

## Boys State Oration Topic 2011

### Abraham Lincoln in 1861 – A Sesquicentennial Reflection

The year 2011 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of most tumultuous years in American History. As the year began on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Abraham Lincoln knew that secession was inevitable...and possibly war. On March 4, 1861, he was sworn in as the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. On April 12, 1861, the Confederates opened fire upon Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The Civil War had begun. By the end of 1861, the United States was in the midst of a war which would lay the foundation for many future generations to come...including ours. To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1861, your oration should cover the year 1861 from the perspective of Abraham Lincoln. Your oration should cover the timeline of 1861, beginning with his Farewell Address on February 11<sup>th</sup> through the rest of that year...the year of transition from citizen Abraham Lincoln to President Abraham Lincoln.

## Boys State Essay Topic 2011

### The Fourth Amendment and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology – How Do They Work Together?

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states: “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

Within seconds, if necessary, the U.S. government can find you by tracking the location of your cell phone. Cameras are being installed in metropolitan areas “for the protection of its citizens” so as to monitor what is going on in the streets. Your home computer has become, in essence, a tracking device, based upon what websites you visit, what you do with your computer, the emails you send to an individual, etc. What you say on your Facebook page may impact your employability in the future.

Your essay is to address the fourth amendment as it applies to our exponentially growing technological world. How do we continue to protect ourselves against unreasonable searches? How do we define “reasonable” in the 21<sup>st</sup> century technological society?