



The Mountaineer



The Official Publication of American Legion Mountaineer Boys' State

LEARNING TODAY...

LEADING TOMORROW

Volume 72
Issue 1

June 15th,
2009

72nd Mountaineer Boys State Begins

The 72nd Annual American Legion Boys State was officially underway yesterday afternoon. At 9:00am, Clarence Walton, Director, and Steve Sluss, Administrator, opened registration for the 2009 Boys' State citizens.

Approximately 340 young men from all regions of West Virginia, went through the registration process where they received their cottage and party assignment, as well as a Mountaineer Boys State T-shirt.

Upon leaving the Assembly Hall, it was on to the cottage to meet the counselors, find a bed, have orientation, and get ready for the Law Lecture and Bar Exam. At the cottage each citizen was given a American Legion's Boys State Manual of Government which will be their guide throughout the week.

This year's Boys State program includes a banking system, a newspaper, touch-screen voting, and the opportunity for hands on learning. Citizens will also have the opportunity to become a State Trooper, conservation Officer, or a member of the National Guard.

The Boys State counselors and staff are always available to help with any need that may arise. If you need help with your campaign or are homesick, please let us know.

Throughout the week, you will be scored on many phases of citizenship while participating in the activities of Mountaineer Boys State.

Boys' State is Hi-Tech

Once again Boys State Citizens will use Touch-screen voting for the state wide races in the Primary and General Elections. Mountaineer Boys' State is probably the only Boys State program in the country to use the touch-screen voting system.

West Virginia Secretary of State, Natalie Tennant, has provided the voting machines and Casto & Harris is providing the programming.

American Legion Mountaineer Boys State appreciates Secretary of State Natalie Tennant and Casto & Harris, Inc.



The newspaper will be staffed by citizens under the guidance of Betty Ann Williams and Amanda Sluss. The citizens will report on guest speakers, elections, classes, legislative news, cottage happenings, athletics, and what is taking place at the state, county, and city levels of government. We encourage you to get involved in everything offered this week. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity!

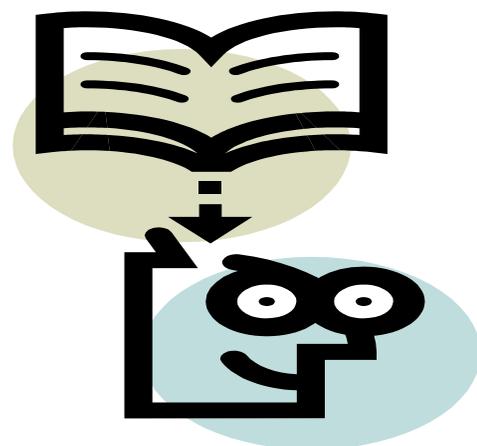
If you know of any newsworthy happening, stop by the newspaper office located in the Dorsey Center and let us know.

Have a great time, learn alot about government, and make many new friends.

Enjoy your week at Jackson's Mill!!!

College Credit Offered

For the second year, college credit is available for attending Mountaineer Boys State. The ACE Network, a non-profit organization created to support Boys and Girls State has arranged for 3 hours of general education elective credit through Clemson University. Citizens who applied for the college credit will need to complete a daily journal of their Boys State activities, pass the final exam given on Friday and design a community service project online. The credit will transfer to any public college and universities as well as most private colleges. The cost is only \$270.00 and citizens will have until the assembly Tuesday evening to apply. See Administrator Sluss for more details.



Mountaineer Boys' State is the 2nd oldest Boys State program in the Nation!!!

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIPS

The Samsung Scholarship applications should be submitted to Jim Davis at the Dorsey Center by dinner on Wednesday, June 16, 2009. The following information should be turned in with the application: If you completed the Samsung Scholarship online, please let Mr. Davis know by Wednesday.

1. SAT scores
2. Application completed
3. Transcript from High School
4. DD-214 (Honorable Discharge papers)

The winner of the scholarship will be announced at the final assembly on Saturday, June 20, 2009.



Thanks to Our Sponsors

The question is often asked, "Who foots the bill for Boys State? Who pays for the week of citizenship and fellowship enjoyed at Jackson's Mill? Who pays for the transportation, insurance, and administrative costs?" Civic clubs, lodges, school booster clubs, the American Legion and service organizations, as well as business firms, sponsor students to Boys State. The WV Department of the American Legion pays for the administrative cost.

All delegates of Boys State are selected by their high school staff or by local American Legion Post officials.

Please be sure to write and thank your sponsor for enabling you to attend Mountaineer Boys State by supplementing the cost of the program. Boys State stationery and envelopes are available in the Dorsey Center. There is also a box for outgoing mail in the Dorsey Center.



Don't Pass It Up, Pick It Up!!!

The campus of Jackson's Mill is a beautiful place. Let's take good care of it this week by picking up trash and depositing it in trash cans. Also put the pop cans in special containers where available, so we leave the grounds as clean and neat as they were when we arrived Sunday.



Parents and friends back home can keep up with all the happenings here at Mountaineer Boys State by accessing the official website. During the week of Boys State, the website will transform itself into Mountaineer Boys State Live!!!

The website, maintained by Jacob McCarty, will include election results, the daily schedule, athletic results, pictures and much, much, more.

Be sure to have everyone at home check out the website!!!!



Men of Tomorrow

Oh, we're the Men of To..mor..row, we march along in happy ranks today.

We never bor..row, a bit of care or grief along the way.

Glad..ly we're learning the things a good American should know.

Glad..ly we're yearn...ing to chart the way a patriot should go.

With lessons done, objectives won

Good citizens we'll be;

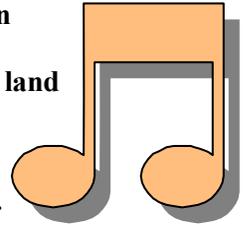
We'll proudly stand in our home land

Where Mountaineers are free.

Men..of To..mor..row, good

fellowship each one of us enjoys,

Men..of To..mor..row, a group of all American boys.



A Brief History of Boys State

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.

Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young ladies called Girls State.

At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. High school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization.

American Legion Boys State is currently conducted in 49 Departments of The American Legion. Hawaii does not conduct a program. As separate corporations, Boys States vary in content and method of procedure, but each and every Boys State adheres to the basic concept of the program that of teaching government from the township to the state level.

from the AL website www.legion.org

Mountaineer Boys State Online **www.mountaineerboysstate.org**

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2009

Refer to Boys State Manual p. 18

Monday Speakers

Lunch—Congressman Alan Mollahan (tentative)

Dinner—Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Woody Williams

Assembly—Coach Bill Stewart

Sunday Speakers

Dinner—Attorney General Darrell McGraw

Assembly—Congressman Nick Rahall

Thank You!!!

Yum!

Breakfast
Bagels
Hot & Cold Cereal
Fruit-Banana
Orange Juice
Milk

MENU

Corn Cogs
Macaroni & Cheese
Salad
Brownies
Lemonade

Yum!

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes w/gravy
Green Beans
Rolls
Salad
Churros
Iced Tea

Freedom Isn't Free

Unspoken hardships
Long endured
Unwanted Memories
That cannot be cured
You fought for your country
You fought for your friends
And your life in the end
Will honor your name
You brought our liberty
You paid with your life
Because freedom isn't free



Why Do We March?

By now many citizens have grumbled about marching everywhere they go. Many are asking, “WHY do we have to march?” The answer to that question is simple. Marching is the most efficient, and more importantly, the SAFEST way to move large groups of people in the limited amount of time we have. Mountaineer Boys State has a very good safety record in its seventy year history. Requiring the citizens to march is a major factor in achieving and maintaining that record.

Secondly, we are visited by many dignitaries and other guests throughout the week. Seeing the citizens marching to class, to the dining hall, and to the assembly hall is quite impressive and adds to the prestige of Boys State. Marching is as much a part of Boys State as the American Legion itself.

Hup...two... three... four.... and have fun!!!!



FLAG DAY—June 14, 2009



REMEMBER ME?

Hello! Remember Me?

Some call me Ole Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your Flag—the Flag of the United States of America... There has been something that has been bothering me, so, I thought that I might talk it over with you here today.

I remember some time ago, (I think it was Memorial Day, or was it Veterans Day?) that people were lined up on both sides of the street for a parade. A high school band was behind me and, naturally, I was leading the parade. When your Daddy saw me coming along waving in the breeze, he immediately removed his hat and placed it so that his right hand was directly over his heart.

And you – I remember you.

Standing there as straight as a soldier, you didn't have any hat, but you were giving me the right salute. Remember, they taught you in school to place your right hand over your heart, and little sister, not to be outdone, was saluting the same as you. There were some soldiers home on leave and they were standing at attention giving the military salute. Oh, I was very proud as I came down your street that day.

Now, I may sound as if I am a little conceited, Well, I am! I have a right to be, because I represent you, the people of the United States of America.

But what happened? I am still the same old flag. Oh, I have a couple more stars added since you were a boy. A lot more stars added since the beginning of this country, and lot more blood shed since that patriotic day so long ago.

Not I don't feel as proud as I used to.

When I come down your street, some people just stand there with their hands in their pockets and give me a small glance and then look away. I see children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have some people forgotten what I stand for? Have they forgotten all the battlefields where men have fought and died to keep this nation free? When you salute me you are actually saluting them!

Take a look at the memorial rolls some time. Look at the names of those who never came back. Some of them were friends and relatives of yours.

That's whom you are saluting, not me!

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So, when you see me, stand straight, place your hand over your heart and you'll see me waving back—that's my salute to you.

And then I will know you remember who I am...

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

In Remembrance!!!

The right choice for the future

Mountaineers
for
Martine



Christian Martine
Secretary of State

Zack Douglas

State Senator
Lewis Cottage

The West Fork River Review
Mountaineer Boys State's Showcase of Talent!

Check the schedule in your MBS Manual for audition times.
To sign up, or for more information, contact Counselor Todd
Zachwieja of Marion, or Randall Kocsis

REFER TO YOUR MANUAL FOR TODAY'S SCHEDULE