Cornhusker Boys' State
Bulletin

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Boys' State 2014 Begins

Hundreds gather for 74th session of CBS

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2014 Newspaper Staff Selection and Roster

The Bulletin would like to congratulate its new Executive Board. The **Editor** is Austin Stone, **Page Designers** are Ben Logston, Isaac Pavkovic, and Conner Volcoun, and **Copy Editors** are Ted Degner, Chris Jurich, and Tyler Ruzicka. The Bulletin has served Boys' State's needs since 1998. ***Don't leave for breakfast without reading it!***

Alamo
Carl Thon
Joe Ferris

Bataan
Tristan Bruce
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Belleau Wood
Xavier Hurst
Chance Kennicutt
Cesar A.M. Linare
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Gettysburg
Dawson Cozad
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Colten White

Manila Bay
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Cody Rieken
Adrian Silva
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Isaac Pavkovic
Jayden Rannells

Yorktown
Cade Nelson
Jordan Werth

First Impressions

By Will Patterson, Manila Bay

Cornhusker Boys' State. This prestigious institution, funded and run by the ever famous American Legion, is the reason why all 400 or so of us are here today. Even though our number seems small, the amount of opportunity and spirit that was expressed at Sunday's opening session, not only by myself, but by every one of us is absolutely phenomenal to say the least. Upon the initial arrival yesterday morning, I could see that I wasn't the only person that was a little bit wary of staying in a dorm with 400 of the most politically and intellectually gifted minds that Nebraska has to offer.

Nevertheless, this feeling soon subsided when I walked into my new "home" and proceeded to watch my fellows from Bunker Hill rolling toilet paper off of a roll. (All kidding aside, the men that I am bound to for the next 6 days of my life are some of the most interesting people that I have ever met.)

After that "incident" all of the respective towns proceeded to Kimball Hall for an initiation to the Boys' State experience and an introduction to a few of its most prestigious members. Afterwards, a little fall of rain caused the towns to "run" (if you could call what Yorktown was doing "running") back to Harper Hall for extracurricular activities and dinner.

All in all my first impressions of Boys' State have been up to snuff. With more than adequate counselors and a large, intricate group of men that will prove to be some of the best that Nebraska will ever come to know.

Brothers in Bond

By Mathew Ramirez, Gettysburg

Yesterday, the young men of Gettysburg gathered to meet one another. New faces from all across Nebraska filled the small room, eager to get settled into what would be their homes for the next week.

After the initial processing, these men started to form separate groups and conversed amongst themselves. It was at this time that the counselors brought all of us together in hopes of forming a bond between all in the town. A hacky-sack was tossed around the room. Each recipient of the sack would give information about himself. As time went on we learned more and more about our fellow citizens of Gettysburg.

From coon hunting with a katana, to being part-shark, the things we learned strengthened our new found friendship. But it wasn't until the General Assembly, where the list of previous winners was shown, that we truly become brothers. Seeing the town's name sparked something inside each and every one of us - the want to win. To see Gettysburg in the 2014 winners position is our ultimate goal. We will do whatever it takes to get to the top. These new friends, these brothers in bond.

Welcome to Boys' State

By Chance Kennicutt, Belleau Wood

Yesterday began for many Boys' State delegates in a way that most of us had not experienced since the conclusion of their school year. An early morning wake up call was followed, for many, by an impossibly long bus commute. However, upon arrival delegates were pleasantly welcomed with open arms by both their counselors and fellow Boys' State citizens.

After getting to know each of the counselors and a little more about our fellow delegates, we were given a basic understanding of the true meaning of Boys' State. Whether it was learning about teamwork from the counselors, or the inspiring words orated by the Boys' State Governor, Walter Paul, one thing was made predominantly clear. This experience is truly what each participant makes of it. Risks will be taken, and friendships will be forged with the effort put forth by each delegate.

Rising to the Top

By Christian Pfeifer, Bataan

Many of the representatives for Girls' and Boys' State were selected by default. Many put forth no effort or energy into the selection process and were only selected due to a lack of opponents. These people, even though may have shown little interest, will find that the small amount of effort they did put into the process will have been worth their time. Many others tried their best, wanted to be selected more than anything, wrote essays that were top of the line, and many were proven outstanding by their skill to interview. Those people, the ones who worked above and beyond for selection in the 2014 Boys' and Girls' State events, will learn more in a week than they ever thought possible.

Upon arrival, nearly 400 boys from all around Nebraska huddled into Harper Hall on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's campus to register for this week of government and politics. With nearly forty young men on each of the ten floors, Harper Hall was full of loud noises, some occasional shouting, running up and down the stairs, and long elevator lines. Most of all, each floor was filled to its max with forty testosterone-driven teenage guys ranging from ages sixteen to eighteen. Yes, for a week, these guys will be around their female friends for a very minimal amount of time. But it gives them all the time to focus on the task at hand.

Registration was over by 2:30 p.m. and each of the forty guys of their respective floors laughed and got to know each other for a while before they were sent down to the General Assembly where Boys' State's presiding Governor, Walter Paul, spoke and established what the goal as this year's Boys' State delegates was.

Throughout the opening ceremony, many people spoke. It was interesting hearing the words from Randy Kaliff, the President of Nebraska's American Legion. He had some very insightful things to say about what the 400 of us will be experiencing throughout this next week. From what it seemed, most of the boys in the room were excited and ready to start this "mock government." It may have been raining like cats and dogs by the end of the symposium, but that didn't stop us from wanting to start this experience and really show what the "cream of the crop" is made of.

A Week to Remember

By Xavier Hurst, Belleau Wood

When waking yesterday morning, the first thing that probably came to many of the Boys' Stater's minds was, "This is the day," the day that would potentially change their lives. Pure excitement coursed through our veins as many of us finished our final checklists and boarded buses that were Lincoln bound, many not knowing what to expect.

Most of us had heard the stories. Stories of the great times to be had and how everyone that had ever participated in this prestigious week wished it had been longer. Boys from around the state ventured off in the morning hours, some being away from their area of the world for the first time, leaving their parents and all they knew behind. For others, though, the travel was light. A small amount of their big day was spent in transport here.

Shortly after noon on Sunday, a band of boys from every corner of the state amassed at Harper Hall and the feeling of excitement that was in the air burst into the activities that took place yesterday. The first part of the day was mostly introductions of what to expect in the coming week, rooms were assigned; towns met for the first time after the brief icebreakers, and it was off to orientation. There, we were treated with a speech given by current Governor Walter Paul. As he took to the stage to address the delegates, he expressed that we are the future; we are the change that America needs.

As the afternoon wound down, rules were placed and as groups broke off into their own events, a sense of wonder was looming over the delegates. What would the town elections come to show about how each town would be managed for the next week? The suspense may keep building but this is for sure, this week will be unlike any other that any of these boys have ever experienced before.

Today's Forecast

Partly Cloudy

H: 86°F | **L:** 64°F

Manila Bay, Day 1

By Cody Reiken, Manila Bay

Boys' State has kicked off and so has the fun in Manila Bay. Our town first got to know each other by passing around toilet paper after being instructed to "take as much as you'll need for the week." As you would imagine some people had quite a bit. Then we had to say something about themselves for each square of toilet paper we had. There were bold statements like "I've never been rejected by a girl," or "I get all the ladies," and even some competition with ACT scores. Soon after, however, we went to the assembly with the other towns. Following the exciting speeches from many important Boys' State representatives, the meeting was over. We were met with a shower of rain on the way back to Harper Hall, where we dispersed into our activity groups.

Day One

By Tyler Ruzicka, Alamo

After the long selection process, after the transport and the anxious journey, you arrive in Lincoln, NE, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where you will be staying for a whole week. You walk into the imposing Harper Hall, and are checked into your comfortable college dorm room. Afterwards, you are lead across campus to Kimball Hall, passing many other buildings along the way. You see some of the unique examples of art that are located on the campus. You even pass by the Sheldon Museum, where you can see metal statues of people and even a giant head perched on the stairs outside. You are lead inside Kimball Hall, and you see the bright stage and the tall ceiling, and are impressed and honored that you will be allowed to stay here for a whole week.

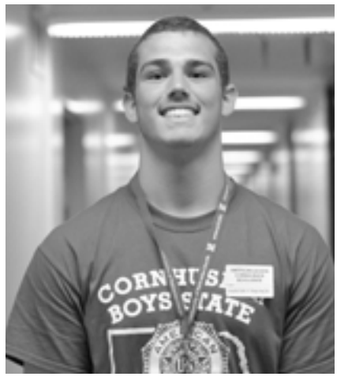
The 2014 Boys' Staters will be housed at UNL all week, and will attend sessions in many of the halls located around campus. We will eat in the university's dining halls, and see the lawns and artwork that decorate the grounds. It will be a great experience for all to catch a glimpse of the life in a common UNL student's daily life. Apart from the great and enriching opportunity of being a Boys' State participant will provide, staying on the campus of one of Nebraska's top colleges will excite and prepare Boys' Staters for times ahead of them.

Arriving at CBS 2014

By Brodie Mackling, Bunker Hill

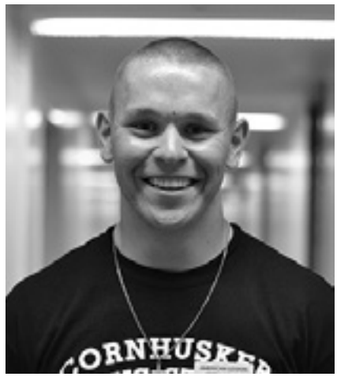
When arriving to Boys' State you really don't know what to think. You walk in and you see a lot of boys the same age thinking the same thing, "what is this all about?" All boys get assigned to a town, each boy will be representing this town and will run for positions. After meeting with the boys in your town and getting to know each other, you then head to Kimball Hall for the introduction of Boys' State. This is where you learn what Boys' State is all about. Everyone will get to see what this week will do for you for the rest of your life, while a few people will speak and inform you on what will happen. These people will tell you about their time at Boys' State and how it changed their lives. At this time, someone will tell you the events that will take place during this week. The first couple of hours at Boys' State you get to see the amazing week the American Legion will give you.

Congratulations, Mayors!!



Hunter Traynor - Gettysburg

Carl Thon - Alamo

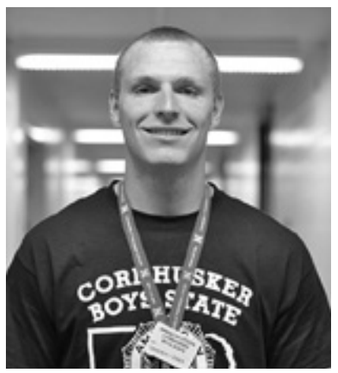


Derek Greenwald - Valley Forge

Donald Erftmier - Yorktown

Zachary Van Roy - Bunker Hill

Karsten Schuetze - Belleau Wood



Cameron Kiner - Manila Bay

Scott Riley - Bataan

Sasse, Domina to Speak at Boys' State Forum

By Colten White, Gettysburg

Boys' State attendees were met with much fanfare Sunday as they came to the UNL campus. The iconic picture of President John F. Kennedy shaking the hand of future president Bill Clinton is more than just a particularly effective marketing tool at the hands of Boys' State. It presents the real opportunities that Boys' State offers to meet with current political leaders. The 2014 Cornhusker Boys' State will be no exception, as attendees will have the opportunity to witness a forum consisting of the two general election Nebraska senate candidates. This opportunity should elicit a great amount of enthusiasm from Boys' State attendees, regardless of their political background.

The Republican candidate that will be appearing is Ben Sasse, formerly of Midland University in Fremont. According to NPR, Sasse won forty eight percent of the vote in the Republican primary, with the help of several big endorsements, coming from FreedomWorks, Sarah Palin and Senator Ted Cruz of Texas. The Democratic candidate for senate is Omaha Trial Lawyer Dave Domina, who was successful in securing the race over Larry Marvin, according to The Huffington Post.

While most of the Boys' State attendees are likely already working on their own political aspirations, everyone should take time to appreciate a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the political climate. During the forum, questions that were submitted the Sunday will be preselected to be asked the candidates. Anyone interested in submitting questions will be not be limited to Nebraska politics, but rather any national questions that may appear on the U.S. Senate floor. This includes the environment, immigration, military affairs, economics, mandatory spending, or any other issues delegates may be curious about.

Welcome to Boys' State

By Jordan Werth, Yorktown

Yesterday, we began our great opportunity of attending Boys' State. Attending Boys' State gives us the chance to represent our community, school, and, most importantly, the American Legion. Boys' State will be the chance of a lifetime to learn about our local government and to make lifelong friends.

We began the experience by getting registered and checking in with our specific town. When we arrived with our specific town, we introduced ourselves to the other members of our town. Of course it will take us some time to remember the names of our peers, but today begins our journey of making new friends that will last a lifetime.

After checking in with our town, we attended our first session. In the first session, members of the American Legion spoke about what's going on during this busy week. We also heard from current Boys' State Governor Walter Paul, Boys' Nation representative John Michael Hogue, and some of the counselors. We also watched a video showing some of the famous alumni of Boys State. The video and the speeches helped motivate me to do my best with my one chance with Boys' State. This was the start of a great week that will include many memories that we will have for the remainder of our lives.

A First Walk into Belleau Wood

By Cesar Linare, Belleau Wood

Upon arriving at Harper Hall, it was very easy to tell most of the delegates were very nervous. Of course, it is understandable to be anxious at such an event that's filled with some of the brightest minds in the state and young men who are optimistic about future public service. On top of this, throughout the week we will be hearing from professionals who have been part of Boys' State before.

However, it was apparent that there is more to Boys' State than being nervous. Arriving at one's respective floor, a group of uniform-dressed boys were relaxing very peacefully on the right side of the elevator. How could these boys look so confident in an environment like this? Belleau Wood easily invites confidence.

The first characteristic that is easily noticeable about Belleau Wood is the diversity. It is easy to tell everyone is different, and comfortable with being different. Not only this, but when pins were placed on which cities members were from, the students came from more than just Omaha and Lincoln. This type of background mix allowed Belleau Wood to get comfortable with each other, and easily tell everyone a few facts about themselves. The counselors, being extremely understanding people, gave us all a chance to have fun, lend some witty humor, and relate to at least one other person in the room.

With so much to learn about the people within the town, Belleau Wood seems as if it will be a riveting adventure to be on throughout the week.