



Cornhusker Boys' State *Bulletin*

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Boys' State 2012 Begins *Hundreds gather for 72nd session of CBS*



2012 Newspaper Staff Selection and Roster

The Bulletin would like to congratulate its new executive board. The Editor is **Trevor Sorenson**, Page designers are **Jake Weskamp, Jon Jahnke, and Alex VanAckeren** and copy editors are **Levi Gutz and Michael Petska**

The Bulletin has served Boys' State's needs since 1998. Don't leave for breakfast without reading it!

The Staff

Alamo Jake Weskamp Trevor Swanson	Manilla Bay Alex VanAckeren Cody McBride Thomas Rezac	Bataan Micheal Petska Nicholas Flamme Steven Towne	Belleau Wood Chris Navrkal Conrad Martinez
Gettysburg Jack Thompson	Yorktown Carl Meyer Coleman Baker Nick Oivatt	Valley Forge Alex Varon Levi Gutz Zach Miller	Bunker Hill Flint Mitchell Jonathon Janke

Arrival at Lincoln

Jack Thompson- Gettysburg

Cornhusker Boys' State checked-in this morning to Harper Hall and checked into their rooms. For the most part it was uneventful, the only obstacle to arrival being the limited space in the elevator. This forced many unfortunate young men to travel the many stairs of the skyscraping building.

There were sheets on my bed, and I was pretty happy about that. My dad thought I should have brought my own, but I didn't so I was getting pretty worried for a second there. My mom suggested sleeping on my towel, which would have been cool except it would have gotten wet later in the week from the showers.

I am writing this article Sunday afternoon,

Carpe Diem

Flint Michell, Bunker Hill

Right off the bat it seems there is a re-occurring theme that encompasses the people and all that is Boys' State; a theme whose entirety, down to its smallest facet is accurately expressed in the motto "Carpe Diem." Seize the Day. From the first speaker to the last, the same words, the same ideas resound out over and over again: Integrity, courteousness, gentlemanliness, insightfulness, know yourself and know your friend, and take risks; take the right risks. These ideas and their sum into one ideology, seem to be the things that made this program and this nation so respectable. It's great, and all of us here are getting excited. But not as excited as Yorktown, just saying.

We've only been here one day and already I've met several brilliant people. Seriously, the guys coming here are amazing. Full of personality and potential, they all have the potential to become whatever their hearts desire. They've already proved their dedication to their dreams simply by getting here in the first place, what in the world would make us think they couldn't go farther? I have already started to make friends, and from everybody I've talked to, I think that these friendships we're building here could be ones that last a lifetime.

just after the conclusion of the opening ceremonies. Secretary of State John Gale had an interesting talk on using integrity in politics. It was pretty refreshing to hear, considering all of the typical talk about politics being both misleading and degrading.

Coach Larry was pretty entertaining in my opinion. His comments on the Alamo's success at Boys' State in previous years, his uplifting referral to the benefits of Boys' State, as well as his comments on his own profanity were all notable.

I felt a lot of respect towards the bro who went to Washington D.C. to talk to the President last year, and attended Boys' Nation.

My Boys...

Steven Towne, Bataan

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I was very excited when I learned I was selected as one of the people that was to go to Boys' State from my school. As the day grew closer and closer I became increasingly excited for the day it started. However, I also was nervous about it. In fact, I only slept three and a half hours last night. I was afraid that I wouldn't have anyone to talk to or

fifteen minutes to get here. My friend and I were both speaking about what we thought this opportunity was going to bring us. This made the drive go by very quickly. I can't imagine what it was like for the people who had to travel from across the state.

I am very eager to discover what other things are waiting during this week. I hope to make



relate to. In the couple hours I have been here, I see that is not the case.

My journey here was not a long one. It only took about an hour and

many friends, do some things outside of my comfort zone, and most importantly have fun. I hope this is an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.

Beginning Boys' State, 2012

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Michael Petska, Bataan

June 3rd, 2012

10:00 am – 1:00 pm; A number of buses arrive at the UNL (University of Lincoln) campus.

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm; A number of young men, all juniors in high schools from around the state of Nebraska, disembark from those buses and retrieve baggage laden with personal affects (namely clothing, enough for a week) from storage on those buses. The boys are seemingly without direction for some time, guided only by the universal command – “Go to that Building” (Harper Hall). In the portal to Harper Hall however, the Boys' State experience begins to take hold, a trio of red-clad counselors direct the boys inside and to their respective floors, which, for the following week, have been renamed in honor a number of historical events and places throughout America's storied past. For the next week, these are not floors, they are 'Towns,' and the boys are divided up amongst them in seemingly random fashion. When the boys have found their various domiciles, roommates, and counselors in their respective towns, they're ushered back down-stairs (in some cases, this means traversing nearly 10 flights!) to sign in with legion administrators, and they're assigned shirts, which they don for a picture-taking. After that, it's yet again back up the stairs to pow-wow with their counselors before Boys' State proceedings begin in earnest.

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm; The various towns; Alamo, Manila Bay, Bataan, Belleau Wood, Gettysburg, Yorktown, Valley Forge, and Bunker Hill in all, form up into ranks and march one after the other (in no particular order) to Kimball Recital Hall (which is, conveniently, located halfway across compass!) for orientation. Orientation begins with a bit of ceremony from the honorable veterans of the American Legion, who then give the floor to a procession of speakers ranging from Boys' State officials and past Participants, to Nebraska's own Secretary of State. The entire ordeal actually seems to pass faster than it does. As the boys fidget in their seats, some are apprehensive of what is to come, some are anxious, some don't yet know what to expect, and the words of the later speakers reflect this. Finally, events wind up with a personal address from Aaron Zabawa, who has been with program for 17 years, he wishes the boys the very best, and urges them to come out of their shells and get the most out of their Boys' State experience, his imperative can be felt in the boys as they march away from Kimball Hall, in the air is a mix of excitement, and fervent chants from marching Boys' Staters.

ACT Takers Hit Barriers

Nick Oivatt, Yorktown

The first glimpse of Harper Hall meant that I had arrived. After taking just one wrong turn, Harper Hall was within sight. I imagine that many Boys' Staters had at least a little bit of trouble navigating Lincoln, especially if they drove themselves as I did.

My first impression of the place was chaos. People were everywhere and no one seemed

to know what do to. Of course, it only took a little bit of common sense in order to realize just exactly was going on and in what order.

Well, up I went to my room in Yorktown. The elevator was of no use, too many people. But, the stairs did prove effective and quick. After putting my stuff in my room, I went down to finish registration. This too proved difficult. It had turned out that none of my health forms had been submitted, just another problem on my list. Later,

I was not even on the list for the newspaper!

All my problems, though, were stemming from a common theme. I had, at first, declined the offer to attend Boys' State. It was only after I was granted leave to attend the ACT on Saturday that I accepted. I am not alone. I was told that there were other ACT takers who were also hesitant about Boys' All-State. I imagine that the other ACT takers also got quite a different impression of Boys' State. However, I believe that within time, the effects of

the ACT will wear off and my perspective of Boys' State will be in full bloom.

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The Journey Begins

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Trevor Sorrensen, Alamo

As only the first day of the American Legion Boys State Program has passed, it is difficult to understand the significance of the program and what will come of it. However, “Boys’ Staters” have the distinct honor of representing the state of Nebraska, their communities, their post, and, most importantly, themselves. Everything that will go on throughout these seven days will be geared towards the development of our country’s leaders: us. Not everyone is going to go on and serve as the Governor of Nebraska.

Very few will have the pleasure of serving in our state’s legislature; however, all of us have the responsibility to our communities, and ourselves, to understand the political process and how state government influences our schools, our businesses, and our families.

Throughout the week we will take on the responsibilities that our elected officials carry out daily. Whether it is as the mayor of Alamo or the Governor of Nebraska, we are learning what the leaders of our state do in the best interests of its

citizens. Sunday night we saw the election of all eight city governments. I congratulate all of these officials as they begin to carry out their duties this week. All of us know that you will fulfill the duties of your office to the best of your ability. However, city government is only the tip of the iceberg that the American Legion Boys State Program offers. I urge everyone to file for a state office to experience the political process of our officials. Whether you go on to be elected to the office you file for, or you do not win your

party’s nomination, you have had an experience that very few students will have while they are still in high school; the ability to run for an elected office.

Dr. Lee Snyder, professor for the University of Nebraska-Kearney, once said that the true leaders will begin with our generation. Although it is an honor for someone to believe that, it also bears responsibility. We must do our best this week to prepare ourselves to take on the responsibility that is being forged for us.

Phase 1: Complete

Alex VanAckeren, Manila Bay

I live here in our great Capital City of Lincoln, so my journey to Boys’ State was not a lengthy one. On our trip to Harper Hall, countless thoughts were racing through my mind. What is it going to be like? Who will I meet? What will my roommate be like? What have I gotten myself into? Will I have a good time? From my first moments here, it looks like it will be an incredible week. These thoughts intensified as we pulled into the parking lot. I stepped out of the pickup, grabbed my luggage, and my family and I walked to the Hall. There were people all over the

place and in all honesty, it was a bit intimidating. We waited for the elevator and made our way to the eighth floor (go Manila Bay!), where I received my lanyard, name-tag and all that jazz. Next stop: check-in (round two). To the main floor we went, my parents, brother and I. The wait wasn’t long at all, and in no time I had some snazzy green shirts in my hand and my photo was snapped. Finally, I said my goodbyes (no tears shed!) and returned to my place of dwelling for the week, joining the other gentlemen in Manila Bay.

Arrival: Daunting to Determined

Nicholas Flamme, Bataan

Before I even arrived at Boys’ State I had the predetermined notion that it was not going to be fun. It is only the end of the first day and I’m starting to have a complete turn around of thought. After listening to the speakers saying, “You will get what you put into it,” and seeing past members of Boys’ State coming back and telling me their experiences I have gone from not wanting to even participate and just making it through the week, to thinking about running (and actually trying) for an office.

I came here because it would look good

on applications, but the first day is already revealing to me that it is much more than that. I can already tell why this is such a prestigious event.

I am glad my parents stuffed me in the car and dragged me to Boy’s State. My worry and dread is quickly diminishing. I have decided that the people talking were right, and if I’m getting what I put into it I’m putting my all. Just remember, it’s too late to turn back now. If this time here is squandered the only person you are hurting is yourself.