

American Legion Boys State of Kansas



Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas

May 31 - June 6
2009

Opening Opening

View more pictures of your "Week to Shape a Lifetime" at www.ksbstate.org. Click on the "2009" button and follow the guides.

You can also download an application and help send someone to the upcoming session of Boys State by visiting our new recruiting site at www.kansasboysstate.org.

Call us toll free at 1-866-241-9920 to request additional information.



A Week to Shape a Lifetime

Welcome Welcome

I hope you feel tremendous pride when you reflect upon your involvement in the 2009 session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. I found it to be one of the finest sessions in my long association with the program.

There is no limit to the amount of good that a group of people can accomplish when they work together toward an honorable end.

As I reflect upon the 2009 session the first image that comes to my mind is that of gentlemen: as in courteous, considerate men. The week was full of challenges, adventures and fun; every one was met with good intentions and good humor. The session was also marked by delegates of strong intelligence and strong character. The job of the staff was made far smoother and more rewarding by the high caliber of the 2009 state. For that, please accept our sincere thanks and admiration.

As you finish your senior year and begin your life past high school, please remember us at the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. Tell those who are younger than you, and who will benefit from our state, about our program. Encourage them to apply for an upcoming session. Thank the school or community member who recruited you and encourage them to continue supporting our program. Consider joining our staff and completing the education that you started as a state.

Without your contribution of time and energy, we would not have a program and thousands of Kansas youth would not have an opportunity to sharpen their leadership skills or learn practical ways to increase their civic involvement.

I hope you enjoy this yearbook and the memories that it will evoke about your session.

My very best to you,

Jeff Schrag
Executive Director, 2008-2009
Stater, 1984



History History

"To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation."

That 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.

The American Legion Boys State of Kansas was headquartered in Wichita for 26 years before moving to the University of Kansas in 1963. It stayed there until 1992 when the program moved to its present location on the campus of Kansas State University.

The Boys State program is available to any high school senior-to-be who meets academic criteria 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. Many of them work year-round on ways to improve the curriculum and structure of the program.

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

Sunday Sunday

Staters arrived from all over Kansas to register for the 72nd session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. Advisor Rex Gardner greeted delegates as they entered Kramer Dining Center. Many delegates were about to begin a week that would shape their lives forever. At opening ceremonies, delegates were privileged to have Dustin Gaylon as keynote speaker. Gaylon got staters pumped and ready to fully participate during the week ahead. With Gaylon's speech fresh in their minds, staters began their week by running for government positions that they felt would best suit them.

1. Advisor Rex Gardner gives a few helpful hints and answers questions before each group of staters goes to register upstairs in Kramer.

2. The 2008 Governor of Boys State, Andrew Koucky, welcomes the new class of 'staters' during opening ceremonies in McCain auditorium.

3. Counselors Dean Symes and Chris Garlow aid staters with getting maps and room keys at stater check-in. Since Boys State, Chris Garlow died in a tragic accident. A memorial with the Boys State program has been established.

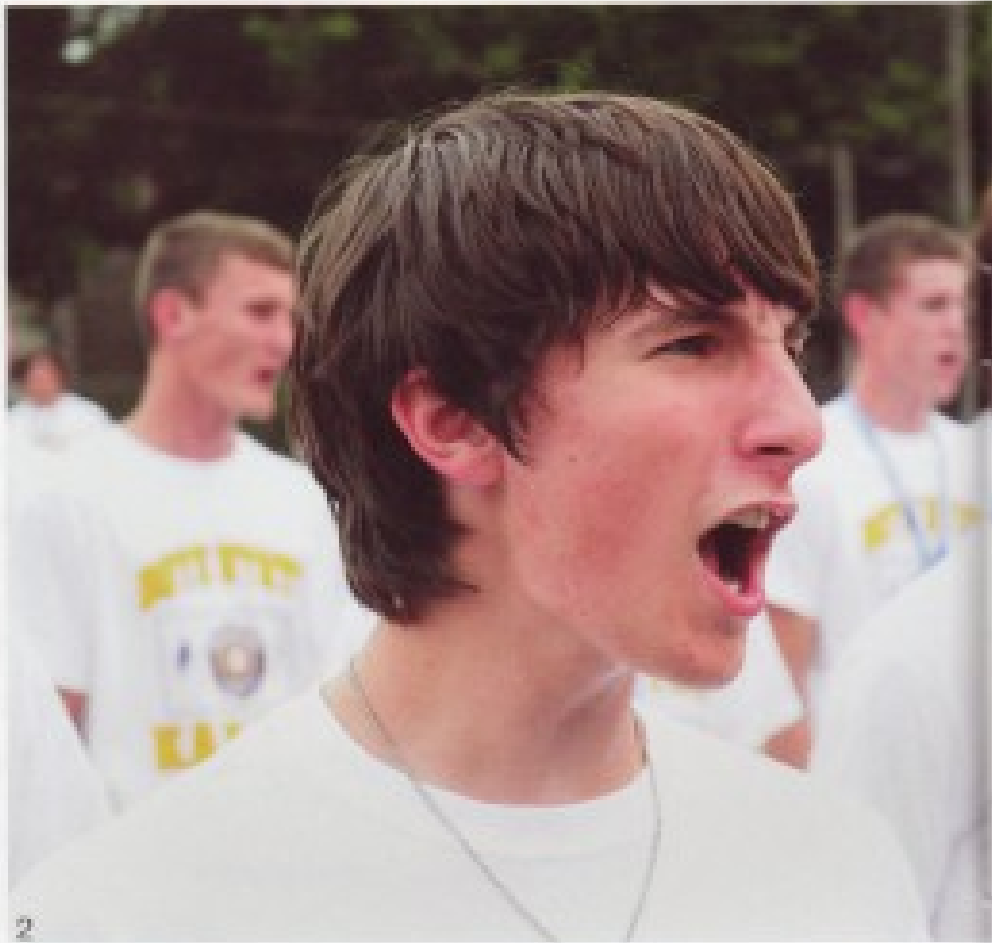
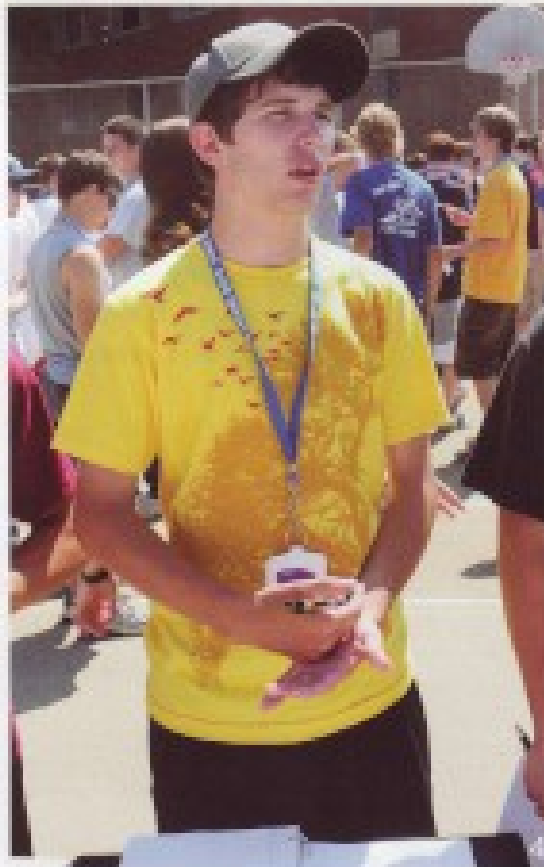




1. Keynote speaker Dustin Gaylon gets everyone fired up during the opening ceremonies in McCain auditorium

2. The flag detail practices raising the colors before Sunday night's retreat.

3. Three stagers from Garnett Left: Tyler Tush (city of Bramlage), Middle: Carston Cooper (Sullivan) and Right: Taylor Stapp (Harris) take time to pose for a picture right before registration begins in Kramer dining hall.



1. A delegate pitches for his softball team during recreation time.
2. This stater aides in calling the whole State to attention.
3. Bradley county marches by during pass and review.
4. Political Action Committees (PACs) help delegates running for state offices gain campaign monies.
5. Governor of Boys State 2008 Andrew Koucky swears in the city Mayors.



Monday Monday

Early Monday morning delegates were roused and the flag was raised. Some delegates found their place in local government positions while others ran for state office positions. Candidates running for state office were out campaigning in full force. To rally support for their political platforms, candidates and political action committees attended the political fair held on the tennis courts. After the morning political fair, candidates of both parties had additional time to speak on their platforms during the Whistle Stop Tour. After dinner, the primary election winners were announced and the high energy party conventions followed.

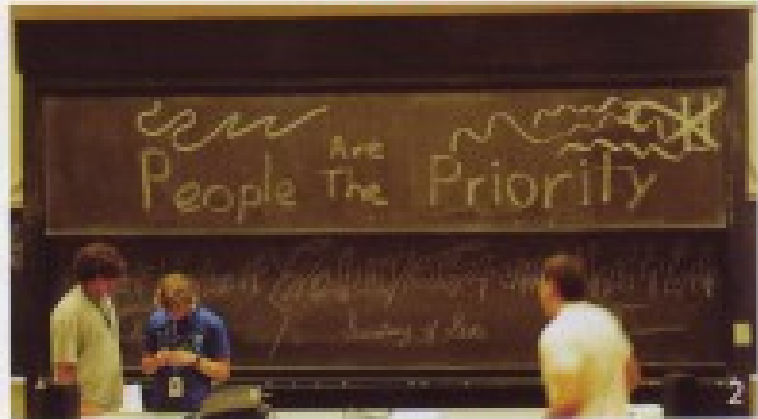


1. Running for state offices, candidates answer questions during the Whistle Stop tour.
2. This delegate bows his head during the benediction.
3. A stater "moves" his crowd.
4. A stater asks a question of one of the governor candidates.
5. A candidate speaks during the Political Fair.
6. PAC members help state office candidates raise funds.



Party Conventions

Nationalists



1. Nationalist governor candidate, Kyle Maddox, gets the crowd roaring during his speech.

2. "People are the priority" - 2009 Nationalist platform.

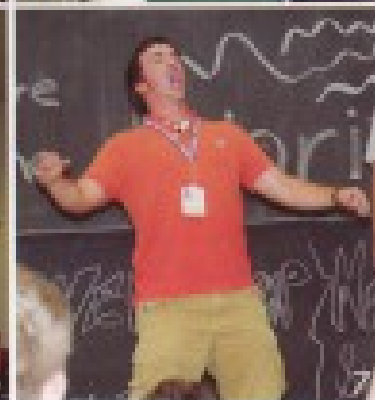
3. The Nationalist lieutenant governor candidate "surfs" the crowd.

4. An energetic speech.

5. A potential cabinet member answers questions.

6. The Iron Chin performs during intermission of the Nationalist party convention.

7. Members get up and cheer for their party.



Party Conventions Federalists



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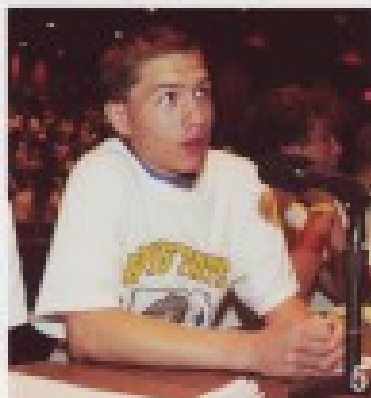
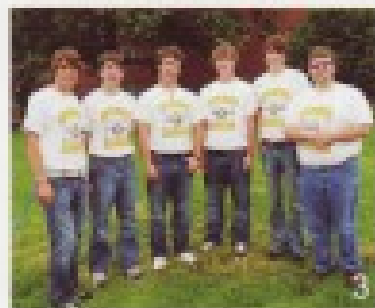
1. A Federalist party member gets the crowd fired up!
2. Federalist governor candidate, Gavin Koester, shares his points during the convention.
3. The Federalist candidate for state treasurer discusses his plan of action.

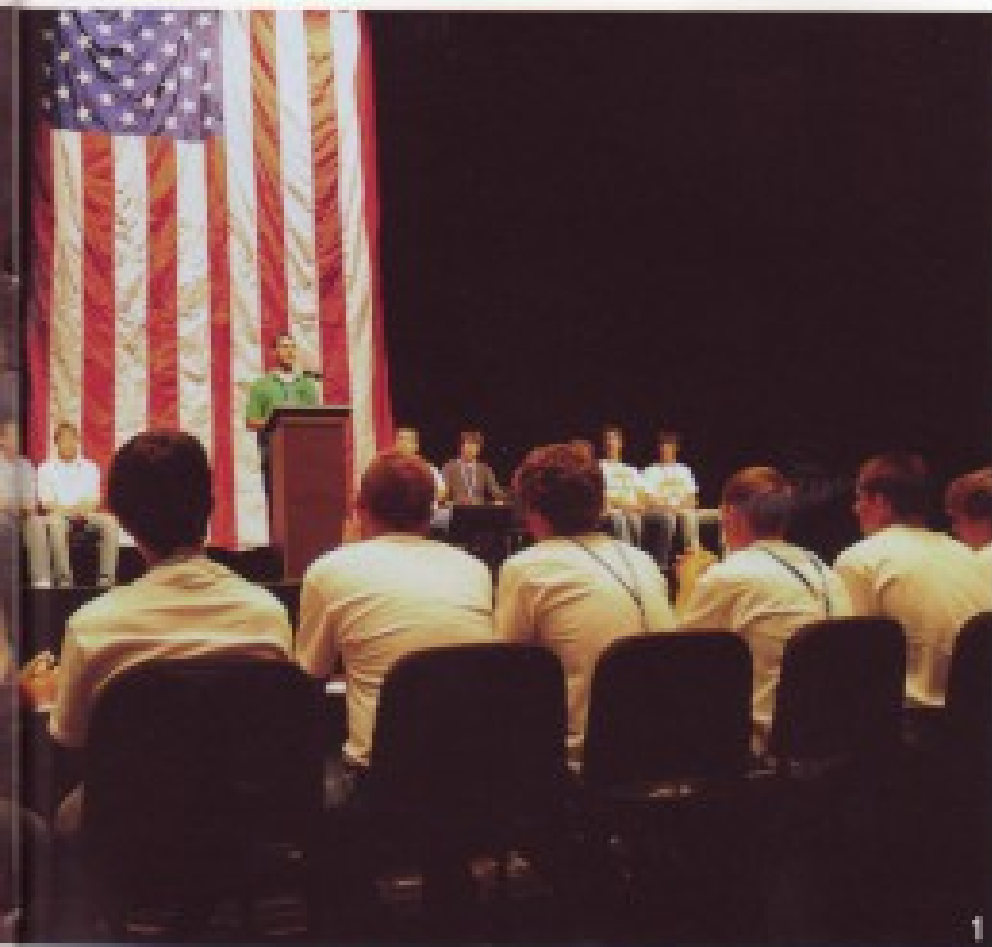
Tuesday Tuesday

After the primary election, the political parties prepared for the general election. The state office candidates' debate was held in McCain Auditorium where candidates from each party answered questions prepared by members of the PACs. Next, voters cast ballots in the general election to determine who would lead Boys State. The results of the general election were announced during the evening retreat, and the Manhattan Legion Post presented a flag retirement ceremony. Following the retreat, delegates attended Town Hall Meetings featuring three speakers from different government offices.



1. Staters work together on a city project.
2. Judge Thom Sutherland answers questions during the Town Hall meetings.
3. The 2009 Boys State state officers.
4. The newly elected state officers work on the 2009 budget.
5. A representative from one of the PACs asks a question during the debate.
6. State Representative Raj Goyle answers questions during the Town Hall meetings.





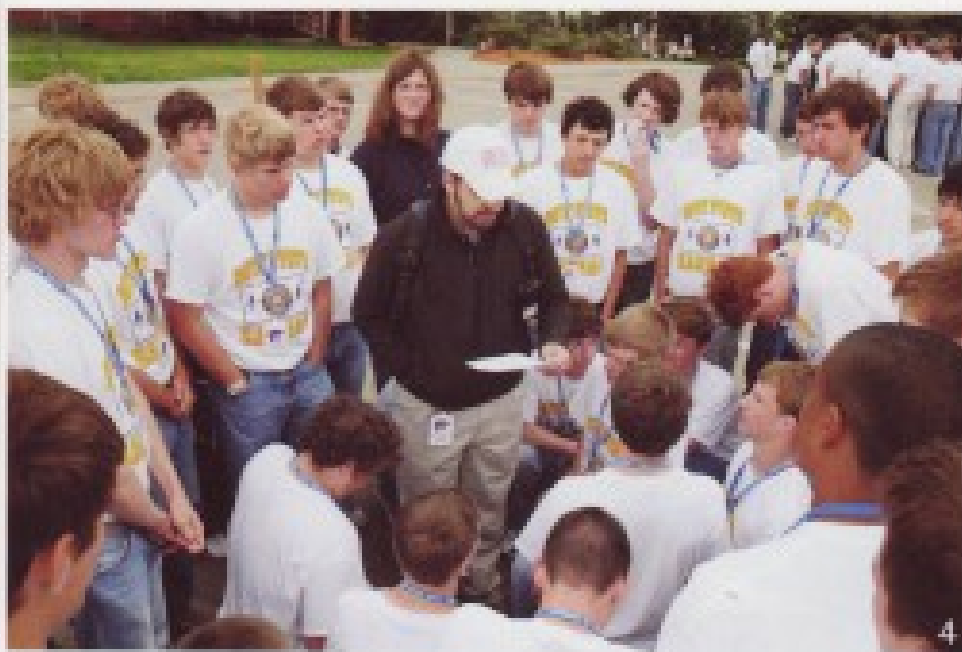
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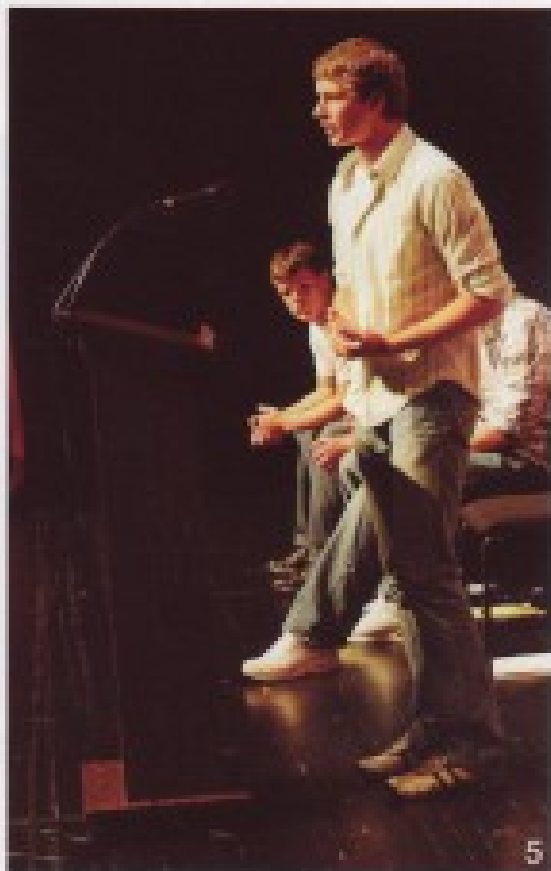
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1. A state office candidate answers a question during the debate.
2. Advisor Jim Schroer informs a group of staters on the proper procedure of flag detail.
3. The whole State watches as flags are retired.
4. County Counselor Kyle Wheatley reads the list of state officials to his county.
5. Federalist governor candidate, Gavin Koester, gives his answer to a debate question.



1. The Patton County District Court listens to opening statements.
2. Highway patrolmen take a stater into custody.
3. Supreme court justices prepare for their first court hearing.
4. Governor Maddox gives his state of the state address.
5. The Flag Detail leads the way to McCain auditorium.

Wednesday Wednesday

With the elections over, all government branches were now operating. Governor Kyle Maddox presented his proposed budget to the citizens of Boys State. The House and Senate convened to address matters related to the state budget. Members of each of the departments prepared for hearings over various issues. The Boys State Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a high profile case. Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh told delegates that they are leaders of today during his speech that was given before the annual Boys State Talent Show.



1. Staters wanting to be true highway patrolmen test their driving skills.

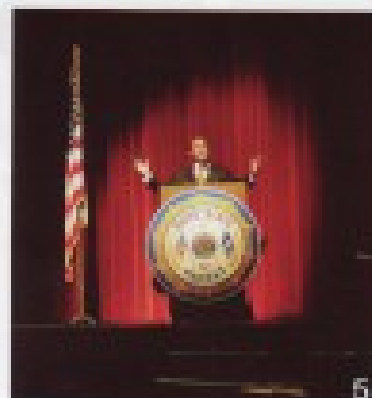
2. Staters get fired up before the talent show.

3. This stater tries to set a record with the most layers of ice cream on one cone.

4. A stater recites the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh speaks before the talent show.

6. Members of PACs work on daily projects.



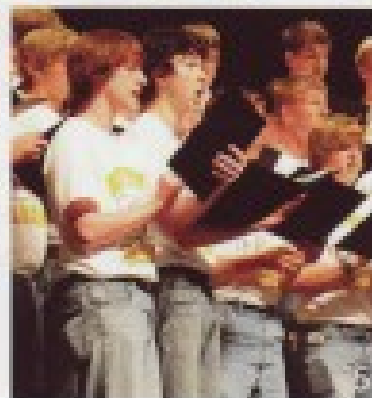
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Thursday Thursday

Throughout the week, delegates worked together to solve many different types of government problems. District courts heard trials and the House and Senate were discussing various legislation. The college fair gave delegates an opportunity to visit with college recruiters. Delegates also had an opportunity to stretch their legs and show their competitive talents during recreation time. After evening ceremonies stater marchers marched to McCain Auditorium to listen to the Boys State Choir and Band perform. Both music groups had the privilege to work with instructors from the KState music program.



1. A rep from Bethel College gives information to a stater.
2. Recreation offers staters a chance to let out some energy.
3. City councils go over ordinances.
4. Staters in the Boys State Band play through some KState pep songs.
5. The Boys State choir sings the Boys State Anthem.
6. Governor Maddox presents Judge Joseph Pierron with the Governor's Award for Service to Kansas Boys State.





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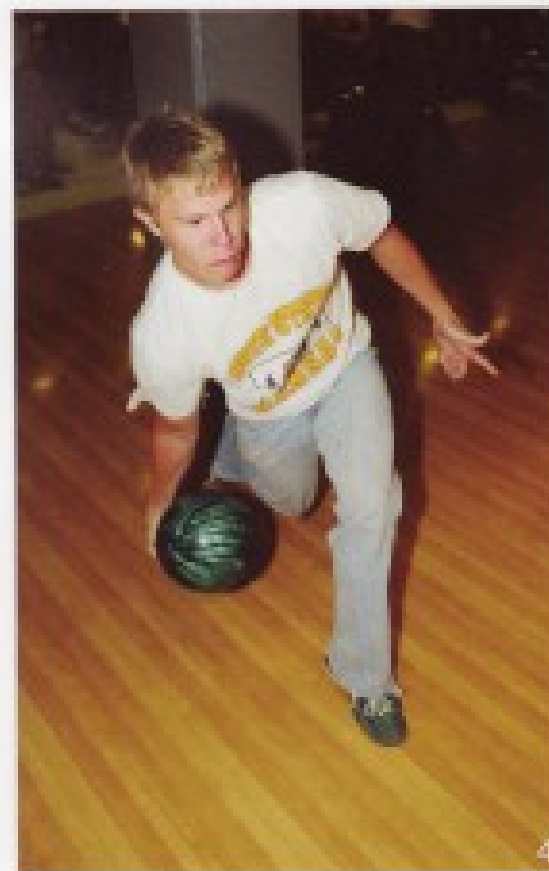


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1. Members of the Boys State band play during their concert.
2. Members of the Senate discuss issues at the beginning of their session.
3. The House of Representatives take role before they begin on Thursday.
4. The Boys State choir singing "The Water is Wide."
5. A district court judge swears in a witness.

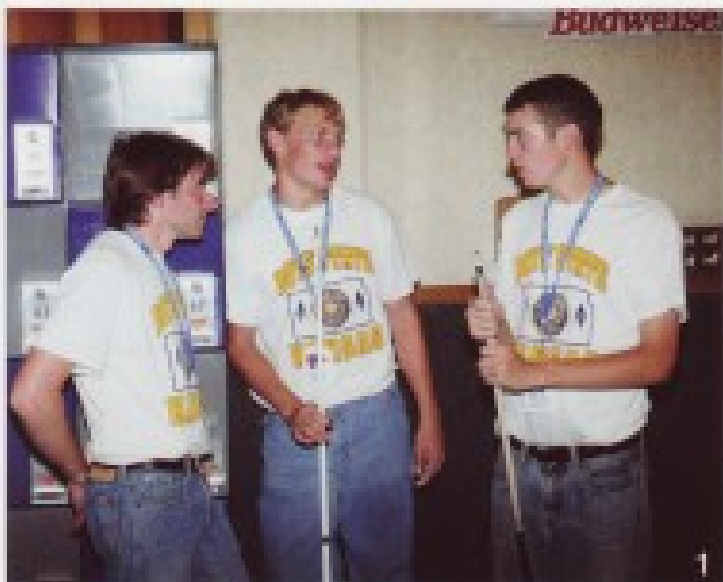


1. Staters pose for a photo after the hog roast.
2. Staters test their pool skills at the KState Union.
3. A stater from Bradley county during the "Crazy Friday" morning retreat.
4. Staters bowl several lanes during Friday evening's festivities.
5. Members of King County switch roles with their counselors.



Friday Friday

Morning retreat was a little bit different on Friday morning. Counties had a chance to be out of uniform and be “crazy” in their formation. Staters wrapped up the last projects of the week and geared up for the night’s festivities. The results of the Boys Nation election were announced at evening retreat. Activities at the K&State Student Union after retreat provided one last opportunity for delegates to hangout with friends they had made during the week. The next day, following closing ceremonies, 450 delegates would return home after their week to shape their lifetime.



1. Staters discuss the week during their game.
2. The ping-pong table heats up during the celebration at the K-State Union.
3. Staters have a chance to relax and talk about the week during the hog roast on the tennis courts.
4. Lt. Governor Casey Donnell receives his pin and gavel.
5. Staters get serious while having fun at the Union.
6. Patton County stands at attention during evening retreat.



Talent Show Talent Show

Wednesday evening provided a break from the work of government, as delegates were treated to the annual Talent Show. Delegates enjoyed a wide range of acts including many great guitar solos, a "remixed" version of Boys State marching, four very different drumming styles, humorous pieces, and a slice of "American Pie" to end the night's many great acts.



1. Ben Waugh, Pershing, "acts" like he is on a roller coaster

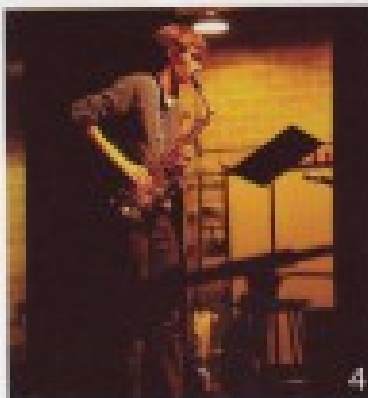


2. Alex Martell, MacArthur, and John Pratt, Powell, perform their remix of the Boys State march.



3. Chris Clay, Pershing, is the "Voice of America."

4. Casey Donnell, Powell, plays the Pink Panther theme song.



5. Jerod Barker, MacArthur, performs a humorous piece from "Controlling Interests."



6. Coulter Cranston, Kennedy, performs "Benny and the Jets."





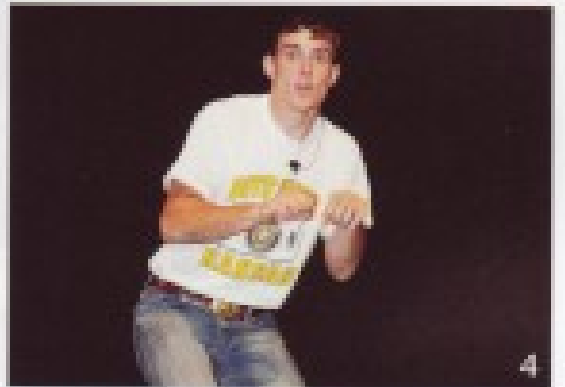
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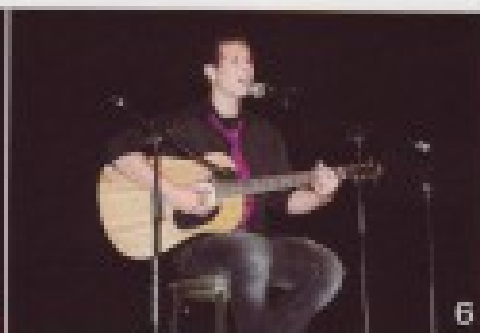


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1. Justin Briner, Patton, sings an acoustic version of "I'm Yours."
2. Brian Denning, Bradley, sings "Nothing Else Matters."
3. J.D. Johnson, Powell, sings the National Anthem.
4. Kurtis LaRue, Powell, performs a humorous piece entitled "Who's a good boy?"
5. Skyler Schmidt, MacArthur, performs "Granada."
6. Andrew Locke, Elsenhower, performs "Every Rose has a Thorn."
7. Lucas Young, Seitz, sings "Closer to the Heart."
8. Carl Bowdan, Pershing, drops the beat.
9. Garrett Moylan, Seitz, performs a piece entitled "Stamina."



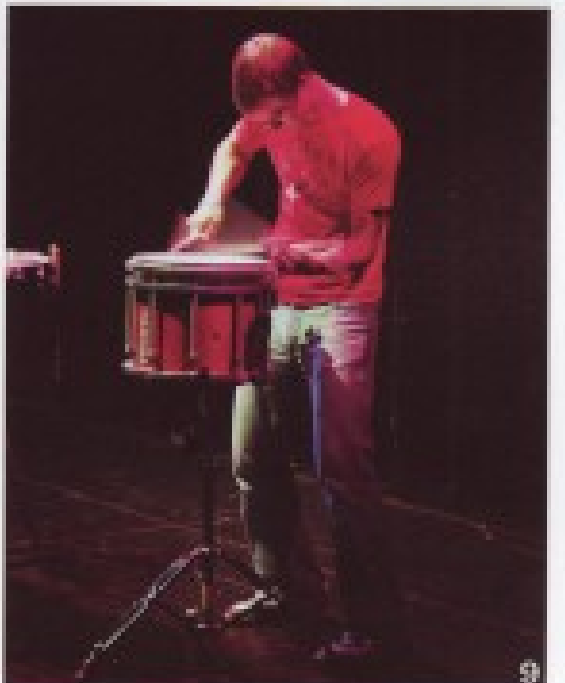
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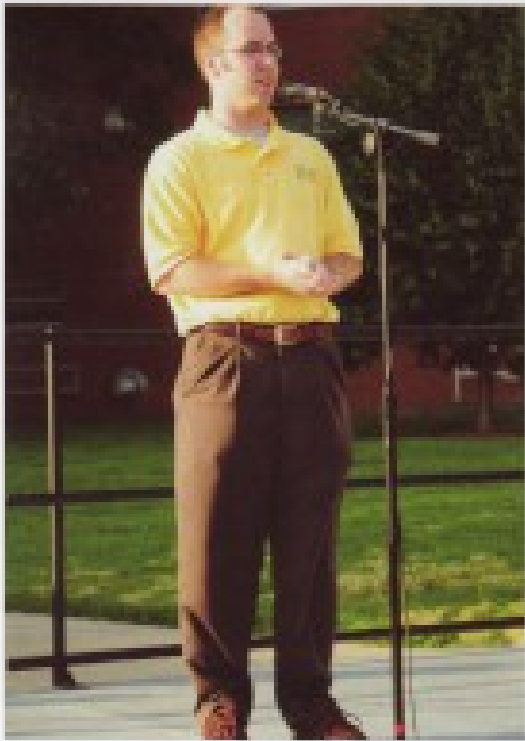


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Events Staff Events Staff



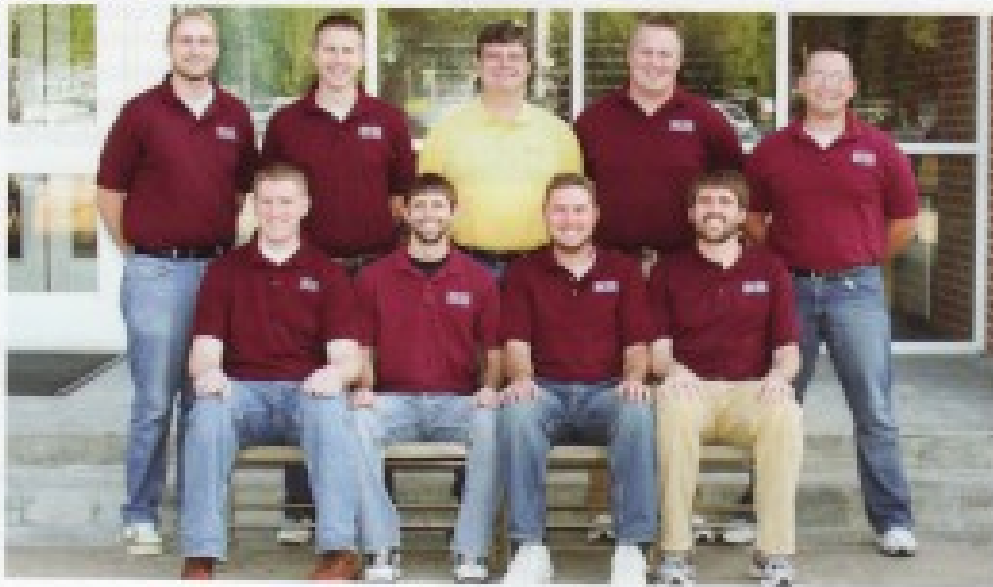
Advisors



Back: Mario Rios, Troy Fowler, Rex Gardner, Tyler Suelter, Scott Johnson, John Lindholm, Jim Schroet, Don Peters, Larry Andrews, David Stahl

Middle: Steve Peterson, Donnie Beltrera, Gordon Cunningham, Don Thomson, Bennett Radford, Jay Shelton, Alan Klassen, Scott Bley, Don Whitten, Thane Chestain

Front: Isaac Peterson, Terry Camp, Damon Christensen, Ron O'Leary, Bob Jenkins, Frances Swanson, Jeff Schrag, George Rothwell, Dave Rothwell, Chuck Shoemaker



Back: Coordinators John Moeder, Kevin Phillips, Executive Director Jeff Schrag, Coordinators Jeremy Harland, Paul Day

Front: Coordinators Jake Ellis, Jared Meitler, Andrew Rooszboom, Adam Doyle

Bradley Bradley

County Counselor

Alex Wise

City Counselors

Nick Tillman

Gavin Smith

State Curriculum Counselors

Rick Wohlfarth

Harry Muldrow



City of Aylward

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Eisenhower



County Counselor

Zach Gardner

City Counselors

Ryan Doberer

Riley Hall

State Curriculum Counselor

Zach Chappell

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Kennedy Kennedy

County Counselor

Kyle Wheatley

City Counselors

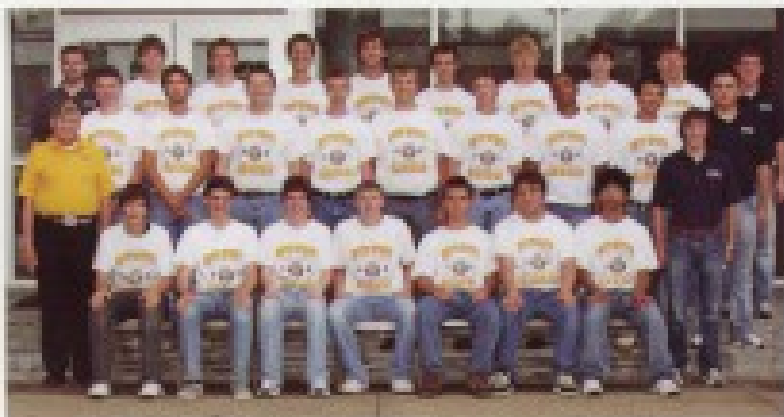
Dallas Lawrence

Matthew Onstott

State Curriculum Counselors

Rory Pugh

Tag Wall



City of Finley

Back: County Counselor Kyle Wheatley, Jordan Swadley, Kyle Malone, Daniel Skucius, Joseph Groninger, Craig Davenport, Jordan Brenn, Ryan Aeschliman, Garrett Haney

Middle: Dustin Rhoads, Ian Jones, Joshua Holworth, Peter Ruby, Brock Burnick, Caleb Weiss, Michael Colvin, Joseph Ortiz, Counselor Rory Pugh

Front: Advisor Don Whitten, Dennis Unsderfer, Taylor Marlow, Kellen Reaver, Garnet Teegenstrom, Cody Parden, Cody Claassen, Roman Valenzuela, City Counselor Dallas Lawrence



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Kind King



County Counselor

Zac Ewert

City Counselors

Marcus McNeal

Zachary Rebarcheck

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Dean Symes

Michael Reichenberger

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County Counselor

Colton Poort

City Counselors

Tyler Hazen

Nathan Harkins

State Curriculum Counselors

Alex Barbuto

Nathan Hittle



City of Icenogle

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Marshall



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Aaron Wiseman

City Counselors

Alex Jones

Thomas Gregory

State Curriculum Counselors

Andrew Koucky

Cordero Lane

City of Klassen

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Front: Advisor Don Thompson, Jonathon Hoggs, Nolan Fike, Peter Leslie, Joseph Mayer, Cole Fevold, Austin Fike, Robby Hoyt, Counselor Andrew Koucky.



City of Lane

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Front: Advisor Don Thompson, Michael Beachem, Joshua Lucero, Dennis Krueger, Andrew Laib, Jon Jones, Brian Perry, Christopher Thoman, City Counselor Thomas Gregory.



Patton Patton

County Counselor

Jacob Wieneke

City Counselors

Dylan Works

Curtis Concannon



City of Mantley

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Pershing Pershing



County Counselor

Josh Cleek

City Counselors

Kyle Gardner

Ben Roller

State Curriculum Counselors

Daniel Mickells

Matt Wedel

City of Perrill

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Middle: Counselor Daniel Mickells, Eswar Iyer, Prashanth Ramaswamy, Marcus Tetwiler, Joshua Hirschler, Terence Sherman, Jace Hoberacht, Tyler Egbert, Matthew Morefield, Counselor Eric Burton.

Front: Advisor David Rothwell, Charlie Unsederfer, Trent Ferguson, Brendan Crowley, Alex Drel, George Siegle, Jake Rose, Chris Clay, Counselor Matt Wedel.



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Middle: Counselor Daniel Mickells, Wade Wintrey, Luke Warmken, Grant Franklin, Adam Teel, Sam Cooper, Dylan Riedel, Stephen Stringfield, Damon Harshaw, County Counselor Josh Cleek.

Front: Counselor Eric Burton, Matthew Cole, Ben Waugh, Dalton Schoonover, Jimmy Kuhn, Darius Sheffield, Cole Heck, Ben Hundley, Counselor Matt Wedel.



Powell Powell

County Counselor

Brian Droste

City Counselors

James Mullin

Tyler Sheldon



City of Schulz

Back: Counselor Matt Brandt, Eric Fletcher, Derek Holmes, Adam Sobba, Alex Hermes, David Burdett, William Raymond, Levi Keller, Luke Eschliman, Advisor Terry Camp

Middle: Will Roller, Reed Woodworth, Tyler Childress, Jayce Cook, Tim Rodriguez, Cooper Bell, Micah McFall, Isaac Lehew, Counselor Chris Garlow

Front: City Counselor James Mullin, Ryme Cook, Chris Hohman, Patrick Klenda, Joshua Eckel, John Pratt, James Johnson, Taylor Mayfield, County Counselor Brian Droste



City of Spigarelli

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Middle Row: Lewen Ninemire, Michael Stephens, Casey Donnell, Zack Reed, Michael Miles, Michael Murray, Brandon Katt, Benny Bowden, Counselor Chris Garlow

Front: Counselor Matt Brandt, Colin McKay, Tyson Marcotta, José Garcia, Omar Chavez, Cameron Weeky, David Obermire, Gregory Walters, County Counselor Brian Droste

Seitz Seitz



County Counselor

Chris Werring

City Counselors

Eric Wright

Iain Blair

City of Sullivan

Back: County Counselor Chris Werring, Andy Blattner, Sean Bender, Philip Bland, Pat Werkowitch, Cole Schwarz, Alex Bolin, Andy Carlyon, Grant Saylor-Perkins.

Middle: Counselor Nick Brown, Nathan Kohl, Ethan VanZant, Samuel Small, Carston Cooper, Lee Keller, Will Shoup, Jordan Blake, Lee Williams.

Front: Counselor Vincent Lau, Jason Wahaus, Tyler Con-cannon, Cameron Wallace, Tyler Christman, Lucas Young, Morgan Wilson, Dylan Cole, City Counselor Eric Wright.



City of Wiles

Back: County Counselor Chris Werring, Counselor Nick Brown, Caleb Lenon, Kameron Hurd, Trey Stafford, Garrett Moylan, Joshua Joles, Haden Beardmore.

Middle: Geoffrey Hargis, Ashton Dover, Nathan Johnson, Levi Kuhn, Curtis Major, Ryan Weir, Kevin McCollam, Ian Welser.

Front: Counselor Vincent Lau, Ethan Graham, Louis Holt, Zachary Ramirez, Zachary Watkins, Cory Field, Kyle Fox-schler, Savannah Reoung, City Counselor Iain Blair.



A week to shape a lifetime

These are the memories that you created over one week in the summer of 2009.

You arrived at Kansas State University on Sunday, May 31st 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, the most effective form of government, is dependent on involvement. We are taking for granted that you will certainly be involved, but we challenge you not only to become involved but also to become a leader, that extra step beyond simple participation, 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.

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.



Boys Nation Senators James Geary and Thaddeus Tuck.