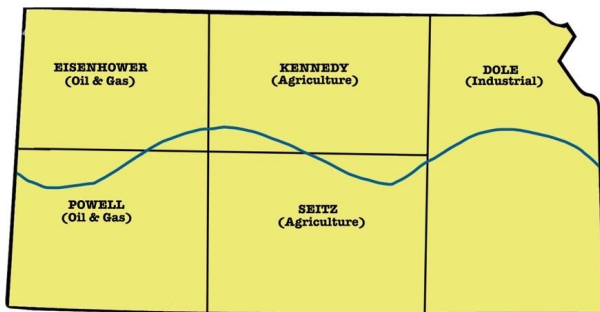
Alumni have become City Mayors, State Senators, College Student Body Presidents, and most importantly leaders in their community.



The Simulation

by Media Team

The Boys State of Kansas simulation is based on the real state of Kansas. The laws and ordinances that Staters pass will have an impact on the simulation. We have five counties and each county has its own individual economy and contributes to the economy of the state. Starting in the West are Eisenhower and Powell. These counties are known for their production of natural gas and oil. In the central region are Kennedy and Seitz the agricultural hub of our state. Finally in the east is Dole, our industrial center. Running through all counties is the River of Democracy. More information can be found on KSBState.org/session



Tips for Success

By Jay Shelton, Dean of Advisors

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



Executive Director Welcome

By: Tom Wireman, 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 85th 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 2023. 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 2023 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.