

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

**BOYS STATE**  
OF KANSAS



June 5-10, 2016  
**Kansas State University**  
Manhattan, Kansas

A WEEK THAT  
**Changed**  
MY LIFE

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

**BOYS STATE  
OF KANSAS**



To view more pictures of your week at the American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy, go to [www.ksbstate.org](http://www.ksbstate.org). Click on the “2016” 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 (866) 241-9920 or e-mail us at [info.1937@ksbstate.org](mailto:info.1937@ksbstate.org) to request additional information.



# Welcome

Thank you for attending the 2016 session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy! You were selected by members of your community as one of the top young men from the state of Kansas and chosen to have the firsthand experience of Boys State.

The mission of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy is to be a relevant, interactive, problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork that develops self-identity, promotes mutual respect and instills civic responsibility. I hope during your time at Boys State you were able to experience these attributes, and have a little fun in the process.

From the beginning you were challenged to dive in and get engaged, and not sit on the sideline and watch the week as it goes by. If you took this challenge you inevitably faced failure during the week, and that's ok! The possibility of failure can deter even the most confident men and women from taking a chance, and risking vulnerability. Our failures, as much as our successes, help define who we are as leaders, and as men. Michael Jordan once said "I can accept failure; everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying." I hope that during your time at Boys State you took many opportunities to try.

As you reflect on your time at Boys State I hope that you can take a step back and appreciate the magnitude of progress that was made. Government entities were formed, city, county and state officials were elected, legislative and court systems created, and the media staff was there to cover it all. You accomplished quite a lot in such a short period of time, and you couldn't have done it alone. The amount of work accomplished took teamwork and cooperation, and everyone had to play their role to ensure success. Individually we are limited in what we can accomplish, however, when we work together we are able to increase our capabilities exponentially.

When you first arrived you were a single entity, one of 500. Leaving Boys State, I hope that you feel a sense of community, and take pride in the communities formed during your time. I hope that you took pride in what you were able to accomplish to move your community forward during your time at Boys State. Civic engagement is a responsibility shared by many, and you have a role to play. Exercise your right to vote, stand up for what you believe in, and do what you can to improve your community.

As the week went on, you likely became close friends with those around you that shared in your Boys State experience. Now, as an alumnus of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas you are a member of Statesmen Club, our alumni organization. You join the thousands of Kansas Boys State Delegates before you, and those that will follow as some of the best and brightest from the state of Kansas. I hope that you share your Boys State experience with pride and always remember Boys State!



Jake Ellis  
Executive Director  
The American Legion Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy



# 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. With Charter No. 5, the Department of Kansas was among the first to institute this week-long 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.

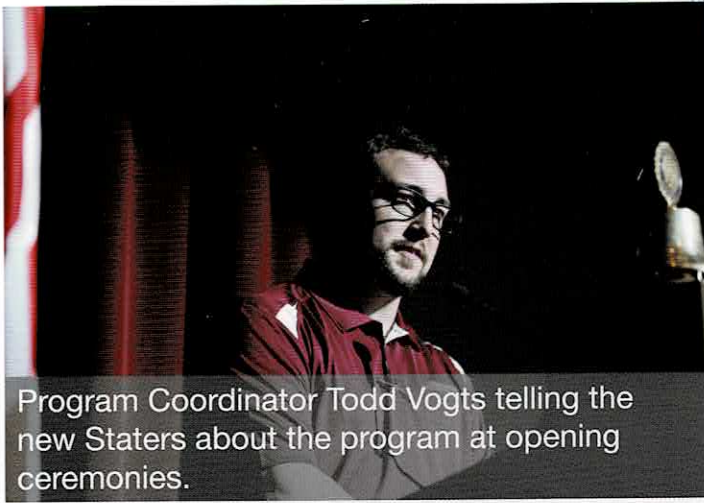


# Sunday

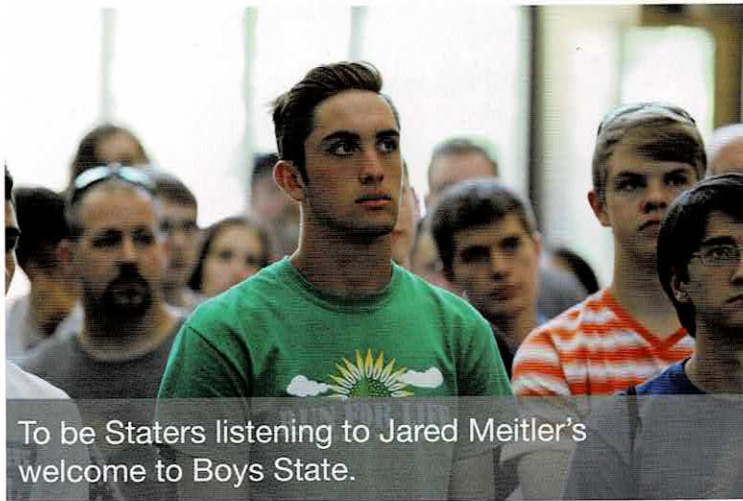


-Speaker Dustin Galyon

Staters attending the 2016 session of Boys State arrived early in the afternoon. After being greeted by Associate Executive Director Jared Meitler, they moved through check-in and on to their Counties where they became acquainted with their counselors and fellow Staters. They then marched to Opening Ceremonies in McCain Auditorium, where they were given a preview of the week to come by Program Coordinator Todd Vogts and heard from guest speaker Dustin Galyon. Finally, some Staters received direction on their respective positions.



Program Coordinator Todd Vogts telling the new Staters about the program at opening ceremonies.



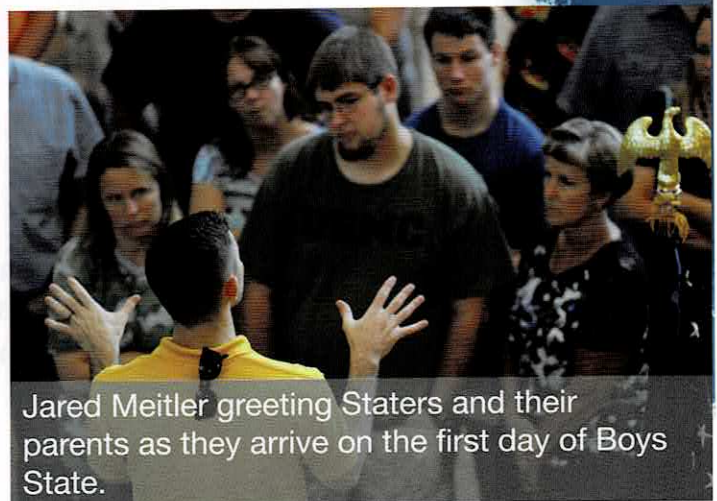
To be Staters listening to Jared Meitler's welcome to Boys State.



Soon-to-be Staters eagerly awaiting to check in and get their week under way.



A County eagerly walking to opening ceremonies.



Jared Meitler greeting Staters and their parents as they arrive on the first day of Boys State.

# Monday



-Federalist

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



Bradley County Commission is hard at work learning the ropes of their job.



Marshall Rutschman and the rest of Pershing County at evening assembly.



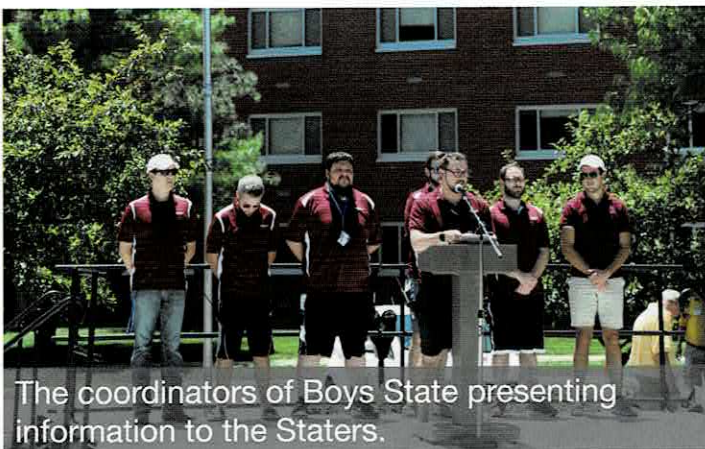
Marshall County during morning assembly eagerly awaiting dismissal so they can jump into operations time.



Stater JJ Scott from Powell County trying out for the annual Boys' State Talent Show.



With the Whistle Stop Tour under way, candidates like Jared Long campaigned for their respective offices.



The coordinators of Boys State presenting information to the Staters.



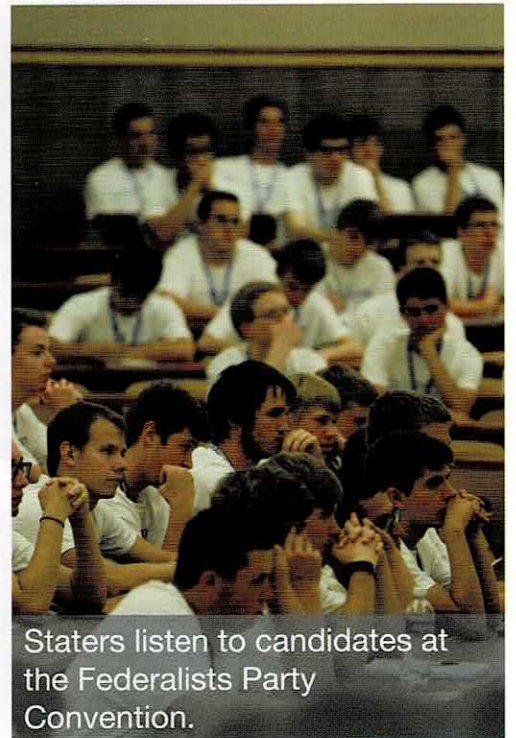
The Boys State Color Guard helps raise the flag during morning assembly.



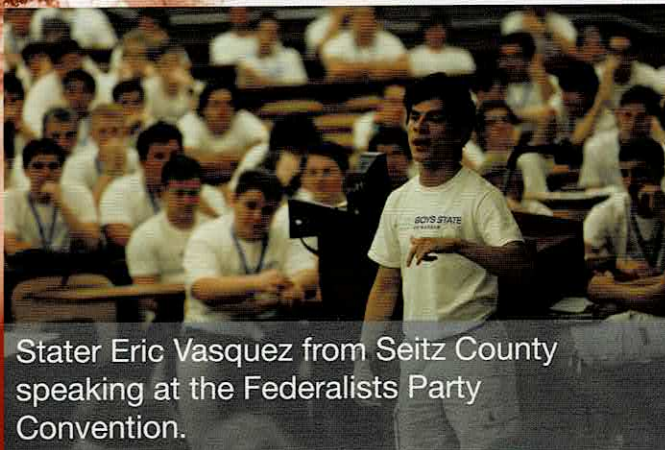
# Federalists



A Federalists Party leader fires up the delegates attending the Federalist Party Convention.



Staters listen to candidates at the Federalists Party Convention.



Stater Eric Vasquez from Seitz County speaking at the Federalists Party Convention.



Stater Mason Schartz from Pershing County speaking at the Federalists Party Convention.

# Party

# Nationalists



Staters listen to candidates at the Nationalists Party Convention.



Staters arrive at their Party Convention.



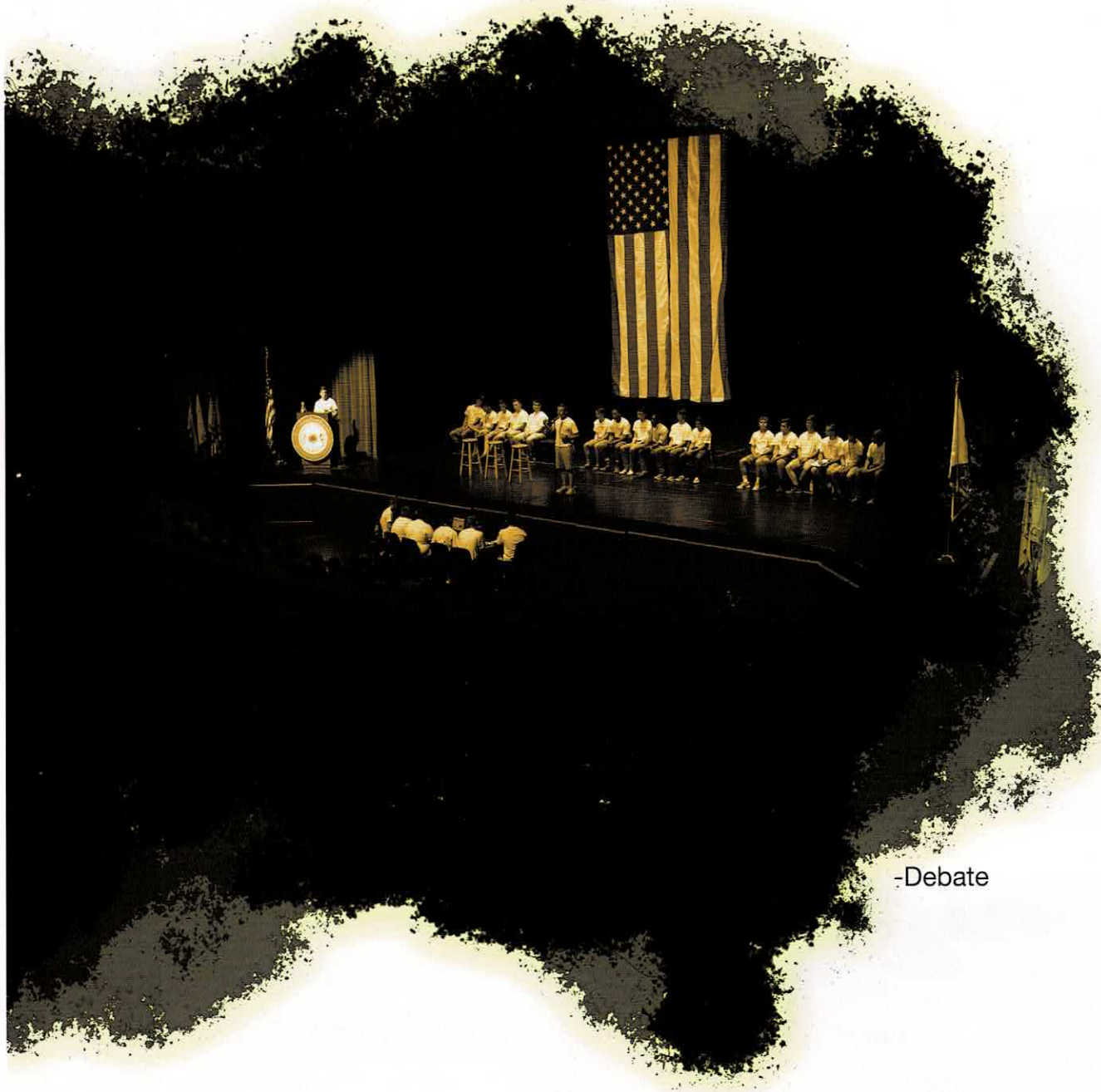
A Nationalist Party leader tries to fire up the delegates attending the Nationalists Party Convention.



Staters fill the room for the party convention.

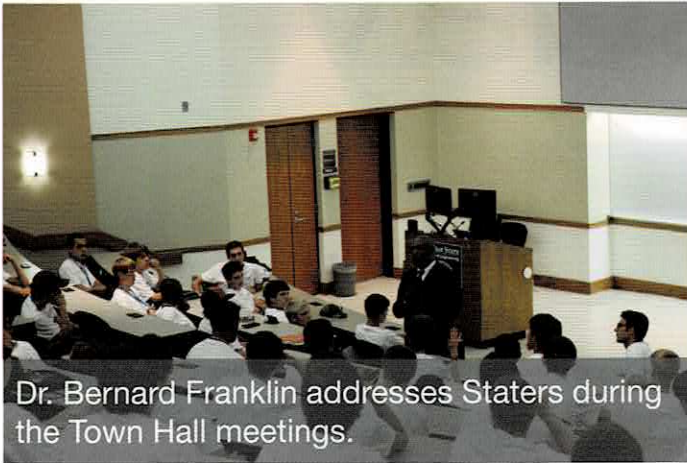
# Conventions

# Tuesday

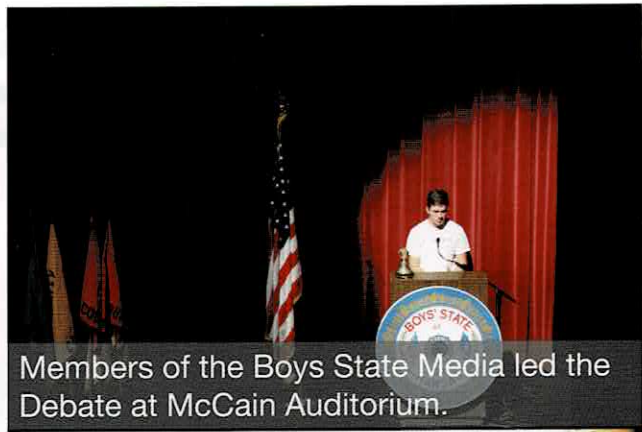


-Debate

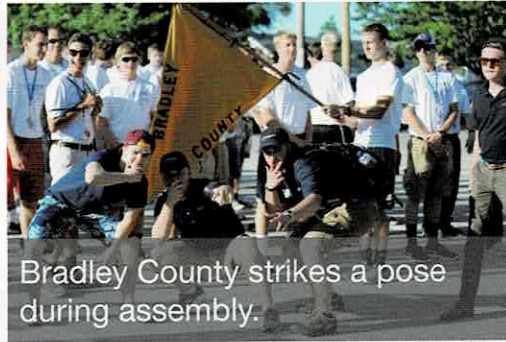
Tuesday was truly Super Tuesday at Boys State. The general election took place after the state office candidates participated in a debate in McCain Auditorium. Then voters cast their ballots via text polling to determine the leaders of the 2016 Boys State. The results of the general election were announced during the evening retreat. Delegates then attended Town Hall Meetings where speakers from government offices and judges shared their experiences.



Dr. Bernard Franklin addresses Staters during the Town Hall meetings.



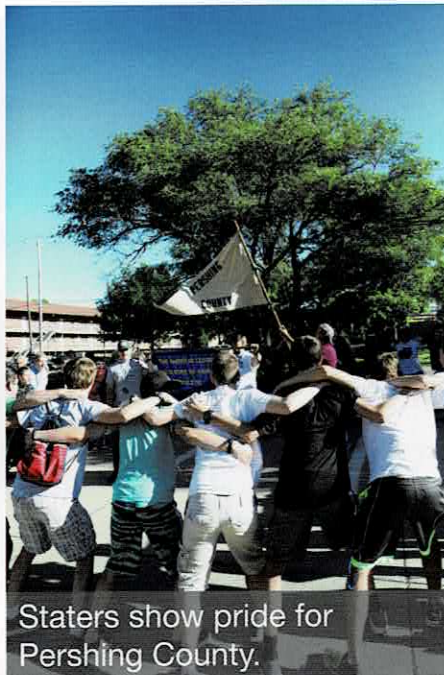
Members of the Boys State Media led the Debate at McCain Auditorium.



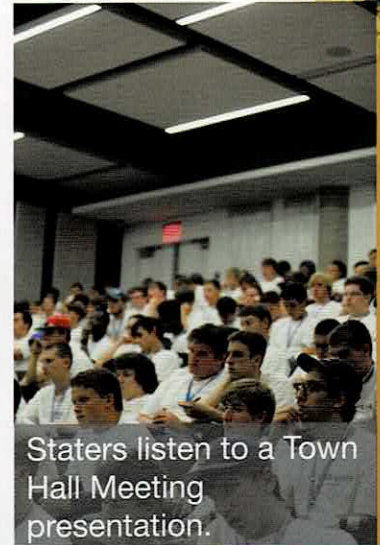
Bradley County strikes a pose during assembly.



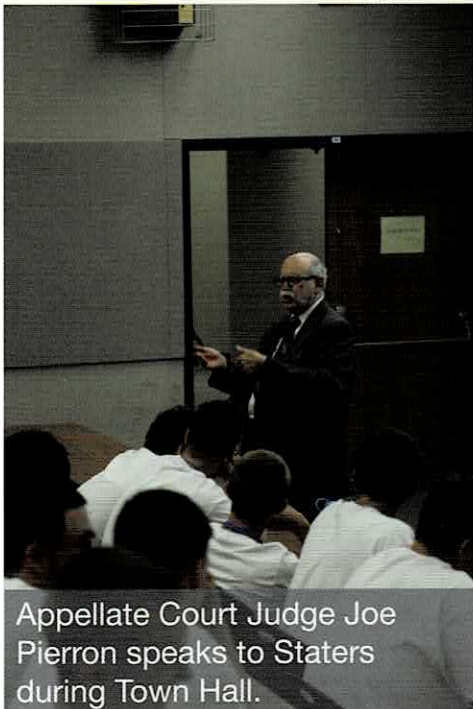
Staters do pushups during morning assembly.



Staters show pride for Pershing County.



Staters listen to a Town Hall Meeting presentation.



Appellate Court Judge Joe Pierron speaks to Staters during Town Hall.



Nick Siscoe (State Treasurer), Amer Uddin (Secretary of State), Grant Daily (Governor), Evan Haas (Lieutenant Governor), Hunter Eisler (Attorney General) and Mason Scharz (Commissioner of Insurance).

# Wednesday

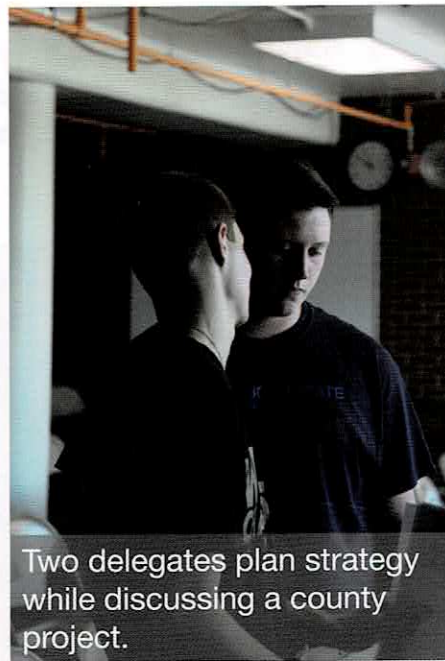


-Governor's Address

Boys State operations continued as everyone had his position finalized. Also, the 2016 Boys State Governor Grant Daily 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.



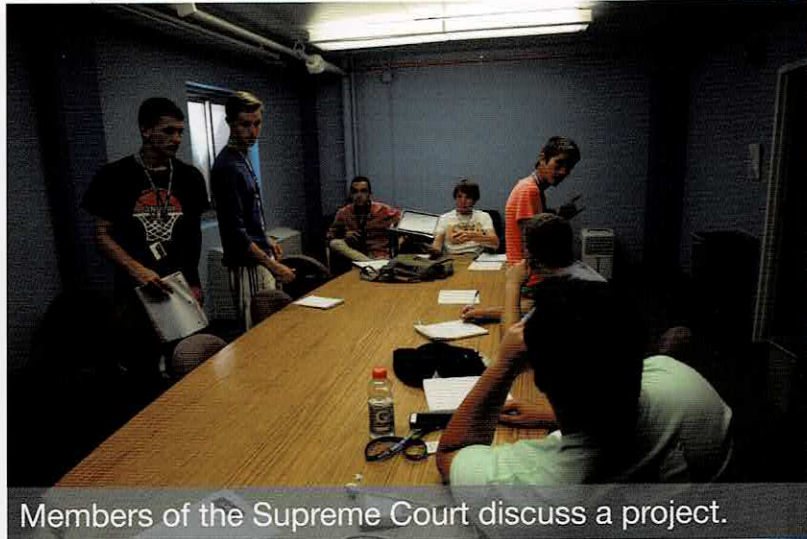
Staters play sand volleyball during recreation time.



Two delegates plan strategy while discussing a county project.



Clint Usher of Alabama Boys State delivers a speech to the Kansas Boys State delegation.



Members of the Supreme Court discuss a project.



Staters play tennis during recreation time.



Bradley County practices Pass In Review.



# Thursday

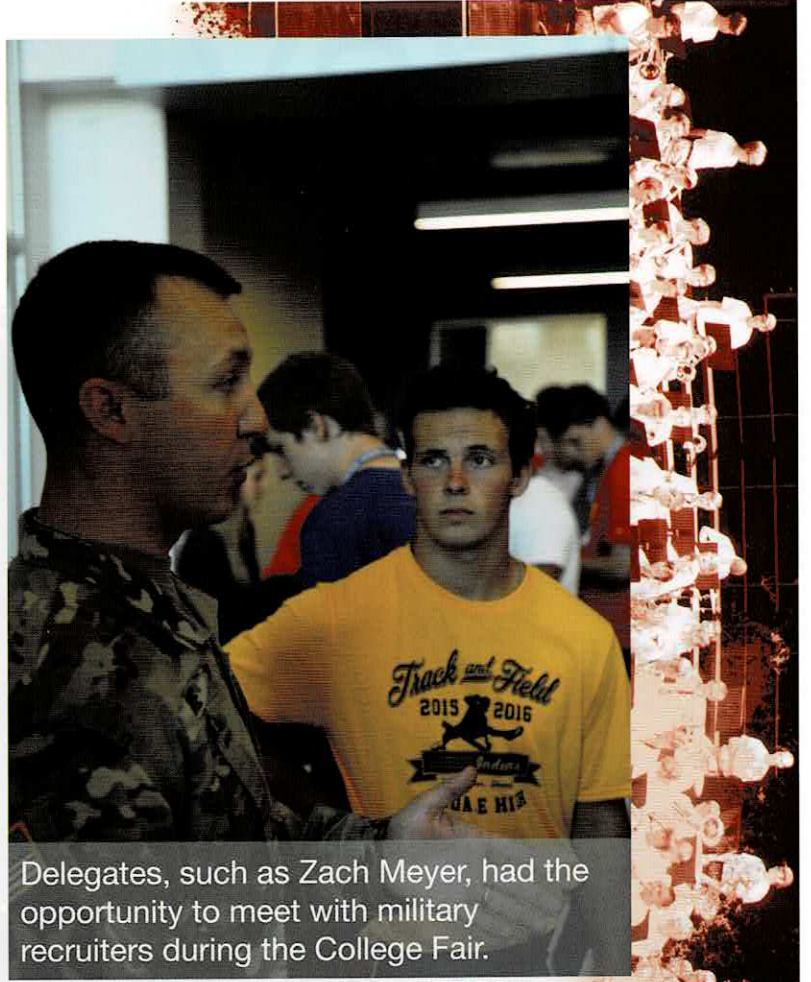


-Flag Retirement

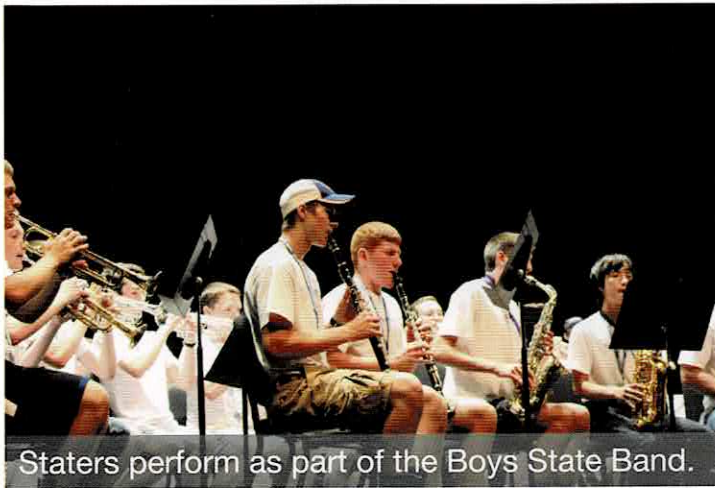
The week was filled with delegates working together to solve many different types of government problems. District courts heard trials and the House and Senate debated various legislative proposals. The College Fair gave delegates an opportunity to take a break from their hectic projects and visit with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



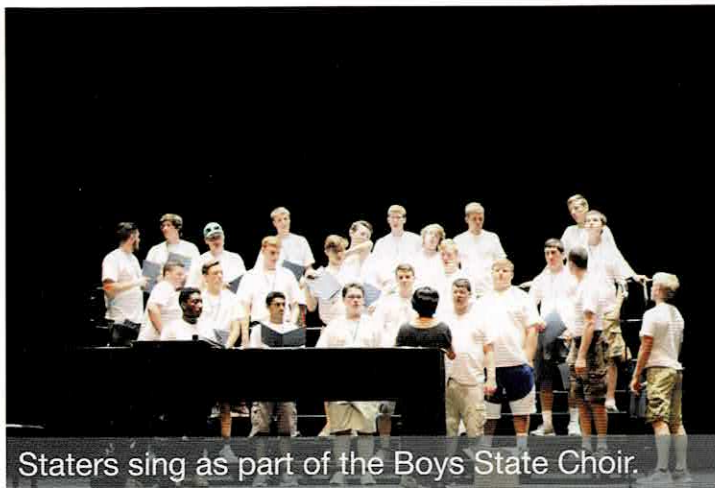
Staters check out what colleges have to offer during the College Fair.



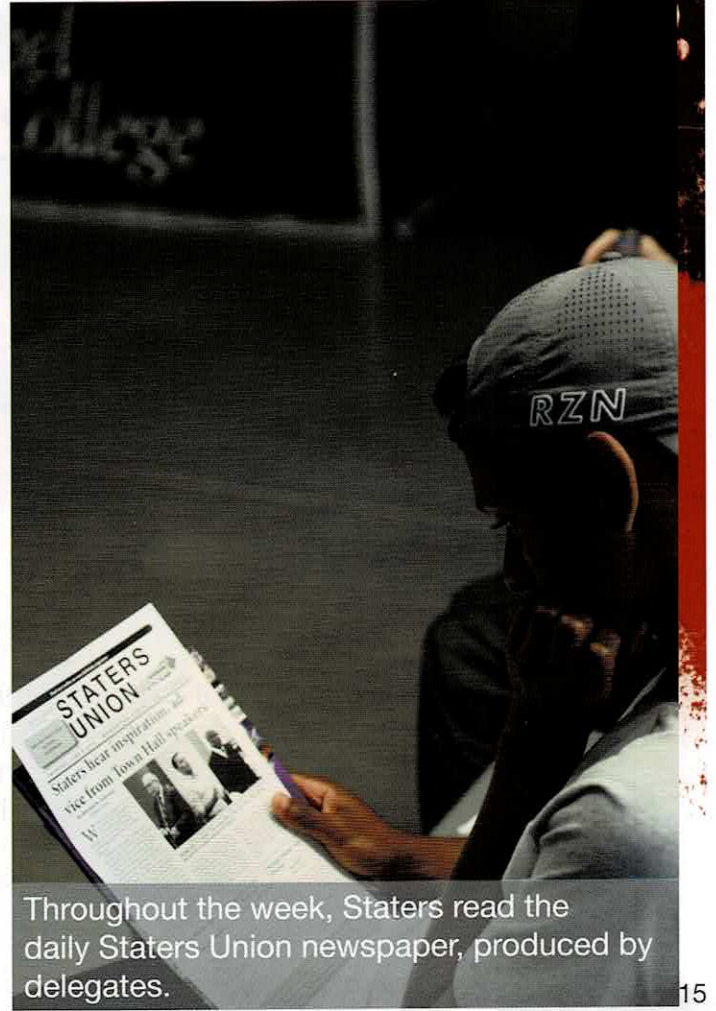
Delegates, such as Zach Meyer, had the opportunity to meet with military recruiters during the College Fair.



Staters perform as part of the Boys State Band.



Staters sing as part of the Boys State Choir.



Throughout the week, Staters read the daily Staters Union newspaper, produced by delegates.



# Friday

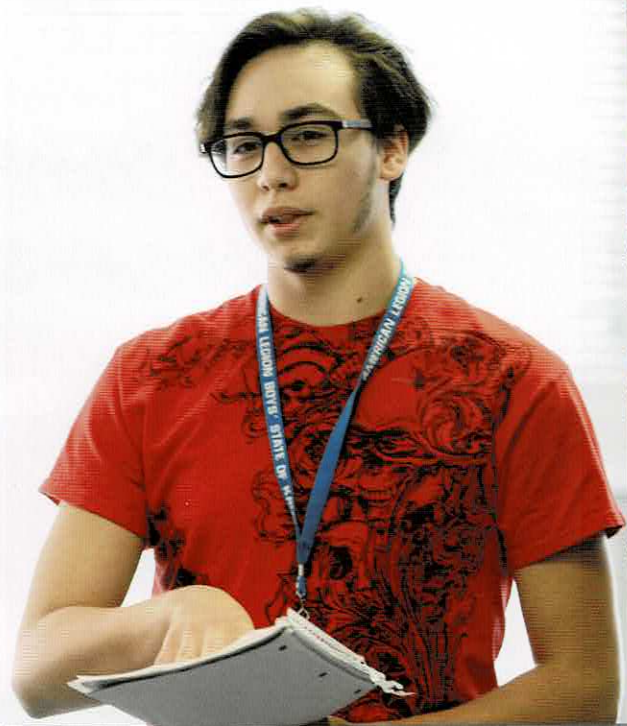


-Closing Ceremonies

The final day of State held many fun and memorable activities with Closing Ceremonies receiving top billing. They also learned who would be representing them as the Boys Nation Senators in Washington D.C. Then many goodbyes were exchanged before everyone headed back home, ready to be leaders in their own communities.



Staters listen to announcements during assembly.



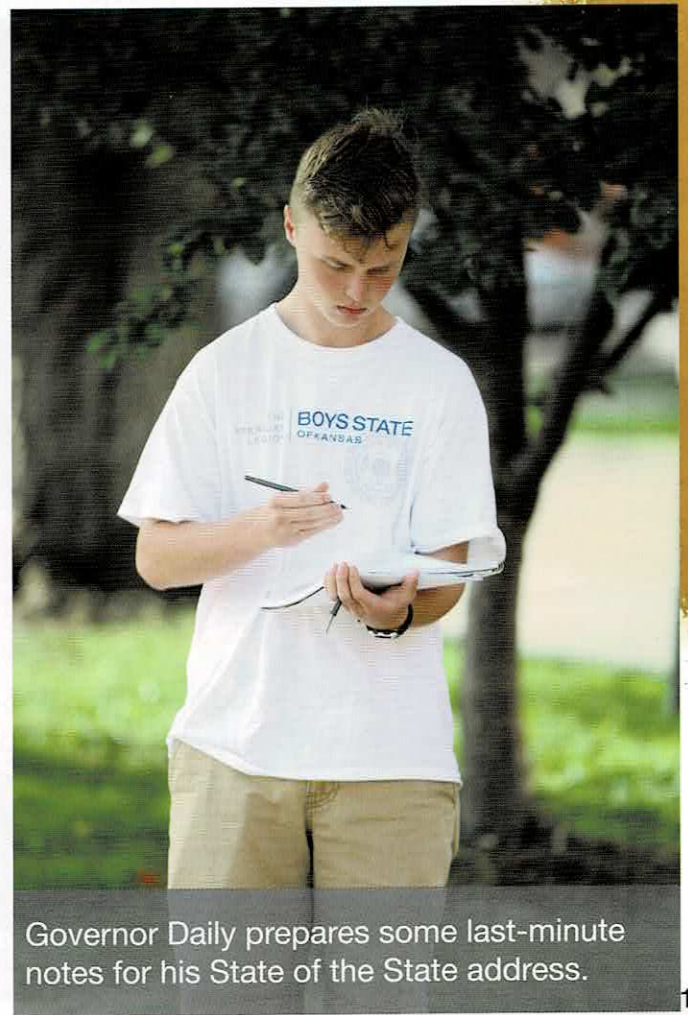
Delegates get practice in public speaking while addressing fellow Staters during projects.



Members of the flag detail prepare to march to McCain.

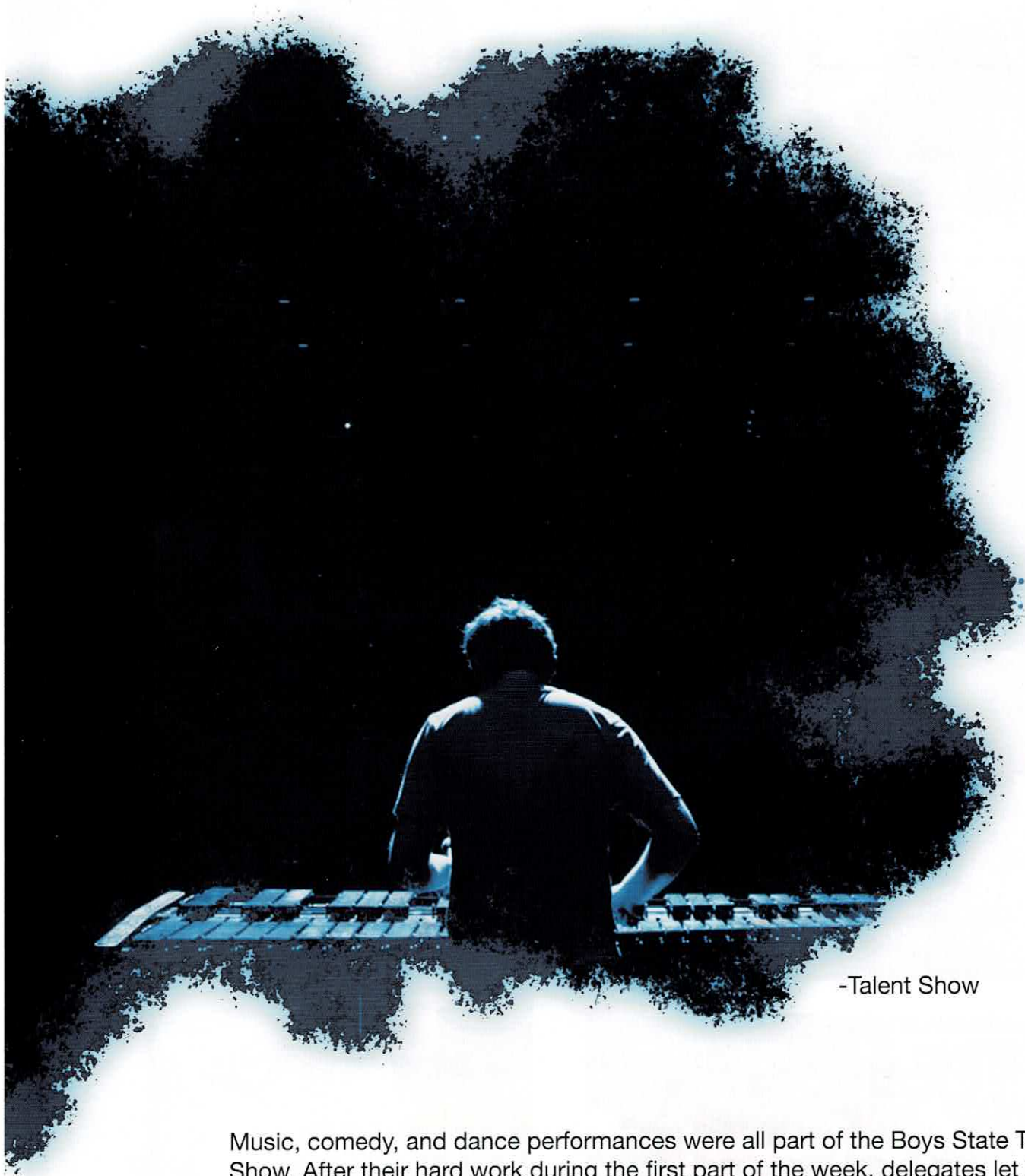


Former candidates pose for a picture that was part of the Closing Ceremonies.



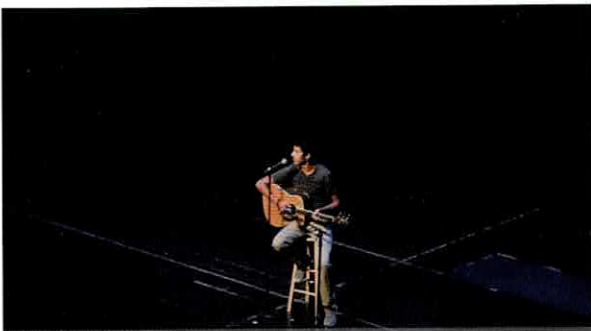
Governor Daily prepares some last-minute notes for his State of the State address.

# Talent Show



-Talent Show

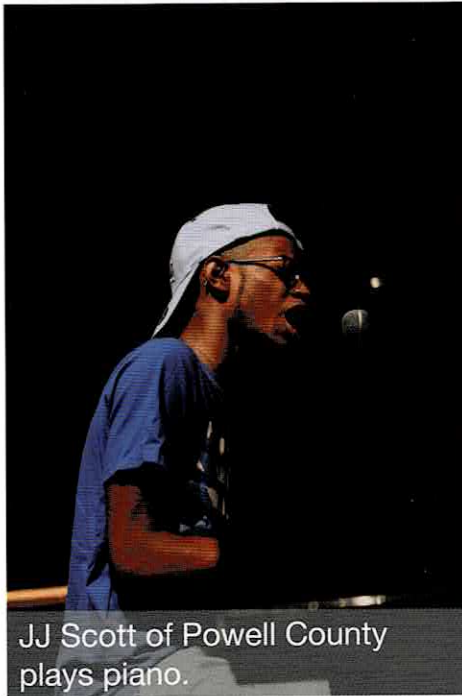
Music, comedy, and dance performances were all part of the Boys State Talent Show. After their hard work during the first part of the week, delegates let loose a little bit Wednesday night and performed for fellow Boys Staters. There were a variety of different acts, ranging from piano and a variety 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."



Cadin Limon of King County plays guitar.



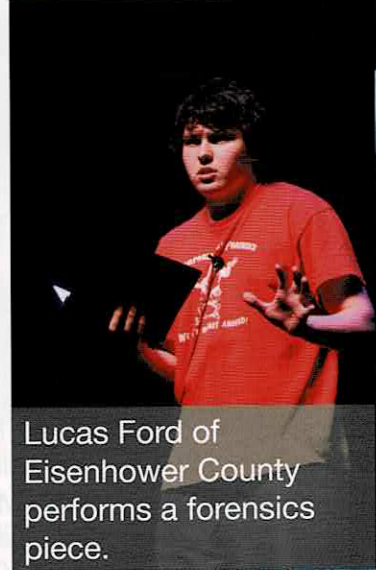
Ross Bowling of Eisenhower County and Alvaro Escobar of Patton County flip a water bottle.



JJ Scott of Powell County plays piano.



Obi Nwkpuda of Marshall County plays cello.



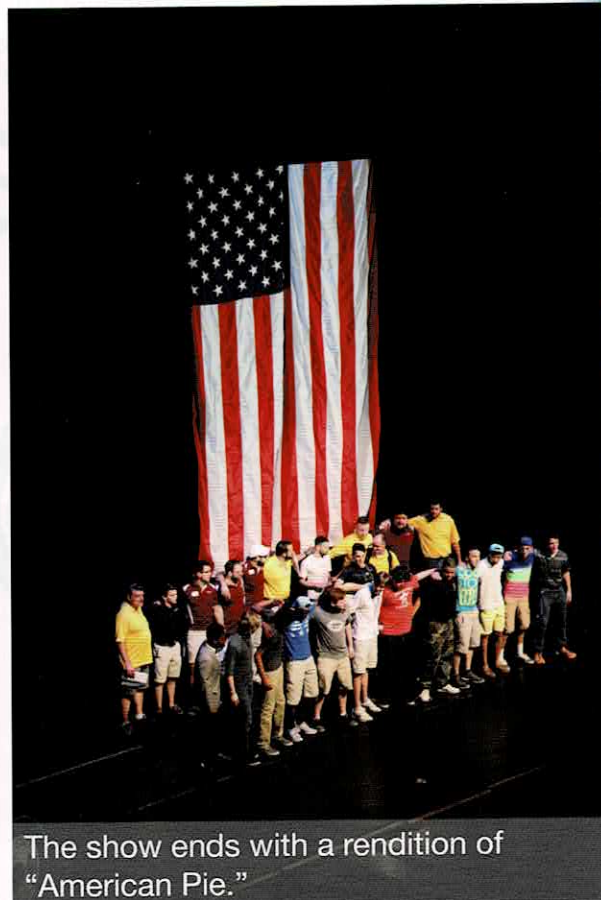
Lucas Ford of Eisenhower County performs a forensics piece.



Brennan Mills of Pershing County puts on a juggling routine.



Legionnaire Chuck Shoemaker plays a medley on the piano.



The show ends with a rendition of "American Pie."

# Counselors



**Front Row (l-r):** Devin Locke, Nicholas Graham, Gehrig Geissinger, William Bowersock, Nathan Kessler, Jack Curtis, Wilfredo Figueroa-Rivera, Jonathan Volker, Mason Collins, Trevin Garcia, Peter Dring, Parker Cates

**2nd Row (l-r):** Lakota Shehi, Andrew Holland, John Shively, Ryan Doberer, Ryan Fullerton, Joshua Ng, EJ Charboneau II, Sam Skeet, Zach Caraccilo, Jordan Humphrey, Cody McCarty, Pumposh Bhat, Trenton Busch, Ian Ediger, Logan Gideon, Marco Gargano

**3rd Row (l-r):** Carlos Guzman, Isaac Stark, Waylon Sheetz, Jonathan Cole, Matthew Rice, Will Korf, Wesley Sheffield, Rhett Rinehart, Max Curtis, Alex Holmes, Thomas Wilkinson, Nathan Short, Mike Denney, Zachery Brunner, Brandon Englund, Matt Brandt, Riley Hall

**4th Row (l-r):** Carson Jennings, Preston Mossman, Aden Lindholm, Joshua Fandrich, Jacob Fandrich, Nick Storm, Chase Carlson, Taber Bayles, PJ Capettini, Ian Buhman-Wiggs, Bryce Johnston, Chris Wierman, Scott Ring, Adam Ronnebaum, Jose Moreno Jr, Callahan Eckardt, Jordan Rodriguez

**Not Pictured:** Dustin Curiel, Julian Kincaid, Avery McCormick, Chris Moe, Benedikt Reynolds

# Coordinators



**Todd Vogts,**  
Program



**Matt Wedel,**  
Hall



**Shane Wilson,**  
Hall



**Michael Reichenberger,**  
Curriculum/IT



**Kyle Gardner,**  
Events



**Zach Rebarcek,**  
Events



**Nathan Miller,**  
Media

# Advisors



**Front Row (l-r):** Jacob Brown, Jordan Watson, Chris Werring, Jake Ellis, Zach Chappell, Kyle Wheatley, Earl Mims

**Middle Row (l-r):** Pat Retz, George Rothwell, Chuck Shoemaker, Glenn Fogo, Curtiss Kimble, Don Thomson, Bill McConnell, Clint Usher, Brad Biles

**Back Row (l-r):** Justin Herron, Steven Peterson, Bennett Radford, Don Whitten, Jeff Schrag, Aaron Wiseman, Troy Fowler, Don Peters, Allen Klassen, Jay Shelton, Tom Wierman

**Not Pictured:** Larry Andrews, Scott Bley, Thane Chastain, Adam Doyle, Rex Gardner, Greg Harkrader, Jeremy Harland, Shawn Herrman, Bob Jenkins, Jared Meitler, John Mulhern, Mike Paynter, Tyler Suelter



# Bradley



## Bluemke

**Listed Alphabetically:** Alexander Ackerman, Christopher Blankenship, Michael Bruner, Jared Clark, Sean Cranford, Conner Ekerberg, Noah Foster, Peyton Graves, Cameron Hampton, Trey Hett, Sam Macaluso, Andres Mata, Josh Maxton, Cole Nuessen, Dylan Rinne, Ethan Schultz, Clayton Sell, Brandon Sievert, Jacob Taylor, Kevin Varghese, Daniel Webb, Ethan Wheeler, Joshua Wilson **Staff:** Aden Lindholm, County Counselor; Max Curtis, City Counselor; Peter Dring, Media; Legionnaire Advisor Bill McConnell



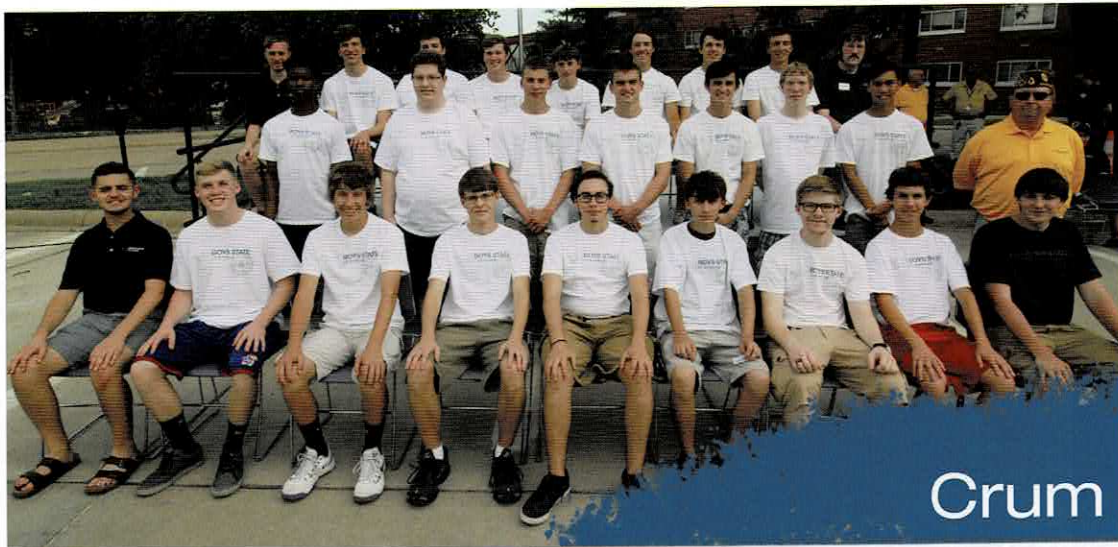
## Bramlage

**Listed Alphabetically:** Andrew Bemis, Skylar Collins, Alexander Estopare, Nicholas Evans, Sankalp Gupta, Alexander Hurd, Daniel Kaufman, Jared Koopman, Will Kovach, Gavin Larios, Liam Magathan, Zach Meyer, Isaac Neal, Jon Oden, Ben Ogle, Jacob Onderek, Chandler Pelton, Luke Reich-Wille, Elijah Richmond, Jack Shaw, Jackson Singleton, Logan Stenseng, Ted Tai, Trent Willard, Derek Zule **Staff:** Aden Lindholm, County Counselor; Matt Rice, City Counselor; Peter Dring, Media; Marco Gargano, Government Counselor; Legionnaire Advisor Bill McConnell

# Eisenhower



**Listed Alphabetically:** Paden Bedford, Patrick Bircher, Ross Boling, Logan Brewer, Coleman Brockmeier, Jon Cloud, Derek Dreher, Dalton Dultmeier, Keaton Farmer, Aaron Fuqua, Chris Gregg, Sam Hageman, Dakota Holland, Noah Juarez, Trey Kasten, Luke Laws, Will Long, Lucas Lord, Kyle Peter, Ethan Pfeifer, Joel Ruhl, Jack Russell, Davis Schleifer, Benito Suarez, Jace Ward **Staff:** City Father Thane Chastain; Riley Hall, County Counselor; EJ Charboneau, City Counselor; Nicholas Graham, City Counselor; Isaac Stark, Media; Legionnaire Advisor Chuck Shoemaker



**Listed Alphabetically:** Noah Addis, Jacob Bohnemann, Jack Crow, Nicholas Dombrowski, Max Easter, Max Fulbright, Levi Gauby, Mason Hartley, Charlie Heminway, Tanner Jackman, Kendall Jay, Samuel Keener, Phillip Leon, Phillip Lin, Andrew Marsden, Ryne McCreight, Josh Mitchell, Luke Royle, Isaiah Schmidt, Colton Shaw, Jakob Tuxhorn, Guei' Ware, Eric Wilson **Staff:** Riley Hall, County Counselor; EJ Charboneau, City Counselor; Nicholas Graham, City Counselor; Isaac Stark, Media; County Legionnaire Advisor Chuck Shoemaker



# Kennedy



Finley

**Listed Alphabetically:** Cale Beam, Skylar Bender, Jacob Benne, Justice Catron, Adrian Cisneros, Jack Cunningham, III, Toby Danner, Zac DeGreeff, Brady Dow, Justin Elwell-Cuddy, Holden Giefer, John Jenson, Bryson Johnson, Zane Kvasnicka, Caleb Linville, Javier Mijares, Ashton Park, Braden Shumate, Andrew Spindler, Jonah Stiel, Jacob Taylor, Christian Tipton, Brian Von Holtz, Matthew Wilson, Andrew Wood  
**Staff:** Adam Ronnebaum, County Counselor; Devin Locke, City Counselor; Zachery Brunner, Government Counselor; Legionnaire Advisor Glenn Fogo



Gardner

**Listed Alphabetically:** Brett Barnow, Ellis Baughan, Anthony Brigg, Ethan Burke, Sam Crowley, Ryan Eyster, Justin Green, Alex Kolar, AJ Lusker, Darius McAdam, Cole Mikrut, Adam Moore, Chase Newberry, Stephen Nugent, Lance Page, Dallas Parker, Trevor Pfeifer, Terrence Pledger II, Caleb Rose, Ryan Saunders, Drake Shaw, Magnus Van Hoecke, Trevor Whitlow, William Woulfe  
**Staff:** Adam Ronnebaum, County Counselor; Callahan Eckhart, City Counselor, Alex Holmes, Government Counselor; Legionnaire Advisor Glenn Fogo

# King



Hiatt

**Listed Alphabetically:** Keith Andrews, Scott Blochlinger, Chad Coates, Tanner Cullens, Ethan Gould, Stockton Grunewald, Jonathan Lesslie, Cadin Limon, Aaron Lytle, Tom McClain, Tristan Myers, Jake Nixon, Ryan Pangracs, Mitch Porter, Matt Searl, Nick Siscoe, Jacob Stanley, Cole Staubs, Ian Stewart, Matthew Stites, Ryan Terril, Zachary Thomas, Zachary Thompson, Louis Vopata, Logan Woodyard **Staff:** Nathan Short, County Counselor; Brandon Englund, City Counselor; Parker Cates, Government Counselor; Thomas Wilkinson, Government Counselor; Sam Skeet, Media; Legionnaire Advisor Don Whitten



Icenogle

**Listed Alphabetically:** Jacob Aiken, Gage Cleaver, Nick Detter, Harrison Donnelly, Robert Evans, Malachi Hibler, Michael Knapp, Austin Lallemand, Michael Lam, James Lang, Mark Loftus, Griffin Lowry, Mitchell Moorehead, John Nelson, Hunter Parker Logan Perry, Jacob Schmitz, Callen Shutts, Joshua Tegarden, Kyle Tollefson, Eden Tosh, Chase VanDegrift, Brandon Wheat, Trent Zimmerman **Staff:** Nathan Short, County Counselor; Zachary Caraccilo, City Counselor; Parker Gates, Government Counselor; Thomas Wilkinson, Government Counselor; Sam Skeet, Media; Legionnaire Advisor Don Whitten

# MacArthur



## Johnson

**Listed Alphabetically:** Corbin Allison, Drew Anderson, Duncan Anglin, Trev Ash, Ethan Bauguess, Patrick Doran, Trevor Elliott, Dylan Emert, Jordan Fullerton, Taylor George, Cade Harms, Benedict Horvatic, Thomas LeClerc, Kaegan Lee, Jesse May, Nicholas Mignano, Kenneth Newman Jr., Juan Ocon, Mitchell Paul, Michael Paulson, Landon Smith, Sayuz Thapa, Rance Waddle, Cole Wilson, Mason Witzke **Staff:** Chris Wierman, County Counselor; Carlos Guzman, City Counselor; Jose Moreno, Media; Nicholas Storm, Government Counselor; Jack Curtis, Government Counselor; Legionnaire Advisor Curtiss Kimble



## Klassen

**Listed Alphabetically:** Grant Day, Jackson Dinsmore, Jared Divis, Max Erickson, Isaac Heid, Nathan Herrman, Pdraig Holland, Jonathan Huhn, Nicholas Kaechele, Spencer Kimmell, Adam Kopp, Gary McIntosh, Nathan Nichols, Gabriel Pena, Patrick Porch, Chase Regehr, Ramiro Rosete, Cole Smith, TJ Smith, Nate Steinlage, Jackson Sumrall, Jeremy Wells, Max Yates **Staff:** City Father Allen Klassen; Chris Wierman, County Counselor; Chris Moe, City Counselor; Jack Curtis, Government Counselor; Legionnaire Advisor Curtiss Kimble

# Marshall



Lane

**Listed Alphabetically:** Nikolas Alferts, Jon Barnes, Charlie Boyd, Chase Cook, Mikenon Donovan, Tyler Fletcher, Cody Gish, Ian Grochowsky, Michael Howard, Herman Knipp IV, Ben Lewis, Josef Matson, Colton McCarty, Mitchell McKinley, Joseph Pilens, Dawson Podlena, Nathan Ruby, Mather Saladin, Adam Sattler, Brent See, Kyle Stutzman, Daniel Swisher, Derryck Symons, Robert Wierman, Chance Yelverton **Staff:** Ryan Fullerton, County Counselor; Wilfredo Figueroa, City Counselor; Waylon Sheetz, City Counselor; Legionnaire Advisor Don Thomson



Mantey

**Listed Alphabetically:** Matt Chapman, Oscar Chase, John Coates, Sam Day, Sergio Del Toro Jr., Ethan Doherty, Will Dutton, Damian Espinosa, Austin Gaumer, Colton Howton, Auggie Lange, Jacob Lovell, Aaron Malmquist, Michael Mast, Lucas Merawi, Zachary Murdock, Obioma Nwakupuda, Satchel Owens, Broedy Patterson, Philip Porter, Alex Seager, Ted Sharp, Noah Vaughn, Gabe Wasson, Jacob Williams **Staff:** Ryan Fullerton, County Counselor; Wilfredo Figueroa, City Counselor; Waylon Sheetz, City Counselor; Pumposh Bhat, IT Counselor; Benedikt Reynolds, Media; Legionnaire Advisor Don Thomson

# Patton



## Newman

**Listed Alphabetically:** David Apple, James Carlson, Joey Carrigan, Calvin Cassida, Noah Daniels, Liam Elder, Timothy Epler, Alvaro Escobedo, Jakob Ferreira, Caleb Frye, Andrew Gill, Caleb Hanlon, Noah Hildreth, Keaton Holmes, Nolan Hughes, Meet Kapadia, Jonathan Lacy, Carson LeGrand, Lane Lundeen, Kale Meyers, Kitt Regier, Ben Rowley, Freddie Sandoval, Davin Strait, Nathan Wolf **Staff:** Ryan Doberer, County Counselor; Trenton Busch, City Counselor; Gehrig Giessinger, Government Counselor; Rhett Rhinehart, Government Counselor; Advisor Jordan Watson; Legionnaire Advisor Scott Bley



## O'Leary

**Listed Alphabetically:** Garrison Biel, Noah Buckley, Jackson Connally, Mark Coomes, Hunter Eisler, Isaiah Fawson, Alex Feyerherm, Nathaniel Fowler, Preston Hamilton, Steven Madigan, Henry Mitchell, Isaac Morrill, Kyler Newkirk, Jared Petz, Graham Potter, Logan Schmidt, Chase Shaw, Robert Skaggs, Cung Thang, Eli Tinsley, Nicholas Vogel, Preston Wagner, Seth Walker, Evan Welch, William Young **Staff:** Ryan Doberer, County Counselor; Ian Ediger, City Counselor; Gehrig Giessinger, Government Counselor; Rhett Rhinehart, Government Counselor; Advisor Jordan Watson; Legionnaire Advisor Scott Bley

# Pershing



Perrill

**Listed Alphabetically:** Andy Bleything, Johnathan Bowen, Hayden Brown, Braden Brownell, Matthew Chisholm, Hayden Dahm, Braden Falley, Dylan Gowin, William Hankins, Jeremy Kline, Trey Kuhlman, Jonah Laughlin, Jared Long, Brandon McDonald, Adrian Pishny, Marshall Rutschman, Mason Schartz, Jonathan Sculley, Eldon Taskinen, Tanner Thiel, Sean VanNatta, Jialun Wang, Spencer West, Adam Young **Staff:** Mike Denney, County Counselor; Jonathan Cole, City Counselor; Dustin Curiel, Media; Bryce Johnston, Government Counselor; Carson Jennings; Government Counselor; Legionnaire Advisor Don Peters



Raymond

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# Powell



## Shelton

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## Spigarelli

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**Listed Alphabetically:** Justin Abraham, Jack Campbell, Jacob Casey, Braeden Corman, Jacob Darsow, Isaac Doell, Robert Dougan, JP Harrison, Joshua Haus, Aaron Johnson, Yang Kelty, Adam Kropf, Jarrod Kuckelman, Ben Kurz, Matt LaMunyon, Joshua Lawton, Jessie Mayer, Samuel Peterson, Tristan Robison, Paxton Sharp, Trevor Shreve, Judson Tillotson, Aamer Uddin, Noah Watson, Edward Weiner  
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# Closing

And so it is over. The 79th 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 2016.

You arrived at Kansas State University on Sunday, June 5th 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 2016 American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staff

