

BOYS' STATE

AMERICAN LEGION



Leadership • Character • Integrity



JUNE 4 - JUNE 10 **2000**
kansas state university

American Legion
BOYS' STATE
of Kansas **2000**



Leadership • Character • Integrity

Help send someone to the upcoming session of the American Legion Boys' State of Kansas. Give them the enclosed application, visit us on the web at www.ksbstate.org, or call us toll free at 1-877-434-8765 and request more information.

next session → june 3 through june 9, 2001

welcome welcome

Greetings:

It is with pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to the readers of this outstanding American Legion Boys' State of Kansas yearbook. It is my hope that in reviewing this yearbook some great memories of an important week will come back to you.

Your week at Boys' State was important for several reasons. First, you chose to attend. That may seem like a simplistic notion, but simply showing up to an event is something many people don't do. Our society today puts less and less emphasis on participation and more and more emphasis on simple observation of events. To agree to participate, you allow for the possibility of losing, and for many that is too great a price, so they simply don't show up.

Second, you chose to step out of your comfort zone while you were at Boys' State. You may have made that a small step, or you may have made that a great leap, but in any event, I thank you for being willing to speak up for your beliefs. Again, today's society tells us that it is far better to remain quiet, and that we should not rock the boat. The fact is many boats need rocking.

Finally, now that you are back in your comfortable surroundings, I hope you are taking the time to interrupt the conventional conversations in your community. I hope that when you are presenting new ideas in your school, congregation and community; you are willing to challenge the phrase 'we have never done it that way.' Few significant success stories come from already successful people. Most people fail (not fall) into success. Hopefully this week of comfort zone stretching has inspired you to fail into some great things.

Pass along Kansas' best kept secret, The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas, to next year's eligible delegates.

Thane Chastain
Executive Director
director@ksbstate.org



history history

"To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation" is the purpose of the American Legion Boys' State program. It was organized by the Department of Illinois in 1935. The Department of Kansas, holding Charter No. 5, was among the first to institute this week-long government-in-action program. Now, virtually every State Department of the American Legion has its own Boys' State because of the program's ability to educate youth in practical politics and government operation.

Kansas Boys' State was headquartered in Wichita for 26 years before moving to the campus of the University of Kansas in 1963. It stayed there until 1991, when the program moved to Kansas State University.

The Boys' State program is available to any high school senior-to-be who meets the academic standards and demonstrates leadership potential. Civic and church groups as well as American Legion Posts sponsor delegates to this fine learning-by-doing, youth-in-government program.

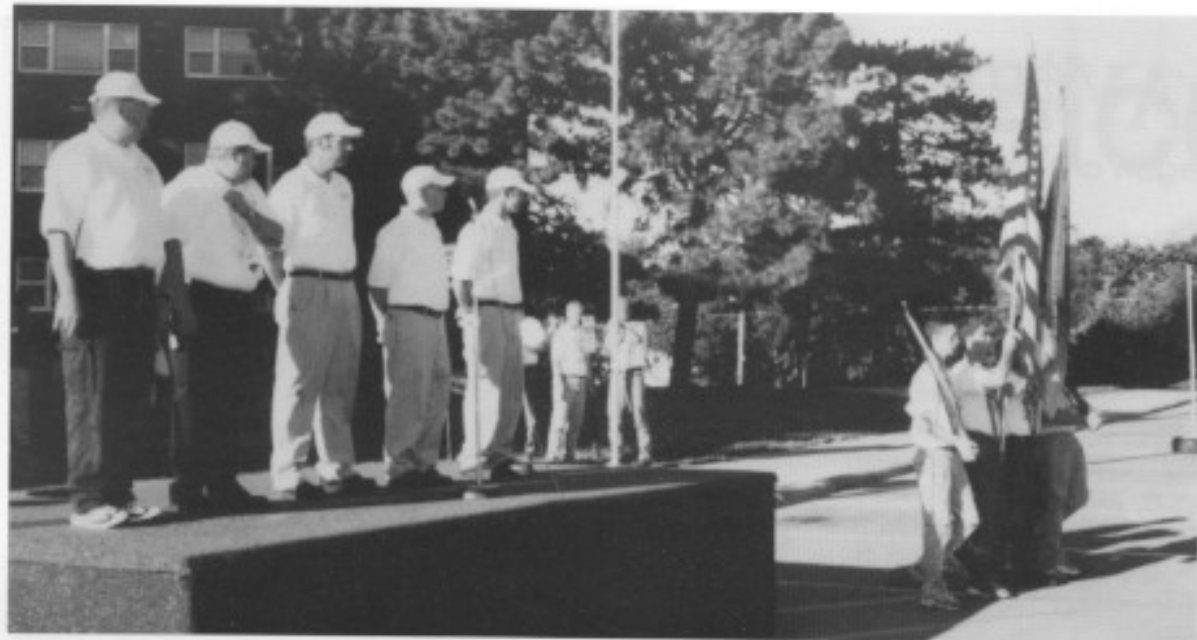
Almost 50,000 young men from across Kansas have participated in Boys' State and performed nearly every function of city, county and state government. Former delegates, members of the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion return each year to serve as counselors and advisors for the program. Many of them work year-round on ways to improve the curriculum and structure of the program.

During each session, two Staters are chosen by their peers to represent Kansas at the American Legion Boys Nation, in Washington, D.C., where they participate in a learning-by-doing program that focuses on our national government.

SUNDAY | registration

The week began around noon on Sunday with registration. Many Staters did not know what to expect of the week, and were surprised to be thrown into a fast-paced schedule right away. After meeting roommates and their counselors, they had to decide what position they wanted to run for. The evening was filled with many orientation and team-building activities.



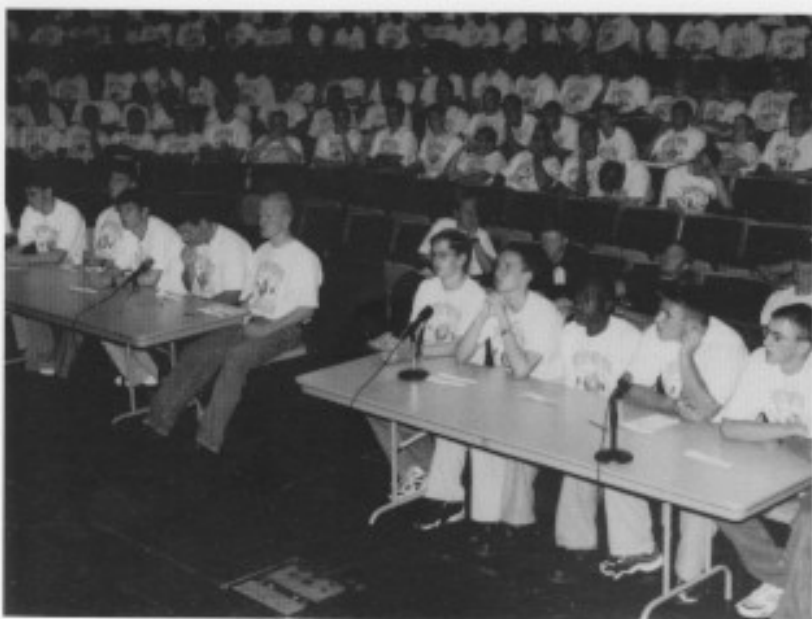


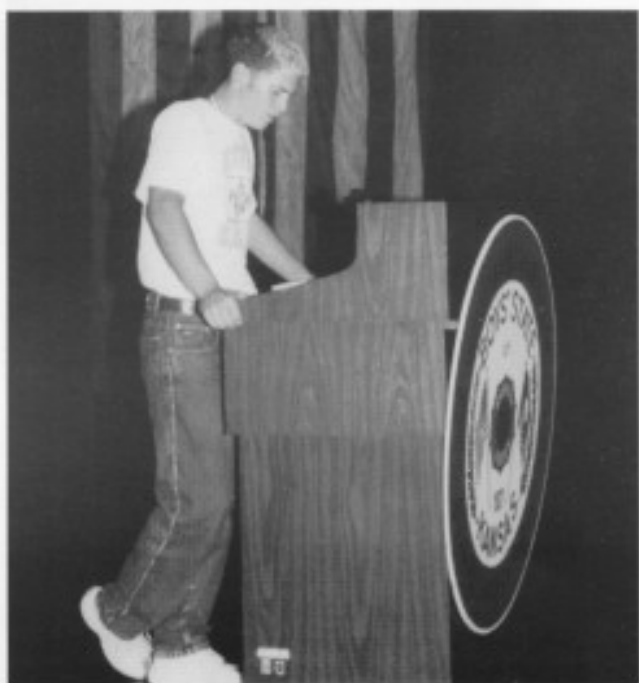
On Monday, the government began to come together. All State Associations were present at the Political Fair for the Staters to get to know their party's stance on popular issues. After listening to Primary Election candidates in the afternoon Whistle Stop tour, Staters voted for their party's candidates for state offices in the Primary Election. The city officials that were elected on Sunday night were officially sworn into office.



tUESDAY | general election

On Tuesday, Staters worked on their respective projects until lunch. Later in the afternoon, the Staters observed a debate between each of the State Office Candidates, then the General Election was held in each city area immediately afterward. The newly elected and appointed officials attended an orientation session in their offices, and by Tuesday night, all Kansas Boys' State government branches were operating.





Thursday was the day that all state agencies were busy hearing from cities, counties and associations. Through each of their projects, each branch of the Boys' State government played an active role in developing economic and social policies. Later that evening the Staters assembled at McCain Auditorium, this time to be an audience for the Boys' State Band and Chorus, followed by the speeches of Boys Nation candidates.

fRIDAY | governor's ball

Each year on Friday morning when the counties line up for assembly, they usually come in slightly different uniforms than the average jeans and Boys' State t-shirt. Tradition held this year, where some county's citizens turned into ninjas, some wore diapers made of their bedsheets, and some just disappeared completely. Recreation championship games took place on Friday as well as the Governor's Ball at the K-State Union where Staters were provided with bowling, billiards, dancing and movies.





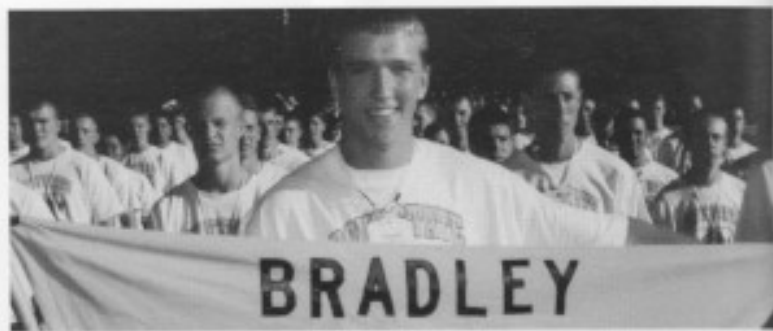
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legionnaires





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countycounselor

Andy Smith

citycounselors

Michael Zimmers - Aylward

Nick Cordt - Birk

Preston Stewart - Bramlage

governmentcounselor

James McCallie



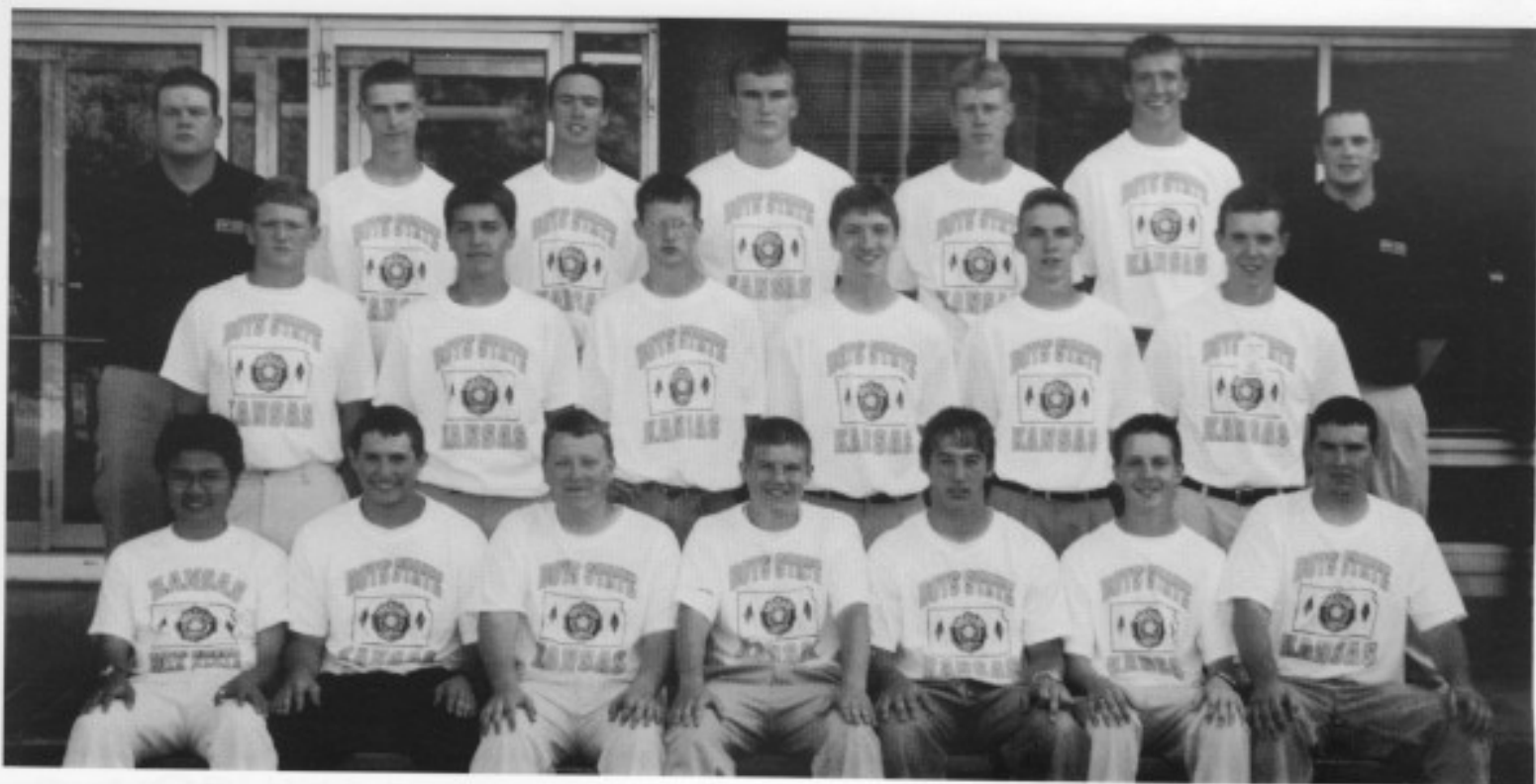
bradley county



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countycounselor

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citycounselors

Robert Collins - Church

Daniel Hewes - Coss

Colin Tuggle - Crum

governmentcounselor

Keith Goentzel

eisenhower county



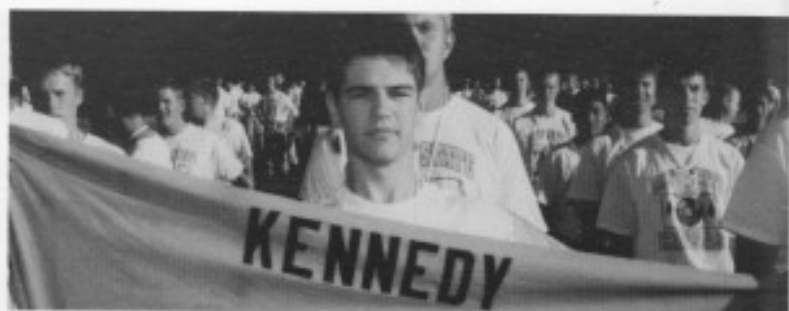
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county counselor

Justin Vanoy

city counselors

James Ivy - Finley

Daniel Minde - Gardner

Pat Schoenberger - Haney

government counselor

Matt Pruett



kennedy county



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county counselor

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city counselors

Steven Pearce - Harris

Kyle Goerl - Hasler

Shawn Kling - Hiatt

government counselors

Lee Urban

Seth Vernon



king county



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city counselors

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Isaac Hoskins - Jardon

government counselors

Glen McMurry

Lee Kowitz



macarthur county



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citycounselors

Michael Beard - Klassen

Shawn Spaeny - Kyle

Mark Stratemeier - Lane

governmentcounselors

Brian Yeado

Josh Adrian



marshall county



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patton county

countycounselor

Nathan Herron

citycounselors

Jason Gordon - Mantey

Alex Medina - McCoy

Jared Wiesner - Newman

governmentcounselor

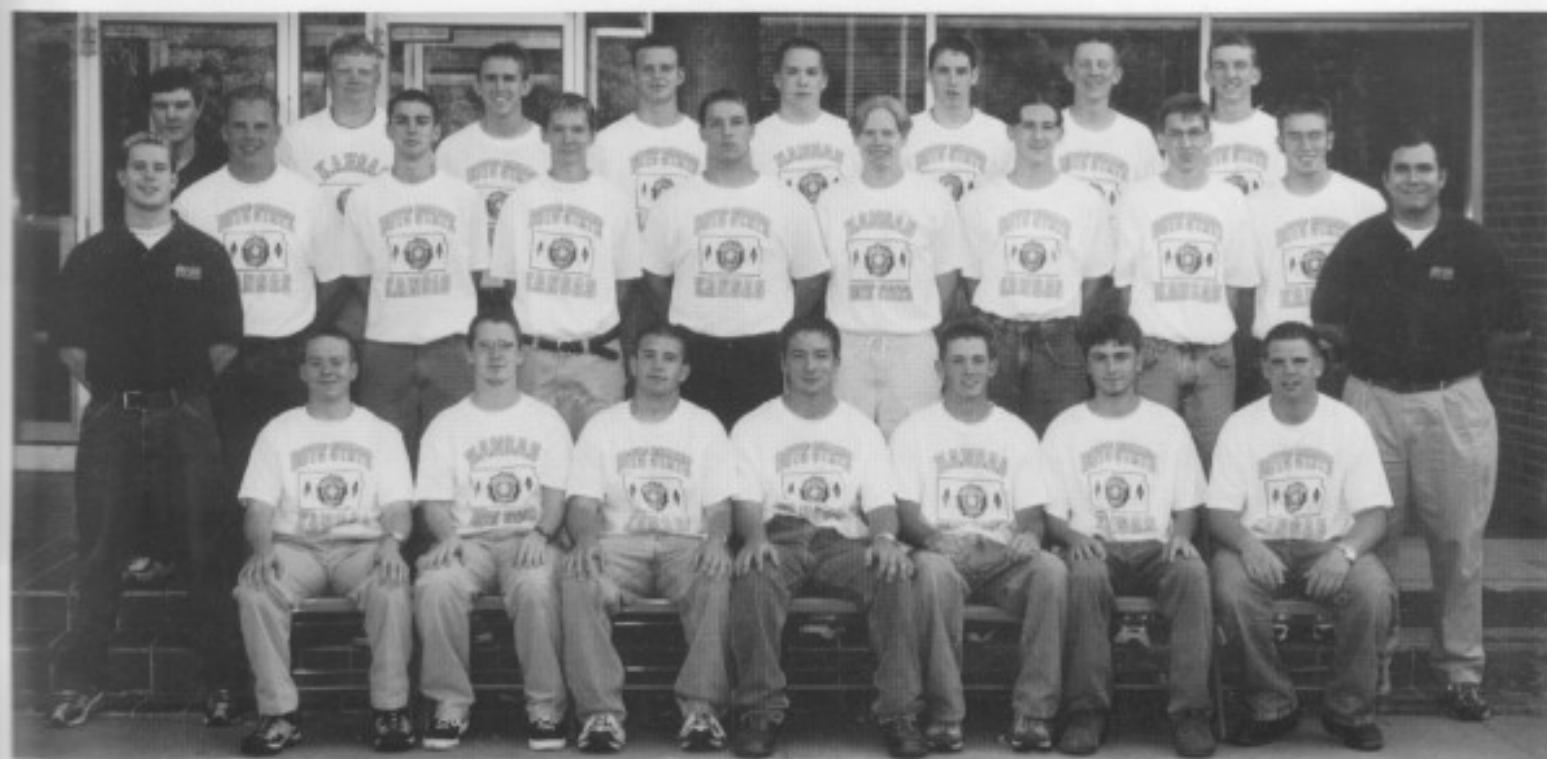
Tyler Rider



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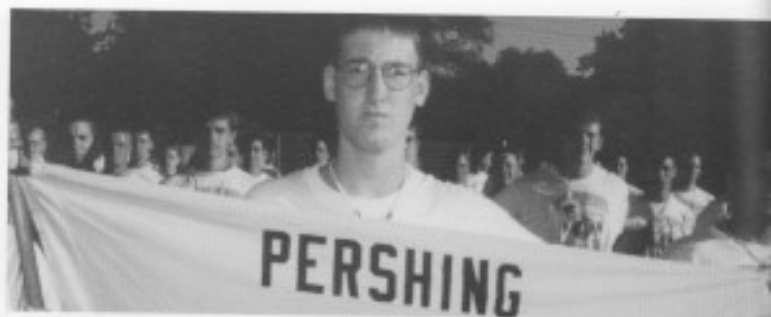
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pershing county



county counselor

Kristofer Bain

city counselors

Anothony Ybarra - Perrill

Ryan Barger - Raymond

Ben Hart - Schmitt

government counselors

Chris Stevens

Chris Zachary



city of PERRILL

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countycounselor

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citycounselors

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B.J. Nevans - Seymour

Nathaniel Megonigle - Spigarelli

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powell county



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countycounselor

Tanner Lucas

citycounselors

Justin Atherton - Sullivan

Chris Cordt - Whorley

Thomas Ryun - Wiles

governmentcounselor

Sean Abbott



seitzcounty



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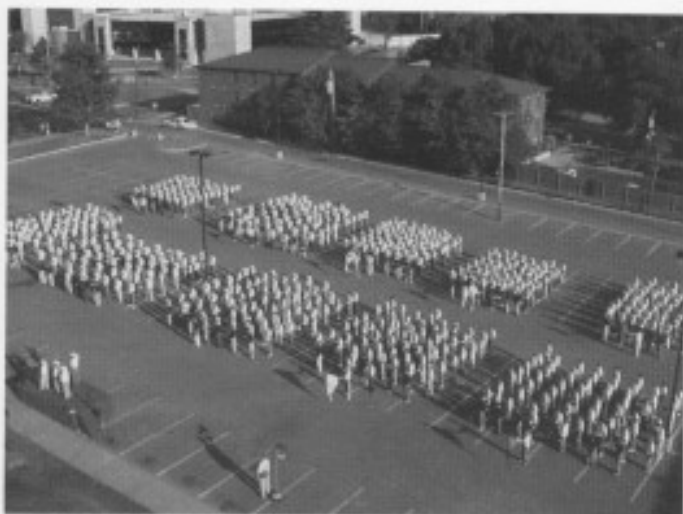


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the week to change a lifetime



These are the memories that you created over one week in the summer of 2000.

You arrived at Kansas State University on Sunday, June 4th wondering what exactly to expect. Suddenly you were thrust into a high-paced, cooperative, and very involved program. The tasks of creating and maintaining a working government were placed in your hands. Hopefully through this program you were able to see exactly what kinds of decisions our society is faced with. Elected officials have the incredible tasks of creating legislation to protect their constituents' rights, while at the same time maintaining financial and social stability. One evident message of our program is that it is not easy

to be a leader. We hope that you not only found opportunities for great success, but that you also faced the chore of overcoming a sound defeat. It is in these instances where a leader proves his worth, and you have undoubtedly taken this message from The American Legion Boys' State of Kansas.

So it is up to you, and you alone, to overcome the failures and struggles that life will present you. Democracy, as an effective form of government, succeeds when people get involved. We are taking for granted that you will certainly be involved, but we challenge you not only to do this but also to become a leader, that extra step beyond simple involvement, within your communities.

Democracy is not limited to the realms of Topeka and Washington. Democracy exists in your homes, schools, congregations, and workplaces. There will be times in your life when you will be faced with a situation that you do not agree with or that you feel is unfair to you or someone you know. As difficult as it may seem, it is not only your right but your responsibility to use the knowledge and skills you gained from our program to help yourself and your fellow citizens do the right thing.

No matter what you think about what has happened in the past, or even what is happening now, you have the opportunity to change the future and that is what is great about America. In a very short time a couple hundred years' worth of progress will be handed to you. What will you do with it? Will you be content to stand still? Will you move forward? The decision is up to you and no one else.

Serve your community and serve it well. We wish you the best of luck in your endeavors, and we hope that the American Legion Boys' State of Kansas helped you along the way.

The 2000 American Legion Boys' State of Kansas Staff

Yearbook Editor: Tyler Farabi

Photos By: Scott Johnson and Thane Chastain

Thank you very much: TJ Rothwell, Matt Klosterman, and Janell Farabi

