

PREMIER



BOYS STATE  
ILLINOIS

# PREMIER BOYS STATE-MENT



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## Memorial Service- The Significance of Selflessness .

By: Max Senn

“Their names will live on for all generations.” This quote, although ambiguous, is the only foresight the 2009 Boys State citizens were given previous to attending Sunday night’s Memorial service. As citizens poured in from both entrances, enthusiastic and youthful, one could not help but recognize the stark contrast this manner held toward the attitude of



the present staff. While Mr. Tom Johnson gave the opening prayer, the band director Mr. Mike Augustson waited patiently, sternly staring at his musicians. In a grand compilation, the Citizens of Boys State joined the band in performing, “My Country, ‘Tis of ‘Thee.”

Despite these opening events, I still found myself questioning what the purpose of this service was. One could, nevertheless, draw strong conclusions based on the



content of the preceding speeches given by citizens of 2009 Boys State. Words often used included, “gloried,” “honored,” and, “righteous deeds.” The overbearing question posed by Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address still remained: can a nation, “conceived in liberty,” survive? This Memorial Service proceeded to answer this question in detail.

As Mr. Johnson described the layout of famous Washington D.C. memorials, the concept of survival became very apparent. One could almost feel the history of combat, and the sleek marble wall with the names of those who have died fighting for the United States of America which reveals the grim reality of battle. Decorated Veterans had become a commonplace sight on campus, but the

significance of their presence had only then become clear. Many of them could easily have not been there, had, as Mr. Johnson cleverly pointed out, God had called them home in a different order.



After group songs of “Abide with Me,” “The National Hymn” and “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”, the patriotism in the room was all-encompassing. Here, though, Johnson chose to make a comparison that has far-reaching ramifications. World War II had been deemed, “the last good war,” by many, while the war in Vietnam was fervently protested. Protest against war is something all contemporary Americans are familiar with, for the war we are currently fighting has a strong opposition. Mr. Johnson stipulated just where this protest should be placed.

The problems people have with war are valid, but they are governmental, not personal. Soldiers are not just fighting for the cause of the hour, but rather fighting to protect the ideal country that Lincoln foresaw so many years ago.



All men and woman who fight for our country should, and will be respected and remembered in the very least by the citizens of Boys State, for these ideals were forever instilled in us at the Sunday night Memorial Service.

## The Mayor Process, By: Tyler Urish

Yesterday, I was able to talk to two very nice candidates for their respective city mayor and I asked them what their strategy was for their campaign and what they are standing for in their campaign.

I first talked to Federalist Josh “The Bear” Jordan from Stelle County. This was a very odd meeting because his “cabinet” helped convey The Bear’s message and what he stands for. The Bear and his cabinet told me about his “amazing and humorous” speech that included “expert statistics” on his town’s issues which lead to the issues The Bear was bringing to his county. The Bear’s strategy was to campaign by word of mouth and talk about pressing issues such as the card band and goldfish citizenship for Jerry Junior, the city’s mascot. The Bear and his cabinet were a good group of individuals and The Bear is aspiring to become governor of Boys State.

## City Elections, By: Jimmy Clinton

After last night, the first of three elections was finished. The votes were counted, and leaders were chosen. The city councils have been determined. Despite the campaign posters that littered the hallways, and bathrooms in some cases, (even the stalls!) these were the smallest of the three elections. Still, political play was prevalent. Posters were torn down, others were put up, and promises were made. It is the beginning of a political journey that all of us will be involved in. Whether you have an immense knowledge of politics, or this your first foray into the government system, one thing is for sure: there’s no turning back now.

I then talked to Parry Draper, the nationalist mayor candidate for Armstrong City in Savage County. Parry ran primarily to enjoy himself and make the most of the Boys State experience. Parry used a poster heavy campaign strategy which he chose to utilize again for Savage Senator. Parry also is going for name recognition and oral statements of his platform. Parry wants to make laws that are inventive, fun, and add to the overall experience of Boys State citizens. Parry says that it is a lot of work campaign but in the end it is gratifying. Parry lives in Shiloh, IL has lived in multiple states and countries including England, Japan, and Germany and is currently on the Savage soccer team and is also working on his oration and the Samsung scholarship.



## Hear Ye, Hear Ye, By: Chris Tenting

First election is over and done with. This evening at 5:00 p.m., citizens of Boys State engaged in their first official vote for electing officials for their cities. Voting did not seem as hard of a task to many, but for the election officials it was a different story.

As many know, those citizens who were elected Election Officials, or Alternative Election Officials, had to attend a special seminar to learn how to be an official and all the little yet significant rules that go along with it. For example, all officials must be present and prepare the polls nearly 15 minutes prior to polls opening, this time in real elections can be doubled or even quadruple, no individual marks on the ballot or the ballot is void, or even no campaigning 25 feet within the area of the pulls, which means no campaign signs!

All in all, election officials had an interesting time remembering the rules and guiding us new citizens on the ways of voting. “Once I understood the procedure and taught it to the first citizens in line, eventually the word passed down what to do and things became much easier,” Michael Unnerstall, Alternative Election Official of Rawers City, responded to a question about the hardships of polls, “later, I’m sure, everyone will know what to do and what not to do while voting making everything easier.” As a courtesy, please try to refrain from any horseplay or improper marks on the ballot because the votes on the ballot that is marked void just might lose your election!

\* Fun Fact \* On January 13, 1795, Congress considered a proposal to print the federal laws in German. The vote failed 42-41. This one vote, as many believe, could have easily influenced the official language of US to be German. Just goes to show you how much your vote matters. Let your voice be heard.

### Basketball Tryouts & Over Confidence, By: Jimmy Clinton

Take a hundred or so players who have never practiced together, never played together, never even met. These boys have come from across the Land of Lincoln, from every corner, every part of the state. Is it reasonable to expect this group to form well-prepared teams, and compete at a high level? Is that even possible? According to Premier Boys State, it is. Yesterday eight basketball teams were forged across campus, bearing their respective county names. By the end of the week, one team will reign supreme over the other seven, who will it be?



Outside of the tryouts, many different perspectives were given. Many teams, including Keller County and Savage County had only eight or nine players, so their slots were guaranteed on the team. On Gleason County however, as was the case for several

other counties, the competition was fierce. Some players remained confident while others, "just had to get the butterflies out". While it seemed that most players were perennials on their high school squad, a player from Savage County had not played since sophomore year, but decided to give it a shot. That's what it's all about here at Boys State, taking chances. No matter what the activity is, be it basketball or a state election or just meeting someone new, take the chance; you will only be at Boys State once.

As far as the basketball tournament goes, confidence is boiling over. Savage County said they were "very confident"; Keller County stated, "We're going to blow the other teams out." Not to be outdone, Gleason County quipped, "We're gonna kill the other teams". Well, it seems no team is willing to roll over in this tournament. Only time will tell which ones can back up their cocky swagger, and which ones will stumble back home, without the prestigious State Title and Model County points.

# Starting Tomorrow Check Here for the Latest Sport Scores



## The 74th Boys State Band , By: Tyler Urish



This year like every other year before it, there is a group of individuals who bring their extraordinary musical talent to Boys State and perform in the band. This year there are over twenty-five musicians in our band.

The band will perform, according to Director Mike Augustson, around thirty different pieces, not including the music that will be performed at special events. It has been also said that the band will practice for at least 24 hours this entire week. I asked a few gentlemen about their experience so far with the band and how they operate.

Dillon Huff, an eight year clarinet player, told me that the band was not incredibly intense but that everyone must have skill in some form of sight reading. Dillon also told me that he has enjoyed meeting many people with the same inter-



ests as him and also cooperating as a single ensemble. Joe Cromin, who has played trumpet and French horn, also stated that the experience was enjoyable but was difficult in creating the ensemble. Joe believed that the band was a commitment but did not hinder him from enjoying and meeting other people at Boys State.



Director Mike Augustson is a citizen of Boys State from 1991 and has been working at Boys State for 18 years but has only directed for four years. Mike is from Woodriver, IL and teaches at a private school in Missouri. This week you can expect a concert from your very own Boys State band except for Tuesday, along with a drum line performing in the mornings and evenings.

# Good Eats!

### Monday Dinner

- Meat Loaf
- Seasoned Potato Cubes
- Mixed Veggies
- Hot Rolls
- Cookies-n-Cream Pie
- \*Veggie Corn Dog

### Tuesday Breakfast

- Biscuits
- Sausage Gravy
- Tator Tots
- Pop Tarts
- Glazed and Chocolate Krispy Kreme Donuts
- \*New Vegetarian Options!

### Tuesday Lunch

- Hamburger or Cheeseburger
- Stealth 3/8 Fries
- Corn
- Bomb Pops
- Ice Cream Bar
- \*Black Bean Burger

# Congratulations to the Elected Mayors:

### Conatser

Sanzotta City	Rawers City	Snodgrass City
Tyler Startz	Blake Flood	Caleb Mbuvi

### Gleason

Kissner City	Gazza City	Lofton City
Kurtis Teskoski	Austin Prosser	Casey Clemmons

### Keller

Elliott City	Shaw City	Breise City
Andrew Klaas	Alex Williams	Steven Schmidt

### Savage

Nooner City	Nicholes City	Armstrong City
Ray Turner	Zachary Polega	Parry Draper

### Geiger

Atteberry City	Merritt City	Besson City
Vikrum Joshi	Cassidy Warning	Alex Davis

### Hayes

Badamo City	Mahoney City	Yost City
Anthony Kunkel	Jerrmy Wiker	Scott Rausch

### Kennedy

Brennan City	Corum City	Smith City
Bryan Morefield	Patrick Dorsey III	Alex Broyles

### Stelle

Corbett City	Mathers City	Watkins City
Brian Elliott	Demetri Edwards	Weitao Qiang

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