

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

# BOYS STATE OF KANSAS

August 1-7, 2021  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, Kansas

## Mission

Boys State provides a relevant, interactive, problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork that develops self-identity, promotes mutual respect, and instills civic responsibility.

## History

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 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.

Media Team: Logan Gideon, Jonathan Volker,  
Joseph Pilens, Justus Schremmer, Brad Biles,  
George Rothwell



## Message from the Executive Director



Tom Wierman  
Executive Director

It's been more than 40 years since I was a delegate, but I remember my session of Boys State well.

We often get asked "What is Boys State?" We answer by saying it's a hands-on learning opportunity to experience government at the city, county, and state levels. After completing your week, I hope you would agree that you learned a great deal about our form of government.

One challenge presented to you at the opening session was to develop your own political opinions rather than borrowing one from parents, respected teachers or even friends. Maybe you've never questioned those beliefs until Boys State. Everything we did during the week was to help you meet that challenge and I believe you more than met it.

Several of you shared with me at the end of the week that you felt the slogan, "A week that changed my life" was a bit corny, but after an intense week you unequivocally agreed that the statement was true. Your numbers may have been smaller this year, but your motivation, your determination, and your results would match up against other sessions we've held.

It was our privilege to work with you during the week. Please help us spread the word by sharing your experience with other students at your school. Encourage them to attend. Also, let the teachers and administrators know about the difference this program has made in your life.

Thank for attending the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. Good luck in all that you will do.

## Message from the Governor

The American Legion Boys State of Kansas is the week that changed my life. As our session flew by around us, my fellow staters and I developed as leaders and made memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

I am so grateful for the opportunity that we have all been given and I would recommend Boys State to all who are able to apply for the program. I cannot stress enough how this short week positively influenced me through personal betterment, lifelong friendships, and a newfound appreciation for how soft my pillow is.



Noah Gould  
Governor

## Advisors



Front Row (L-R): Earl Mims, James Snyder, Jay Shelton, Bob Jenkins, Tom Wierman, George Rothwell, Chris Werring.

Back Row (L-R): Mike Paynter, Allen Klassen, Brad Biles, Troy Fowler, Justin Herron, Jordan Watson, Chris Wierman, Mario Rios.

Not pictured: Chuck Shoemaker, Don Peters, Pat Retz, Kyle Wheatley, Rex Gardner

## Coordinators



(L-R): Logan Gideon, Jack Curtis, Brandon Englund

Not pictured: Chris Moe

# Counselors



Front Row (L-R): Ethan Doherty, Max Curtis, Nick Graham, Zackery Brunner, Justin Watkins, Zachery Thomas, Trey Scarborough, Gibson Hobbs, Zachery Barnes, Jonah May, Justus Schremmer, Nathan Bailey, Jack Hermon, Kodi Reed

Back Row (L-R): Keith Andrews, John Black, Chance Branson, Michael Shuey, Spencer Pruter, Reece Mathews, Austin Fink, Seth Beying, Drew Bellamy, Johannes Seberger, Joseph Pilens, Jonathan Volker, Brett Norris, Rhett Rinehart, Ryan Neill



Outstanding Volunteer  
Johannes Seberger



Counselor of the Year  
Trey Scarborough



New Counselor of the Year  
Keith Andrews



Co Advisor of the Year  
Pat Retz



Co Advisor of the Year  
Chris Werring

# Sunday

The 2021 session took place at Kansas State University Kramer Complex, delegates and staff stayed in Goodnow Hall.



Staters arrive at the Kramer Complex and begin the check in process.



Following check in staters meet their city and counties. Campaigning begins.



Counties organize and receive their first instructions.



First march to the K-State Student Union Forum Hall.



Kendall Gammon, former long-snapper for the Kansas City Chiefs, was the opening assembly speaker. Kendall brought a great deal of energy and enthusiasm (not to mention juggling skills!) to begin the week.



Each city elects Senators or Representatives to form the legislative branch of state government. Here the Boys State Legislature is organizing.

Delegates arrive from across the state, from schools of all sizes, from cities and rural areas, with varied political beliefs. Most delegates do not know each other or much about the city or town others come from. Delegates learn new points of view, further strengthen their points of view or even change their points of view. Working and living together for a week form lifelong friendships.



The Boys State Media keeps the state informed throughout the week. The Stater's Union is the daily newspaper. Segments of KSBS News is presented at various evening assemblies. The Media Counselors and Advisors document the week with hundreds of photos.

# Monday



Each County elects a member of the Boys State Highway Patrol. "Troopers" work with representatives of the Kansas Highway Patrol in various aspects of law enforcement. Tyson Smith, City of Klassen, Eisenhower County, practices a traffic stop with Kansas State Trooper Mike Paynter.

Other branches of government, such as City Councils, work on various projects throughout the week. Each delegate is assigned a city residence. Cities make up a county. Counties form the state.



Section 5 (Kansas School Board).  
The Kansas education system (the five school districts) shall be under the control of the State Board of Education. There shall be five members of the Board of Education, one from each county, elected by their respective County Commission. The Board of Education shall only exercise jurisdiction over the Schools of the State.



City Councils work on their daily project.

Legislators speak for or against a bill on the floor of the legislative chamber.



The flag is raised at each morning assembly and lowered at the evening assembly.





Executive Director, Tom Wierman, administers the oath of office to city Mayor's.



Party leaders formulate party platforms and conduct the Caucuses. Candidates for state office emerge from the Caucus and run in the general election.



Counties compete for nightly awards such as the Government, Achievement, Athletics or Best County banner.



Ajay Lohr is transcribing Boys State material.



Campaigning for Attorney General.

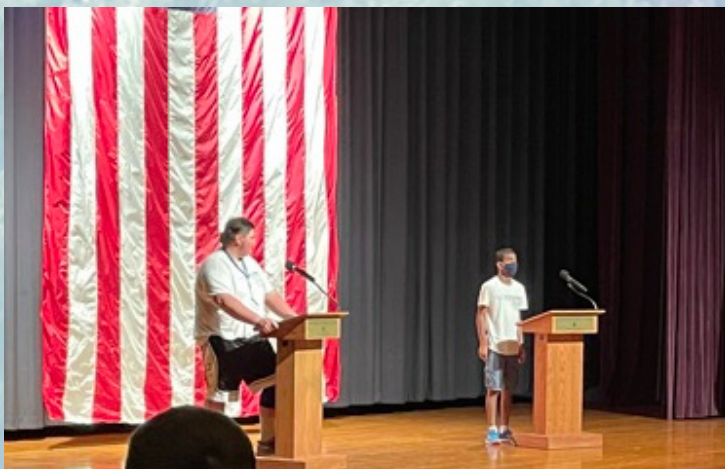
# Tuesday



Campaigns are in full swing. Governor candidates square off in a mid-day debate hosted by the Boys State Media.

Winners of the general election are announced at the evening assembly.

The night wears on as newly elected Governor works on the state budget that he will present to the legislature.



A lighter moment for the County Counselors.

Executive Director, Tom Wierman, administers the oath of office to Boys State Governor, Noah Gould. Governor Gould then administered the oath of office to the other state officials.



### General Election Results

- Governor - Noah Gould
- Lieutenant Governor - Christopher Ramsey
- Attorney General - Ajay Lohr
- State Treasurer - Logan Claassen
- Secretary of State - Patrick Olson
- Commissioner of Insurance - David Drake

State officials work late into the night on the state budget.



## Wednesday



The daily flag detail.

Wednesday is one of the longest days at state. Activities include Boys State Operations, the Flag Retirement Ceremony, and the Talent Show.



Be nice to these guys. They look like they mean business. One day they may be a Trooper with the Kansas Highway Patrol.



Kansas American Legion Commander Marri Krupco addresses delegates.



# Flag Retirement Ceremony

The retirement of the colors of our nation, a ceremony of deep respect and dignity, is not often witnessed by citizens. Keller-Pearce Post 17 (Manhattan) conducts a flag retirement ceremony for delegates to learn the proper disposal methods. Many Kansas communities have drop off locations for soiled and unserviceable flags. Patton County Counselor and U. S. Army Second Lieutenant Maximilian Curtis present the Flag for inspection to the Post 17 Sargent-at-Arms. The flag provided flew over 2LT Curtis' Grandfathers' grave; Master Sargent Beachel Curtis, a Vietnam Veteran.



## Wednesday Talent Show

After a day of city, county and state operations, the talent provides a good break. This event is a perennial favorite of delegates, staff and guests.

Wednesday evening guests were senior leaders from the Kansas American Legion.





## Thursday



Ah, meal time! The Boys State staff jokes that meal time at Kramer Dining Center is “A Week to Shape the Waistline.” The dining hall provides a great variety of food ranging from classics to Asian Wok and everything in between. Who can forget the Call Hall Chocolate Milk. Rumor has it that Boys State consumes more chocolate milk in a week than thousands of students do in a semester.

Aside from the daily operations, Thursday features the College and Career Fair. More than 30 colleges, universities, military academies, and the National Guard were on hand to answer questions about academic futures.



Miles Swaminathan, from Lenexa, KS received a Department of Kansas \$1,250 Samsung scholarship.





Every year members of the National Guard visit Delegates and Staff during Rec and the College and Career Fair. During the visit vehicles and an artillery shell were on display.



Jane Elliott, an internationally known teacher, lecturer, diversity educator, was the evening speaker. As a schoolteacher, she became known for her "Blue eyes/Brown eyes" exercise.



# Friday

Friday wraps up a week of city, county and state operations. Each city selects an outstanding citizen of the week for recognition at closing ceremonies.

Friday concludes the daily recreation time at the KSU Rec Center. Recreation consists of volleyball, basketball, cross country, soccer, softball and other special activities.



The media reports on all aspects of the program throughout the week.



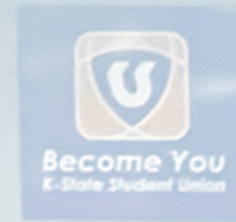
The Boys State Highway Patrol visits the Riley County Law Enforcement Center for additional training.



Eisenhower County takes the majority of banners Friday.



Supreme Court trial takes place in the Kramer Lobby.



Friday night is a night of fun and fellowship at the K-State Union. Delegates can bowl, play pool, shoot darts, play shuffleboard or just hang out. The bonding that takes place before lights out puts the finishing touches on an outstanding week.



## Saturday

The last date of state. This includes a guest speaker and closing ceremonies. After a long week everyone goes home.



2021 Boys State Supreme Court

Justices were August Hulse, Blake Coleman, Daniel Hechenberger, Ian Clark, Justin Barclay, Mason Wingate, and Tyler Engstrom.



The 2021 Closing Ceremonies Guest Speaker Erik Bergrud, Chief Strategic Communications Officer at Park University.

### Closing Ceremony Awards

Mason Wingate, William "Bill" F. Stahl Outstanding Justice Award

Max Bates Outstanding Senator

Neil Gugnani Outstanding State Representative

#### Outstanding Citizen Awards:

1. Kevin Fall
2. Logan Claassen
3. Spencer Atwood
4. Banks Peek
5. Elijah Clarke
6. Noah King
7. Corey Humble
8. Alex Troth
9. Alexander Schulte
10. Hoang Nguyen
11. Arturo Espinoza



Staff hang out one last time before leaving.

# Eisenhower County

County Staff: Austin Fink, Don Peters, Drew Bellamy, Ethan Doherty, Gibson Hobbs, Jack Hermon, Justin Herron, Michael Shuey



## City of Gardner



Alec Beasley, Alexander Schulte, Benjamin Laird, Brady Stanley, Carson Breneman, Christopher Montford, Colin Silva, Ethan Guo, Holden Draves, Joseph Claire, Kier Bishop, Landon Taylor, Landon Weide, Liam Corbett, Luke Gieber, Nathan Matlock, Noah Gould, Slade Uselton, Wyatt Bathke

## City of Klassen



Arturo Espinoza, Carson Kellogg, Christopher Ramsey, Daniel Hechenberger, Evan Billquist, George Perkins, Hayden Newton, Henry Quayle, Jack Peterson, Jackson Holle, Joshua Hilfiker, Joshua Warner, Luke Morrow, Neil Gugnani, Nick Reinig, Robby Clausel, Samuel Coleman, Tristan Metivier, Tyson Smith, Wesley Young

# MacArthur County

County Staff: Don Peters, Johannes Seberger, Justin Watkins, Kyle Wheatley, Nick Graham, Ryan Neill, Spencer Pruter, Trey Scarborough



## City of Lindholm



Aiden Howell, Anthony Finch, August Hulse, Britin Hanna, Cam McDonald, Christian Custer, Drew Brown, Eli Amsterdam, Ethan Myers, Hayden Bindel, Jacob Jarrett, Julian Chavez, Mason Smith, Noah King, Preston Vitosh, Quincy Rivers, Reid Nicholson, Samuel McWilliams, Tyler Tiede, Vinni Scillieri

## City of O'Leary



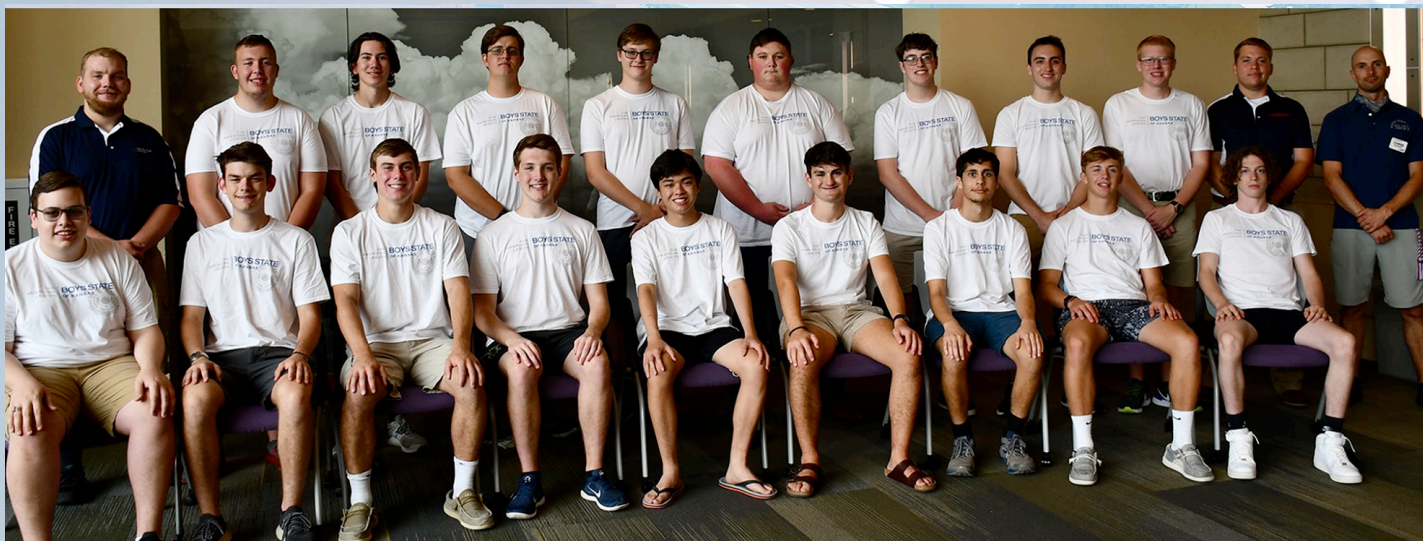
Alex Johnson, Brett Tickle, Chase Glasscock, Colby Johnston, Collin Thomas, David Drake, Elias McCleary, Elijah Clarke-Boyd, Jack O'Malley, Jake Kelly, Jamie King, Joshua Wood, Julian Calderon, Michael Chong, Milin Goldstein, Pierce Hamma, Tate Stewart, Trevor Hopkins, Walter Brookby

# Patton County

County Staff: Chris Werring, James Snyder, John Black, Max Curtis, Reece Mathews, Rhett Rinehart, Seth Beying



# City of Schrag



Blake Coleman, Bradley Schrock, Branden Stanfield, Carson Cuesta, Corey Humble, Ethan Matthias, Harris Siller, Jack Anderson, Jack Arender, Jackson Taylor, Joey Haynes, Joey Marten, Jonathan Staten, Julian Long, Lucas Kuchar, Luke Liu, Mark Andres, Maurice Hilbert, Spencer Eyen, Ted Athon

# City of Shelton

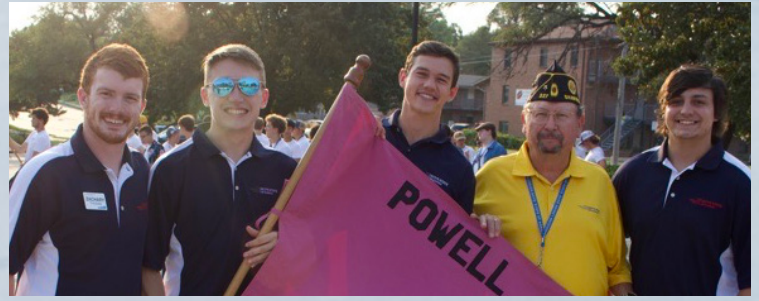


Ajay Lohr, Corbin Warner, Elijah Self, Evan Smith, Harrison Leniton, Paxton Redding, Phillip Shirkey, Robert Wright, Spencer Atwood, Theo Wagnon, Thomas Qi, Tyler Solida, William Robben, Brechen Caruso, Fischer Kent, Gavin DeBaun, Keeton Clark, Kelvin Peterson, Max Bates, Trace Eslinger



# Powell County

County Staff: Brett Norris, Chance Branson, Chris Wierman, Chuck Shoemaker, Jonah May, Joseph Pilens, Zachary Thomas



## City of Shoemaker



Alex Boyle, Alex Troth, Alexander Siomades, Brady Sexton-Snow, Clayton Rion, Cohen Ayres, Eli Kormanik, Fletcher Knowles, Jack Skinner, James Madden, John Gilmore, Jonah Kim, JT Wiemers, Leif Miller, Luke Hampl, Mateo Lemus, Michael Bresser, Miguel Ayuso, Omar Gonzalez, Owen Miller

## City of Spigarelli



Aden Frederick, Alexander Boner, Benjamin Godina, Crayton Walters, Evan Marshall, Evan Seltmann, Ezekiel Kohl, Gabriel Walter, George Botros, Ian Clark, Jordin Myers, Justin Barclay, Logan Claassen-Wilson, Mason Wingate, Patrick Olson, Sean Hurst, Shekhar Gugnani, Taylor Tenpenny, Thomas Kluck, Trent Smith, Triston Vande Velde, Wyatt Fechter

# Seitz County

County Staff: Bob Jenkins, Jonathan Volker, Jordan Watson, Justus Schremmer, Keith Andrews, Kodi Reed, Nathan Bailey, Zachary Barnes, Zachery Brunner



# City of Thomson



Abraham Frederick, Aidan Farmer, Alex Timm, Anthony Allison, Banks Peek, Dominic Reyes, Donald Chambers, Faizal Valiandi, Hoang Nguyen, James Peterson, Jarett Seeman, Joseph Faircloth, Lincoln Knowles, Matthew Freeman, Maverick Aggson, Michael Owens, Nathan Stanley, Nicholas Law, Sean McGowan, Tristan Stone

# City of Whorley



Andrew Coberley, Colton Dubreuil, Elijah Delaney, Hays Hummel, Jimmy Huynh, Jordan Habben, Kevin Fall, Kevin Yu, Kevinh Nguyen, Louis Francis, Lucas Hafer, Michael Newbold, Miles Swaminathan, Noah Gray, Owen Zafuta, Russel Baier, Thomas Koetting, Trey Dafforn, Tyler Engstrom, Will Rues



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