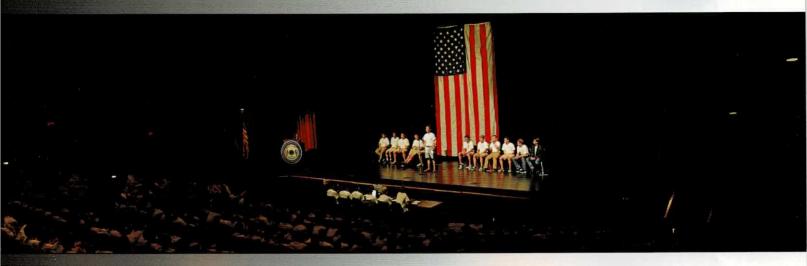
BOYS STATE STATE OF KANSAS



May 31-June 6, 2015 Kansas State University Manhattan, Kansas

THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

A Week That Changed My Life



OPENING:

To view more pictures of your week at the American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy, go to www.ksbstate.org. Click on the "2015" button and follow the guides. You can also download an application and help send someone to the upcoming session of Boys State. Call us toll-free at [100] 241-9920 or e-mail us at info.1937@ksbstate.org to request additional information.

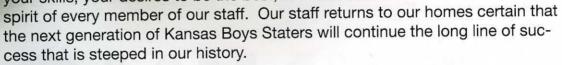
Welcome

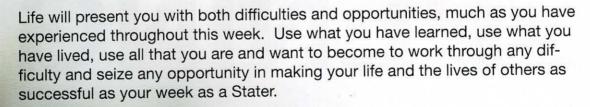
On behalf of our staff,

We say to the Staters of the 78th session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy, well done, gentlemen. Well done!

You came from all parts of our diverse state and created one Boys State. You spoke your truths and respectfully listened to others'. You worked, you created, you made friends, but mostly, you lived a week that changed your life. You return as better citizens, better Kansans, better men.

As the names on applications transitioned to names on ballots and then to names of friends, your intensity, your skills, your desires to be the best, renewed the





We can report to the American Legion of Kansas, to your families, to your High School Counselors, to those who sponsored you and to everyone else who supported you in your Boys State endeavors that you have exceeded their very high expectations.

We wish you the best and look forward to the times that our paths cross. Know this truth, you are and always will be a fellow Kansas Boys Stater!

Thank you,

Rex Gardner, Executive Director
The American Legion Boys State of Kansas

of Bardner

"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. With Charter No. 5, the Department of Kansas was among the first to institute this weeklong government-in-action program.

The American Legion Boys State of Kansas was held 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

Executive Director, Rex Gardner, greeting parents and Staters as they check in.

Keynote speaker, Bernard Franklin, addressing the Staters about not letting the status quo and social norms hold you back.

taters attending the 2015 session Oof Boys State arrived early in the afternoon. After being greeted by Executive Director Rex Gardner, they moved through check-in and on to their Counties where they became acquainted with their counselors and fellow Staters. Then they marched to Opening Ceremonies in McCain Auditorium, where they were given a preview of the week to come by Program Coordinator Gavin Smith and heard from guest speaker Bernard Franklin. Finally some Staters received direction on their respective positions.





The color gaurd, comprised of Staters, lead their first march to McCain Auditorium.





The swearing in of the city mayors by former Boys State Governor Clayton Covington.

The Whistle Stop Tour pushes Staters to present the platform that they are running on to their peers in a short amount of time.

State really picked-up
Monday morning.
Delegates campaigned,
began work on projects,
auditioned for the Talent Show,
and listened to candidates at
the Whistle Stop Tour, and much
more. Primary election results
were announced at the evening
assembly. Party conventions
followed the announcement.

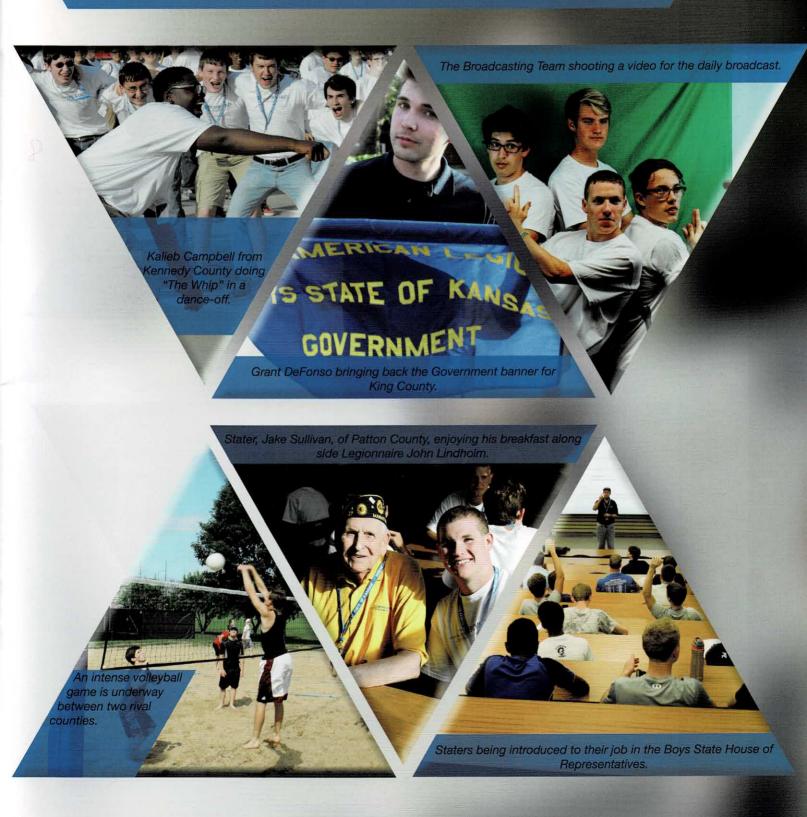


Monday



7

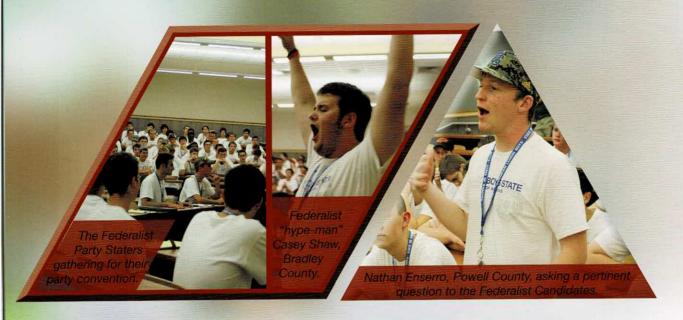
Proud King County Counselor, Grant DeFonso, giving a thumbs-up to our photographer.

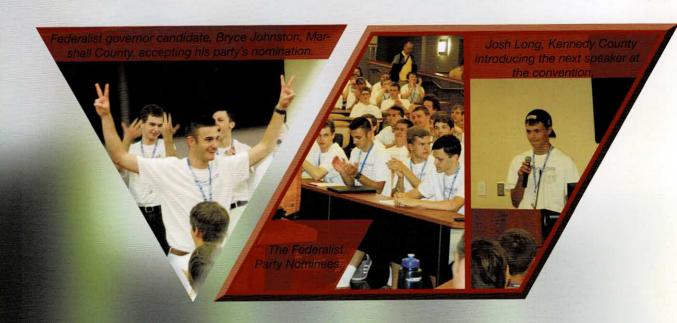




Party Conventions

Federalist Candidates: Joshua Schwartz, Jordan Humphrey, Bryce Johnston, Rob Nickel, Jacob Schlittenhardt

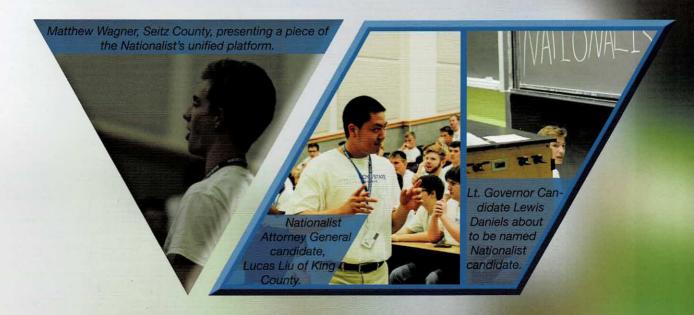




Federalists

Nationalist Candidates: Yifeng Ding, Lucas Liu, Alexander Trobough, Mathew Wagner, Luke Lozenski





Nationalists



Program Coordinator Gavin Smith informing local Kansas Media about Boys State.

The candidates must wait back stage before th debate so the format may be explained to the

uesday was truly Super Tuesday at Boys State. The general election took place after the state office candidates participated in a debate in McCain Auditorium. Then voters cast their ballots via text polling to determine the leaders of the 2015 Boys State. The results of the general election were announced during the evening retreat. Delegates then attended Town Hall Meetings where speakers from government offices and judges shared their experiences.

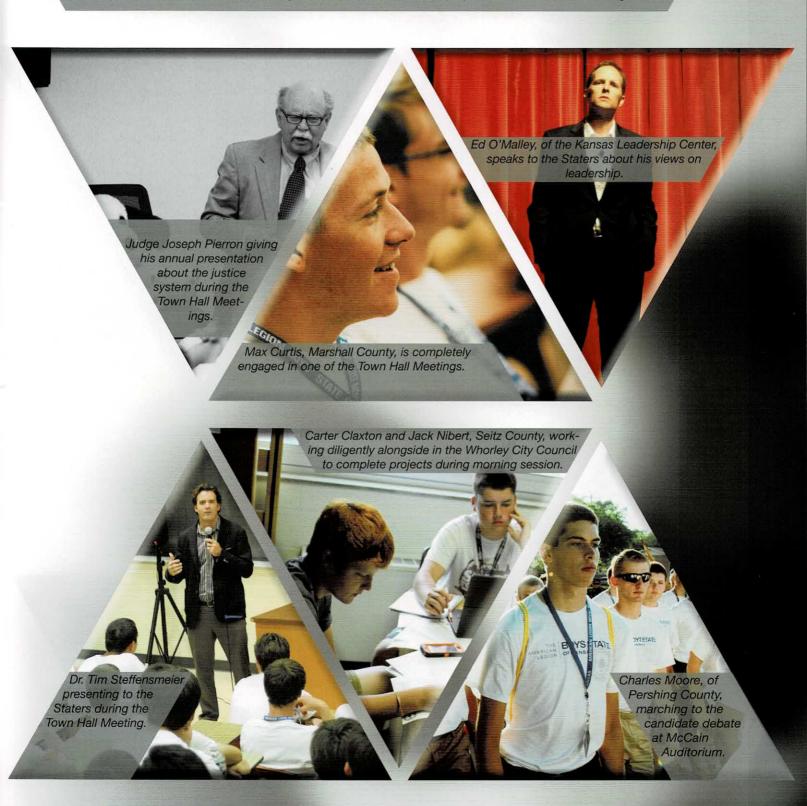


Tuesday



11

Jacob Harding, Eisenhower County, working with his peers to finish their project before the end of morning session.



Wednesday

Ethan George playing "Reveille" to raise the flag.

Governor Bryce Johnston,
Marshall County,
addressing his fellow
Staters at the
morning
assembly.

Boys State operations

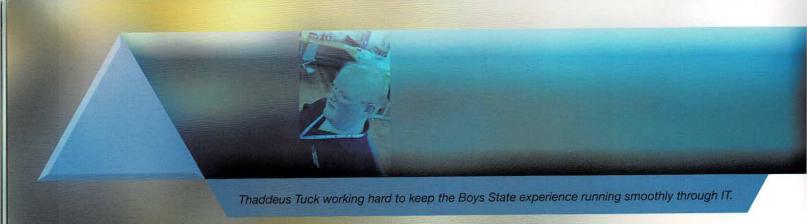
Continued as everyone had his position finalized. Also, the 2015 Boys State Governor Bryce

Johnston delivered his State of the State Address, in which he proposed his budget. Staters also took part in recreation time and legislative work. The day ended with the ever-popular Boys State Talent Show.



Chuck Shoemaker addressing the Staters during the morning assembly.





working together to solve many different types of government problems. District courts heard trials and the House and Senate debated various legislative proposals. The College Fair gave delegates an opportunity to take a break from their hectic projects and visit with college recruiters. After evening ceremonies,

he week was filled with delegates

recruiters. After evening ceremonie
Staters marched to McCain
Auditorium to listen to the Boys State
Chorus and the Boys State Band
perform. Both music groups had the
privilege to work with instructors
from the Kansas State University
music program. The Staters also
elected Senators who would
represent them at Boys Nation in
Washington D.C.

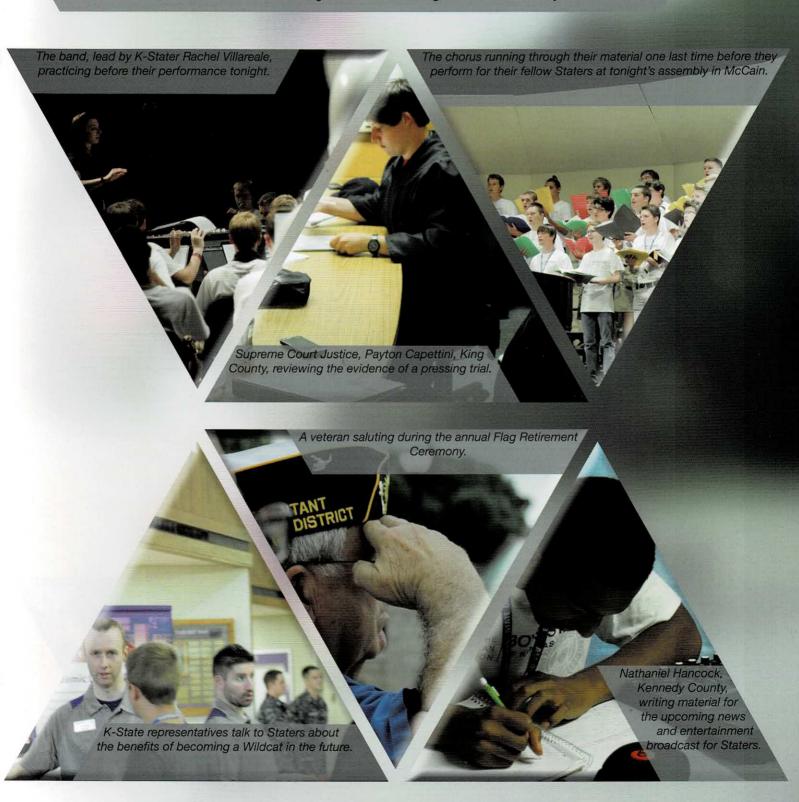


Thursday



15

The Stater Color Guard leading the march to the Flag Retirement Ceremony.





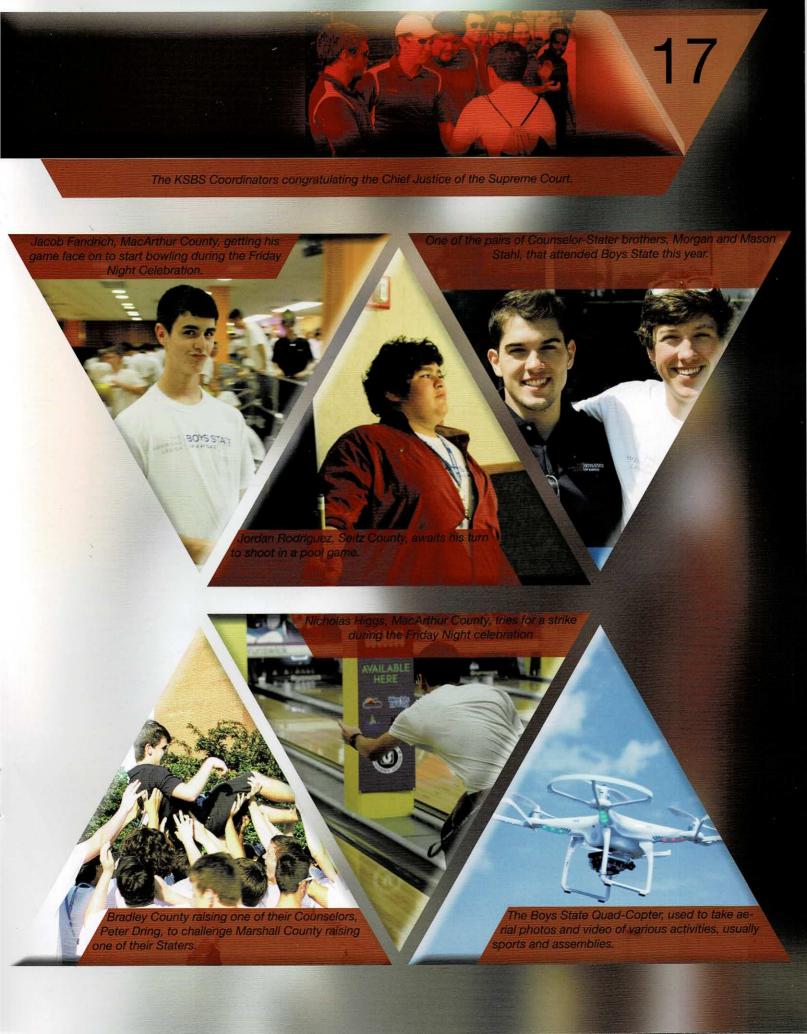
Friday

Nicholas Askew, Kennedy County, break-dancing during the nightly county dance off.

Powell County doing Pass and Review, an act to honor the veterans here at Boys State.

he final full day of State held many fun and memorable activities. As the Staters finished up their last projects, they prepared to go to the Kansas State Union for an opportunity to hang out with other Staters they had met during the week. They played pool, bowled, and took part in other activities. They also enjoyed a special barbecue meal and learned who would be representing them as the Boys Nation Senators.



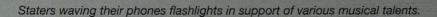


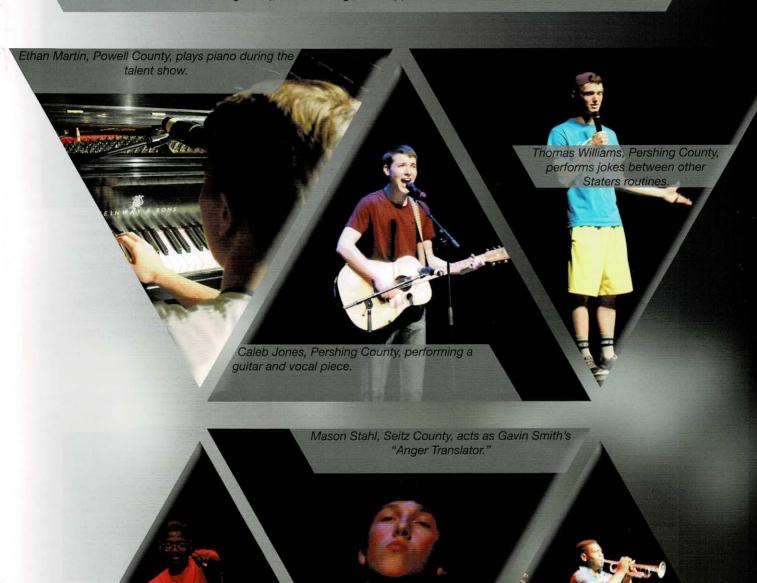
Talent Show

The traditional performance of "American Pie," played by Mike Zimmers.

Music, comedy, and dance performances were all part of the Boys State Talent Show. After their hard work during the first part of the week, delegates let loose a little bit Wednesday night and performed for fellow Boys Staters. There were a variety of different acts, ranging from piano and a variety of other musical instrument players to acting, dramatic readings, and singing. The night began with a musical performance from several of the Boys State counselors and ended with the traditional "American Pie."



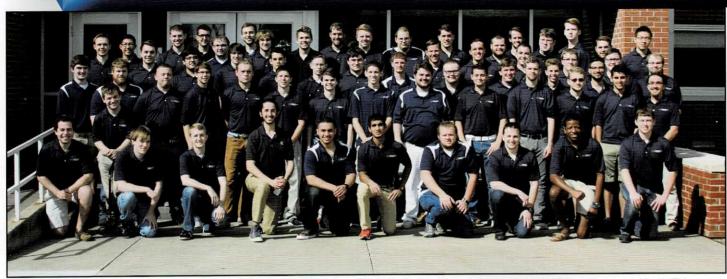




DeMarquice Phillips, Eisenhower County, performs a masterful dance that, of course, included "The Whip."

Gaylord Richardson, Marshall County, performing an improv trumpet number for the Staters.

Counselors/Coordinators



Front Row: Xander Fortunato, Rob Egan, Cody Keener, Ryan Doberer, Giovanni Moujaes, Wilfredo Figueroa, Vivek Tallavajhala, Cole Rohr, Jonathan Volker, Clayton Covington, Riley Aversman Second Row: Jonathan Cole, Curtis Concannon, Jack Curtis, Nathan Jenkins, Aden Lindholm, Michael Balk, Peter Dring, Tyler Thiel, Nathan Short, Eric Charboneau, Alex Holmes, Ian Ediger, Pumposh Bhat, Trevin Garcia Third Row: Conner Viets, Colton Lagerman, Dustin Curiel, Isaac Stark, Benedikt Reynolds, Chase Carlson, Avery McCormick, Cody McCarty, Will Korf, Waylon Sheets, Stephen Akers, Zachary Hendrickson Fourth Row: David Christie, Carson Jennings, Logan Gideon, Ryan Urban, Grant DeFonso, Jordan Martin, Callahan Eckardt, Carlos Guzman, Matt Rice, Ryan Fullerton, Wesley Sheffield, Justus Schremmer Back Row: Nathan Miller, Kyle Gardner, Chris Wierman, Trey Scarborough, Morgan Stahl, Matthew Brandt, Preston Mossman, Riley Hall, Brennan Spoor, Michael Denney, Luke Wuri Not Pictured: Chris Moe, David Sotelo, Jesse Porter, John Shively, Simeon Willis, Thaddeus Tuck

COORDINATORS



Gavin Smith, Program



Shane Wilson, Governmental Events



Matt Wedel, State Events



Marcus McNeal, Curriculum



Michael Reichenberger, Goodnow Hall



Zack Rebarchek, Mariatt Hall



Todd Vogts, Media/Marketing & IT

Advisors/Nation



First row: Don Thomson, Pat Retz, Jordan Watson, Zach Chappell, Chris Werring, Jared Meitler, Brad Biles, Curtis Kimble, Jacob Brown, Chuck Shoemaker **Second Row:** Rex Gardner, Scott Bley, Justin Herron, George Rothwell, Jeremy Harland, Jeff Schrag, Allen Klassen, Jay Shelton, Thane Chastain, Mario Rios **Third row:** Kevin Mechtley, Jake Ellis, John Lindholm, Bennett Radford, Bob Jenkins, Tom Wierman, Troy Fowler, Earl Mims, Don Peters, Mike Paynter **Not pictured:** Larry Andrews, John Mulhern, Steve Peterson, Ty Suelter, Don Whitten, Rick Wohlfarth

BOYS NATION



Alternate Premiere Jones, Rese Wynn, Alexander Trobough, Alternate Thomas Williams

Bradley



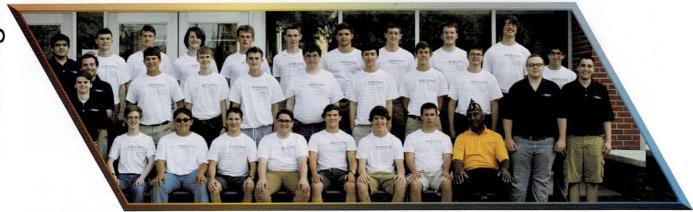
Photographer Dustin Curiel, Yearbook Counselor Peter Dring, County Counselor Alexander Fortunato, Bramlage City Counselor Will Korf, Blumke City Counselor Matt Rice **Not Pictured:** Govt. Counselor Simeon Willis

Bluemke



Front Row: Counselor Peter Dring, Counselor Alexander Fortunato, Counselor Matthew Rice, Cody Sader, Peter Stuchlik, Taylor Cook, Drew Holland, Raymond Felton, Legionaire Larry Andrews **Middle Row:** Counselor Dustin Curiel, Nathan Lipinski, Aaron Parish, Kolton Pavlu, Collin Queal, Skyler Carder, Matthew Perumal, Sandon Scott, Joshua Booke **Back Row:** Daniel Vakser, Jacob Talkin, Kale Johnson, Jace Mousley, Collin Dwornicki, Ross Isern, Blake Matzke, Alexander Prettyman, John Lind

Bramlage



Front Row: Counselor Peter Dring, Ethan Shields, Aaron Carrillo, Jorden Drimmel, Jack Zumalt, Sam Vasquez, Andrew Mills, Kyle Taliaferro, Legionaire Larry Andrews, Counselor Will Korf, Counselor Matthew Rice **Middle Row:** Couselor Alexander Fortunato, Cole Schwartz, Nicholas Mauer, Jacob Welsh, Dylan Sabatos, Trey Ibarra, Mitchell Walden, Caelan Dean, Jose Moreno Jr. **Back Row:** Counselor Dustin Curiel, Dylan Jones, Matthew Romme, Zachery Brunner, Zane Phelps, Spencer Finknbiner, Mitchell Zabel, Jonah Bann, Casey Shaw, Dennis Truman

Eisenhower



Chastain City Counselor Chase Carlson, Govt. Counselor Micheal Balk, Crum City Counselor Jack Curtis, County Counselor Ryan Doberer, Govt. Counselor Michael Denney, News Counselor Riley Aversman, Legionnaire Chuck Shoemaker



Front Row: Counselor Jack Curtis, Counselor Ryan Doberer, Hogan Welch, Alexander Snell, Nicholas Graham, Johnathon Moore, Adam Clark, Nathan Dowell, Counselor Chase Carlson, Legionnare Chuck Shoemaker Middle Row: Counselor Michael Balk, Lawrence Meier, Alex Veliz, RJ Cooper, Zachary Caraccilo, Johnathon Beckerman, Brenden Shutt, Jason Searl II, Gabe Younger, Counselor Michael Denney Back Row: Garrett Hundley, Ethan George, Peter Fortunato, Bradley Malmquist, Gabriel Orndorff, Devon Jones, Premiere Jones, Nolan Gray, DeMarquice Phillips, Counselor Riley Aversman



Front Row: Counselor Chase Carlson, Counselor Ryan Doberer, Nicholas Reeves, Nate Jones, Dalton Moser, Hagen Kent, Charley Edgar, Counselor Jack Curtis, Legionnaire Chuck Shoemaker Middle Row: Counselor Michael Balk, Nick Springer, RJ Hoyt, Alden Vogel, Nathaniel Hunt, Joseph Sulllivan, Jacob Harding, Jacob Dearman, Shawn Hoffman, Counselor Michael Denney Back Row: Cameron Fleming, Daniel Holthus, Derrick Nelson, Logan Robins, Ted Steyer, Mitchell Mikinski, Jaran Hedstrom, Nathan King, Alec Feather, Counselor Riley Aversman

hastai

Kennedy



Photographer Benedikt Reynolds, Gardner City Counselor Vivek Tallavajhala, Simulation Counselor Pumposh Bhat, County Counselor Preston Mossman, Finley City Counselor Cal Eckardt, Govt. Counselor Nathan Short, Govt. Counselor Justus Schremmer



Front Row: Counselor Pumposh Bhat, Counselor Vivek Tallavajhala, Phillip Carroll, Nicholas Askew, Kyle Bell, John Young, Nathaniel Hancock, Counselor Cal Eckardt, Legionnaire Chuck Shoemaker Middle Row: Counselor Nathan Short, Zachary Hilbig, Josh Long, Colton Brennan, August Zoch, Justin Wierman, Jacob Sellens, Hudson Parris, Brandon Hurn, Counselor Justus Schremmer Back Row: Counselor Preston Mossman, Joshua Pokorny, Jared Turrel, Michael Aldrich, Kalieb Campbell, Garrett Swisher, Richard Totleban III, Jake Bussmann, Samuel Linder, Counselor Benedikt Reynolds





Front Row: Counselor Pumposh Bhat, Counselor Vivek Tallavajhala, Josh Becker, Orion Battaglia, Kye Brewer, Sergio Soto, Counselor Cal Eckardt, Counselor Nathan Short, Legionnaire Chuck Shoemaker **Middle Row:** Counselor Benedikt Reynolds, Austin Ragusin, Rhett Rinehart, Benjamin Witte, Aaron Knowles, Cody Carder, Trevor Spraetz, Keagan Boyd, Justin Donnelly, Brice Koch, Counselor Justus Schremmer **Back Row:** Counselor Preston Mossman, Colin McCormick, Patrick Kepka, Ben Strommen, Eric Haefele, Jack Howard, Tyler Quigley, Phinehas Adams, William Hanlen

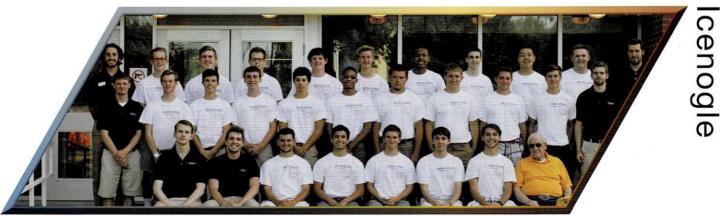
King



Icenogle City Counselor Brennan Spoor, County Counselor Grant DeFonso, Hiatt City Counselor Alex Holmes, Govt. Counselor Cody McCarty, Govt. Counselor Chris Wierman, Photographer Giovanni Moujaes, Legionnaire Don Whitten



Front Row: Counselor Cody McCarty, Keaton Petite, George Jurgensmeyer, Austin Banzet, Asher Supernaw, Hunter Perryman, Garrett Barnaby, Collin Willis, Legionnaire Don Whitten **Middle Row:** Counselor Grant DeFonso, Sam Lett, Ian McDonald, Nathaniel Engler, Jose Mejia, Guy Filinger, Corey Minkoff, Alexander Menke, Andy Mikesic, Counselor Alex Holmes **Back Row:** Counselor Giovanni Moujaes, Zach St. Clair, Donovan Lumpkin, Chase Sneath, Keaton Barnes, Ian Clarke, Carter Nelson, Josiah Caspers, Jack Skidmore, Counselor Chris Wierman **Not Pictured:** Avery Bola

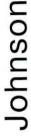


Front Row: Counselor Brennan Spoor, Counselor Grant Defonso, Juston Fonyi, John Buckley III, Ian Englebrigh, Jack Fiorella, Adam Carpenter, Legionnaire Don Whitten **Middle Row:** Counselor Cody McCarty, CJ Williams, Brendon Lanker, Bryan Armbrust, Tanner Kubick, Sage Williams, Jeremy Simmelink, Jordan Lamond, Gehrig Geissinger, Grant Hansen, Counselor Alex Holmes **Back Row:** Counselor Giovanne Moujaes, Noah Mead, Henry Cannon, Camden Stiles, Payton Capettini, Connor Yohon, Jarius Jones II, Henry Lobaugh, Lucas Lui, Garrett Cook, Counselor Chris Wierman

MacArthur

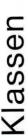


Govt. Counselor Connor Viets, Johnson Clty Counselor David Sotelo, County Co. Zachary Hendrickson, Govt. Counselor Ian Ediger, Klassen City Counselor Trevin Garcia, Govt. Counselor Matthew Brandt





Front Row: Advisor Allen Klassen, Counselor Zachary Hendrickson, Counselor Ian Ediger, Parker Kremeier, Connor Wyle, Anthony Deltufo, Counselor David Sotelo, Legionnaire Curtis Kimble Middle Row: Devin Locke, Tyler Fleske, Hasan Raffi, Tristan Jordon, Devon Janicke, CJ Rush, Jacob Katzer, Daniel Kramer Back Row: Counselor Connor Viets, Adam Houghton, Justin Carlson, Ethan Richardson, Jack Hane, Taber Bayles, James Witte, Ben Call, Andrew Duffy, Counselor Matthew Brandt





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Marshall



Photo Manager Stephen Akers, Mantey City Counselor Chris Moe, Broadcast Counselor Isaac Stark, County Counselor Riley Hall, Lane City Counselor Colton Lagerman, Govt. Counselor Morgan Stahl



Front Row: Counselor Chris Moe, Counselor Isaac Stark, Parker Cates, Emilio Tovilla, Jordan Humphrey, Ryan Anderson, Michael Steinlage, Austin Coughlin, Legionnaire Don Thomson, Counselor Stephen Akers Middle Row: Sam Skeet, Jacob Schlittenhardt, Taylor Martin, Brayden Hosman, Josiah Satzler, Rob Nickel, Jordan Hulet, Bryce Helm, Max Curtis, Counselor Riley Hall Back Row: Counselor Colton Lagerman, Nick Pattrick, Evan Hailes, Garrett Rademacher, Joshua Schwartz, Gaylord Richardson, Darion Stafford, Andrew Myers, Jack Chessmore, Joel Hendershot, Counselor Morgan Stahl



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Govt. Counselor Nathan Jenkins, IT Counselor Luke Wuri, Newman City Counselor Wesley Cheffield, News Counselor Jonathon Volker, Govt. Counselor Jordan Martin, Govt. Counselor Tyler Thiel, County Counselor Nathan Miller, Legionnaire John Lindholm



Front Row: Counselor Nathan Miller, Derek Reese, Kaiser Kim, Brandon Broddle, Tristan Spicer, Kaleb Schumaker, Anson Hall, Kyle Verhaeg, Legionnaire John Lindholm, Counselor Jonathon Volker **Middle Row:** Counselor Nathan Jenkins, Jack Kleikamp, Skylar Criqui, Rhodes Brook, William Knorp, Nicholas Booth, Noah Bowling, Dakota Helm, Tyrone Hooks, Counselor Tyler Thiel **Back Row:** Counselor Wesley Cheffield, Counselor Luke Wuri, David Sayles, Jacob Gerber, Robbie Gibbs, Mark Buckwalter, Jake Nespor, Reece Leonard, Derek Ficken, Samuel Mailloux, Counselor Jordan Martin



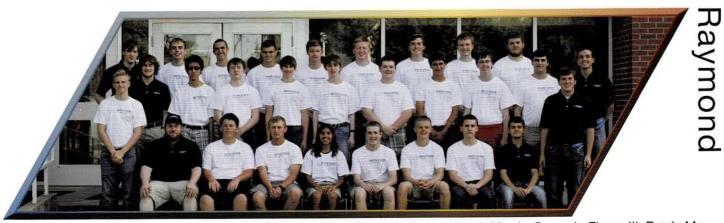
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Photographer Ryan Urban, Perrill City Counselor Cody Keener, County Counselor Curtis Concannon, Raymond City Counselor Eric Charboneau II, Govt. Counselor Waylon Sheetz, Photographer Carlos Guzman



Front Row: Counselor Cody Keener, Counselor Curtis Concannon, Varun Govind, Zachary Sundbloom, Isaac Berlau, Ryan Brown, Counselor Waylon Sheetz, Counselor Eric Charboneau II Middle Row: Mark Walthers, Nathaniel Strifler, Collin Graves, Kelvin Suddith, Brant Pitcairn, Joshua Nichols, Sam Glaser, Scott Ring Back Row: Thomas Williams, Ryan Broeder, Jackson Barth, Caleb Jones, Davy Depew, James Berry, Nick Arneson, Grant Murphy, Nathan Hostert



Front Row: , Thomas Pribyl, Counselor Curtis Concannon, Rawson Evans, Jacob Klugh, Gregorio Flores III, Brady Maguire, Joe Schemm, Charles Moore, Counselor Eric Charboneau II, Counselor Waylon Sheetz Middle Row: Counselor Ryan Urban, Yifeng Ding, Evan Curtiss, Paul Copeland, Tyler Tanguy, Derek Thurston, Ethan Snider, Trey Miller III, Michael Tamer, Counselor Carlos Guzman Back Row: Counselor Cody Keener, Garrett Tatro, Kyle Seager, Jack Fee, Julian Kincaid, Brock Jameson, Christopher Wheeler, Sam Horst, Alex Wohler

Powell



Shelton City Counselor Carson Jennings, Spigarelli City Counselor David Christe, Govt. Counselor Rob Egan, County Counselor Aden Lindholm, Govt. Counselor Clayton Covington, Broadcast Counselor Logan Gideon

Shelton



Front Row: Counselor Logan Gideon, Counselor Rob Egan, Legionnaire "Doc" Bennett Radford, Devon Grosstephen, Franklin Carter, Ivan Kemp, Thomas Kieu, Emerso Womble, Counselor Clayton Covington Middle Row: Dean of Advisors Jay Shelton, Sean Jesse, Sam Drouhard, Augustus Ramirez, Lakota Shehi, Hayden Splechter, Nicholas Redwine, Tristan Smith, Conner Ensign, Joel Katzer Back Row: Counselor Aden Lindholm, Bryan Haist, Alex Tharp, Evan Barclay, Bjorn Funk, Jacob Doerkson, Jared Chamberlain, Kyle Baker, Ben Montgomery, Daniel Lewis, Counselor Carson Jennings

Spigarelli



Front Row: Counselor Logan Gideon, Counselor Rob Egan, Counselor David Christe, Cale Schneider, Alan Brown, Chase Liby, Tony Wingfield, Nathan Enserro, Counselor Clayton Covington **Middle Row:** Wyatt Duskie, Peter Georgiou, Gavin Overmiller, Thomas Wilkinson, Joseph McKenzie, Maxwell Hubbert, Alexander Trobough, Colby Works, Scott Holmes **Back Row:** Counselor Aden Lindholm, Christopher Llamas, Seth Wingerter, Joshua Fandrich, Ethan Bellar, Ethan Martin, Michael Collins, Noah Beets, Elijah Zidek, Nate Obr

Seitz 31



Wiles City Counselor Wilfredo Figueroa, Govt. Counselor Ryan Fullerton, Govt. Counselor Trey Scarborough, IT Counselor Avery McCormick, Legionnaire Bob Jenkins, County Counselor Kyle Gardner, Whorley City Counselor Jonathan Cole



Front Row: Counselor Ryan Fullerton, Counselor Jonathan Cole, Josh Shealy, Nicholas Ramirez, Jordan Waymaster, Travinn Oliver, Counselor Avery McCormick, Legionnaire Bob Jenkins Middle Row: Counselor Kyle Gardner, Eric Frieb, Barrett Robertson, Jack Nibert, Caleb Lanker, Carter Claxton, Christian Rivas, Kyler McKeel, Aaron Kamke Back Row: Jace Taliaferro, Luke Brown, Reed Russum, Matthew Wagner, Ross Kuehny, Trey Schmidt, Austin Croll, Heath Cox, Cole Entzminger, Counselor Trey Scarborough Not Pictured: Zachary Dabney



Front Row: Counselor Ryan Fullerton, Austin Molleker, Joe Milsap, Cody Kraus, Keegan Sparks, Patrick Gambill, Tristan Hitton, Counselor Avery McCormick, Legionnaire Bob Jenkins, Counselor Wilfredo Figueroa Middle Row: Counselor Kyle Gardner, Jay Patel, Robert Uptmor, Carter Fritze, Nathan Staats, Jordan Rodriguez, Cole Smith, Jacob Wyrick, Brandon Boyce, Jarret Griffee Back Row: Tyler Popelka, Bayler Kelly, Spencer Parish, Jack Lanham Jr, Luke Wichman, Jacob Kleepsie, Sam Angstadt, Mason Stahl, Reed Rankin, Counselor Trey Scarborough

Closing

And so it is over. The 78th session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas program is complete. These are just some of the life-long memories, captured in picture form, that you created over one week in the summer of 2015.

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.

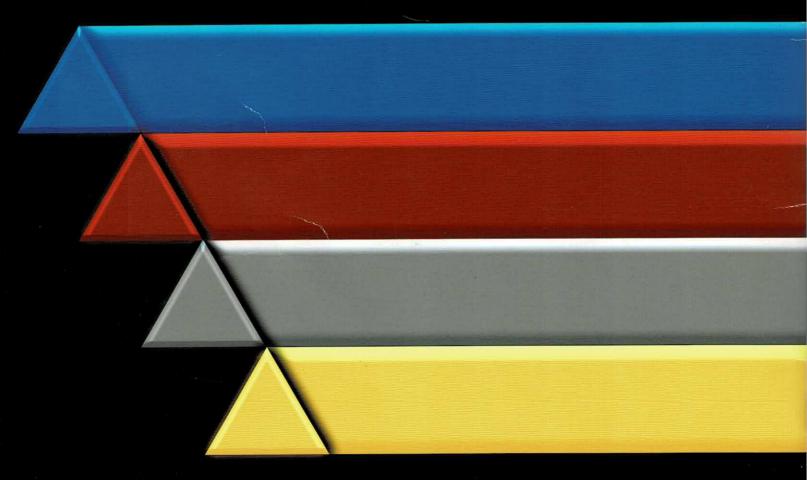
Democracy exists in your homes, schools, congregations, and workplaces. There will be times in your life when you will be faced with a situation that you do not agree with or that you feel is unfair to you or someone you know. As difficult as it may seem, it is not only your right but your responsibility 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.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

BOYS STATE OF KANSAS



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