



Fellow Legionnaires:

We have now completed our 2014 Boys State Program and it was very successful; in fact beyond our expectations. In February we contacted the Frisco high schools about the program, counselors submitted nominees and in March our interview team interviewed all nominees. On April 1st we announced the seven Frisco delegates selected to attend Texas Boys State.

On June 1st we held an orientation and all seven attended along with their parents. On Sunday, June 8 at 7:00 AM all seven boarded our bus to the University of Texas, Austin. Campaigning began in earnest as soon as they stepped on the bus; they was no sleeping, reading, listening to music, or playing games. It was ‘Game On’ un-

til they got on the bus six days later to come home; these are serious, driven young men.

I would like to share comments from each of the seven Boys Staters our Post 178 sent to the Texas Boys State the week of June 8 -13. These comments were sent to me a week or two after their Boys State experience in June.

It was also great to hear them speak in front of post members about their experience at our last two post meetings. To me it was great to see such high quality young men represent Post 178 and the City of Frisco; keep in mind that these young men had just finished their junior year in high school and are now in their senior year. By the way, several have mentioned an interest in the military which is great.

Submitted by Mike Strand

TESTAMONIAL

By Ethan Frie—Heritage H.S.



Boys’ state was awesome! Boys State was important to me because I was able to learn a vast amount of information about the governmental and political processes through hands-on activities that I wouldn’t have been able to experience through anything else. Furthermore, I was able to enhance my pride for the State of Texas and the United States. It was a truly “learn by doing” week.

Additionally, I was able to network and meet like-minded individuals who share the same passion as me to ignite change in not only politics, but the world as a whole. My most memorable take

away memory was being elected to the House of Representatives, which allowed me to participate in a mock legislative session, where we were debating and passing bills into law – absolutely fascinating especially because we were in the real House chambers of the State of Texas.

Submitted by Ethan Frie



Andrew Vandersand, Freddie Katz, Ethan Frie and Sam Michelich speak at August Post 178 meeting.



TESTAMONIAL

By Andrew Vandersand - Centennial H.S.



Howdy! I'd like to open in complimenting how well you prepared us for the week in comparison to the other boys. It was evident that Steven, Freddie, and I were obvious leaders in the community as soon as the week began. As much as I would like to say it was an individual effort on our parts it is quite evident that that would simply not be true.

You informed us and prepared us from the beginning and continued until we shipped off. When we had the regional meeting it was already obvious by other posts' questions that you had gone above and beyond in keeping us in the loop. As a result of that you had multiple delegates from our post that attained lofty positions simply because we knew what was going on.

I was also one of few applicants for the Samsung scholarship because of you. I thank you for the advantage that you gave us. It served us well.

As far as impressions from it go, I believe it was as much an active education on our political system as it was on the psychology of individuals. I met some of the greatest men my age to date, as well as many more who are superb at making themselves 'appear great'. Through this process I was able to see the plight of the individual feeling under represented. For instance, the election of the state party chair better represented the consensus of the delegates than that of the people.

Another experience of mine happened because I was both on the platform committee and a county chairman/state delegate. I was in the unique position to where I could both propose a change and vote on it. As a result of this I experienced masses of people coming to me to have their voice heard, because their delegates were either headstrong or had lost caring.

I believe these situations accurately describe our political

system. There are power seekers, liars, cheats, honest men, strong leaders, and weak leaders. Sometimes the wrong person wins, whether it is under representation in polls, shady tactics, or a better campaign by the opposition.

While these events may dismay us, in the end our system gets it right. In the end the cream will rise to the top. In this case at Texas Boy's State I believe just that happened. I am proud of the individuals who won their respective positions, particularly at the state and county level.

Boy's State is a wonderful program. Saying that it matured us to manhood is an understatement. Hopefully all boys will become men, but Boys State did more. It gave us the opportunity to interact, communicate, develop, problem solve, and eventually overcome any obstacle with the help of each other. By nurturing our leadership Boys State transformed us not into men, but into great men, leaders of men, and a promising future.

Thank you for this opportunity and all of the man hours you invested in us, I look forward to applying as a Junior Counselor for next year.

Submitted by Andrew Vandersand



Delegate Andrew Vandersand, from Centennial High School, flanked by American Legion Post 178 interviewers John Clark, Mike Strand, John Allen and Ed Kelly



TESTAMONIAL

By Sam Michelich—Wakeland H.S.



I wanted to thank Post 178 for the opportunity to experience Boys State. It was at the same time exhausting and exhilarating, a bonding and a learning experience. I had always considered myself well read in the happenings and procedure of politics, but the path to accomplishments and failures in our government cannot be truly understood until you see them replicated in person.

The speakers were absolutely incredible. Many of them provided invaluable real world advice, especially about how to succeed in their given field. While I personally enjoyed the intelligence, military, and business speakers more, many of my fellow statesmen were enamored by the politician speakers.

These statesmen were also the ones running for party leadership and offices, constantly immersing themselves in debate. It is not hard to see them as the political leaders of tomorrow, at the local, state, and federal level.

Hosting the event at UT also provided an entirely new stimulus. Personally, this was the first time I had ever been in a dorm or spent meaningful time on a college campus. The setup of both the lodging and the schedule also encourages Boys State members to get to know each other, providing new relationships and connections to kids from all over the state.

The college fair provided access to a wide array of colleges and was also very helpful. Not only has Boys State helped me grow as a person and a citizen, it has also given me a wide array of skills and knowledge that will be helpful in the future.

Submitted by Sam Michelich



Mike Strand presenting the Boy's State Medal to Sam Michelich



TESTAMONIAL

By Regan Raily - Frisco H.S.



I just got back from an orientation week at the US Air Force Academy. Here are my thoughts on this past week I spent at Texas Boys State:

While attending Boys State I often found myself stepping out of my comfort zone. At first it wasn't something that I particularly enjoyed, but after a while I could see myself grow into the person that I have always strived to become.

It was an amazing experience seeing myself change day by day into a bigger and better man. I truly cherish the experiences that I had at Texas Boys State and I am forever grateful to the program and to the American Legion.

Submitted by Regan Railey



Regan and parents flanked by Commander Gallardo and Mike Strand

TESTAMONIAL

By Miles O'Neil—Heritage H.S.



This past week at Texas Boys State was great! I want to thank the American Legion Post 178 and you for the opportunity. I've attended many camps in the past (football, basketball, soccer, and band), but I can honestly say that Boys State was by far the best and most life changing.

Early in the week, I ran for and was elected as precinct chairman which resulted in me being one of the county delegates. A few days later I ran for Lieutenant Governor and was pleased to finish fourth for the 2nd highest office.

I learned many things about the government, the political process, and a little about myself. The camaraderie with the other delegates, the new forged friendships, and participating in the making of city, county, district, and state government through the political processes was a tremendous experience that will stay with me throughout my life.

Submitted by Miles O'Neil



Miles and his parents attend August Post 178 meeting



TESTIMONIAL

By Freddie Kratz - New Hampton Prep School



Thank you for nominating me and allowing me to attend Boys State. The week was one of the best of my life and I made many memories and friends.

Boys State was an amazing program that taught me a lot about the political system, as well as helping me build confidence in public speaking and my abilities as a leader. The week was very fast paced and from the first moment on the bus ride to Austin I had to begin building connections and it didn't let up until we boarded the bus to come home. I found that the more involved I became, the more fun I had.

On Monday I was elected precinct and then district chairman which increased my responsibilities but so did the experience. My run for governor was fast paced and involved many speeches and debates on a scale I had never previously attempted.

The experience of speaking in front of groups, arguing my position, and leading my supporters benefitted me greatly. In particular, this Boys State experience gave me unbelievable insight

that I was able to use the following week when I attended a special orientation week at the US Military Academy at West Point.

However, I am most excited about the opportunity to attend Boys Nation next month in Washington, DC and be one of two delegates representing the State of Texas.

Again, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to represent Frisco and Post 178 at both Texas Boys State and Boys Nation.

Submitted by Freddie Kratz

TESTAMONIAL

By Steve Kosanke - Centennial H.S.



Steve Kosanke

I know it's a couple of days late, but I just needed a few days to soak up everything I actually learned that week. I would once again like to thank you for the opportunity you gave me, and

let you know how much it meant to me. Going in to Boys State I knew very little how Boys State actually worked and had little knowledge of government policies and procedures. The week in Austin however changed every aspect of how I look at government. Once again I do appreciate the fact that I was chosen to represent Frisco and if you need anything like a Boys State 'wing man' or young advocator just let me know!

Submitted By Steve Kosanke

Post 178 Delegate Selected To Attend Boys Nation



Freddie Kratz

At the 2015 Texas Boys State Week in Austin, one of our Post's delegates, Freddie Kratz, was selected to interview with the Boys Nation selection committee to pick two boys out of 929 boys in Austin to attend the national program – Boys Nation. The committee consisted of American Legion members and a

previous Boys Nation attendee from Texas. The interview lasted 30 minutes and according to Freddie was intense and pressure filled with questions about certain political positions and the candidates resolve in defending their positions.

Only 98 boys out of a possible 23,000+ Boys Staters nationwide were selected to attend the 2014 Boys Nation Week in Washington, D.C. this past July. Kratz commented that Boys Nation was a totally different experience than Texas Boys State as the 98 attendees were all extremely talented, ambitious boys. Boys Nation lasted a full eight days of activities and little sleep. The program included visits to the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Korean Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery where they presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Additionally, the Boys Nation attendees saw a video commentary from former Boys Stater: former President Bill Clinton. The delegates also had meetings with their individual US Senators from their state; for Kratz and the other Texas representative this was Senators Cornyn and Cruz. Finally, the week concluded with a 'jaw dropping' visit to the Pentagon and then the White House where President Obama met and spoke to the delegates.

The City of Frisco and Post 178 were indeed honored to have one of our seven Boys Staters selected to attend and represent us at the 2014 Boys Nation Program in Washington, DC. Congratulations Freddie and Thank You!!

FOR MORE ON BOYS NATION 2014 see:

Full agenda and more text on Boys Nation: <http://www.legion.org/boysnation/agenda>

Photos from 2014 Boys Nation: <http://www.legion.org/boysnation/photos>

Photos of delegates including Freddie: <http://www.legion.org/boysnation/delegates>

Submitted by Mike Strand



2014 Boy's Nation Day 7 ... Awestruck!



2014 Boy's Nation Delegates Lower The Colors



Boy's Nation Class of 2014 Graduates

OUR 2014 BOYS STATER'S

