



# THE LEGION



The first day of the rest of your life.

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## Keynote Speaker: Admiral William Cobb

*The counselor escorted the Admiral up to the stage with careful reverence, as a hushed silence fell upon the excited crowd.*

**Eric Annet**

Admiral William Cobb

Spoke yesterday at the Boys State opening ceremony to welcome the citizens with a little bit of insight on what the program has to offer. The retired admiral went to Boys State when he was seventeen years old- like the rest of us- back in 1962. Turns out Mr. Cobb is personable and down to earth. He tells it how it is and aims for laughs, as often as serious life advice.

The Admiral spoke a lot about his past and how his father is the greatest generation and how he was part of the baby boom. He served two tours in Vietnam and one in the Persian Gulf and his father served in WWII. After all this he believes the newer generation is actually the greatest generation.

how far America has come. Mr. Cobb spoke a lot about the importance of leadership, service, and other virtues he instills into the youth throughout his thirty-seven years of service to our country. Several citizens asked questions to Mr. Cobb and he responded with many great answers.



Highlights included: "Grit your teeth, suck it up, do your job, those people behind you need a leader." Most answers were given a little levity and respected each person who asked a question. When asked about his service he went on about 9/11 giving the best resonoses of the night, leaving with a rousing applause: " Somewhere in a warm cave Osama Bin Laden is sitting in there and were going to find him and kill that son of a bitch."

## First Day Out

*"The job doesn't have to be big, just needs to be done-serve, serve, and serve some more."*

**Emmanuel McNeill and Benjamin Powell**

Delegates came from all over Virginia; they were bussed, driven, and bugged to the Radford Campus. Once they walked through the



gates to their Boys' State journey, they were greeted by Legion staff. Excitement and confusion filled the room as parents and delegates began to check in. From there, delegates were placed in lines to receive their city, badges, bags, and t-shirts. After all their belongings were gathered delegates were dispersed throughout the Radford Campus, in which everyone one in Moffett got the short end of the stick as they marched miles to their dorms. As they unpacked and settled in they began the process of creating the foundation for their cities. The afternoon was kicked off with a spirited city hallway bonding session between the federalists and nationalists. This energy carried throughout the rest of the day.

# NEWS AND UPDATES

## Boys Will Be Boys

What made the first day of Boys State 2019 special?

**David Donnan** Each city had a unique approach. Many spent their free time doing introductions, making up chants, telling jokes, and just hanging out in general. However, a few cities took chilling to the next level. Patton City settled on an extra long lunch. “We stayed after in the cafeteria for a little while and just got to know each other better,” said Patton citizen, Colter Adams. Other cities used their free time for recreation. Lee City played card games. In an inspired move from the newly elected Athletic Director of Eisenhower City, the extra

game in the basement that transitioned into ultimate Frisbee outside. In a more interesting musical moment (let’s hope the “Virginia Boys State Song” doesn’t get too over-used this week), Lee City also created an impromptu drum circle where they banged on whatever objects they had available including themselves, chairs, and tables. The makeshift drums generated a lot of excitement but, according to a Lee City citizen, “The room was filled with energy but not as much hype as Preston Hall when the drums

cheers from the audience, and dancing from Logistics Director, Steve Cox. These activities show that the citizens and cities of Boys State are off to a strong start and, for the cities that utilized their free time, the beginnings of camaraderie and friendship. As the boys heard numerous times today, the friendships made at Boys State 2019 can, and likely will last a lifetime.



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### Interested in Boys Nation?

**Jarrett Pearson** The 73rd annual Boys Nation will be held this upcoming July in Washington D.C. Boys Nation started in 1946 nearly 10 years after the first Boys State was held in Illinois. Originally Boys Nation was referred to as the Boys Forum of National Government and took place at American University. In 1946 the American Legion adopted the Boys Forum as one of their youth sponsored events. In 1949 it officially became American Legion Boys Nation. Now nearly three-fourths of a century later Boys Nation is just as strong as ever.

strong as ever. With two delegates and being chosen from each State (excluding Hawaii) they will travel to Washington D.C. and learn the mechanisms of government at the federal level. Two alternates will also be chosen in case the delegates are unable to attend. These two delegates will be chosen in a tough selection process. Prospective candidates will face a round of interviews

stay at Marymount University right outside of Washington D.C. in Arlington, Virginia. The week-long program operates in the same vein as Boys State but instead of focusing on state government it will instead function on a federal level. Along with learning about our national government delegates will also travel to famous monuments and even visit the White House.



# OPINION

## Local Government” Knows Best

**Patrick Scolese** | The age-old saying of proponents for a stronger and more involved federal, state, and local government is that “government knows best.” Citizens of every city at the 77th Session of Boys States will understand the importance of participation in our local and state governments. The importance of leading a decent and honorable lives both as a public servant and as a private citizen. To open the 77th Session of Virginia Boys State, Mayor of Radford, David Horton stressed the value of not only entering politics to serve the community, but to the shining model in all avenues of life. Horton, who discovered his passion for politics while working on an Eagle Scout project in his local community right here in Radford. He remained focused on the difference that one can

participation in our democratic government. Radford University President, Brian Hemphill also emphasized the importance that participation in our government plays. He urged delegates to take their experience this week at Boys States to live lives of dignity and with honor and integrity. The speeches touched on a sad trend, but harsh reality in American democracy - public trust and faith in our government is at a five decades low and waning quickly. In fact, according to Pew Research Center, public trust in our government stands at just 17%, an all time low since Pew began asking about trust in our government in 1958. Indeed, since 1964, when the figure stood at 77%, the number has struggled to reach even 50% since 1972. It seems clear to delegates from the speeches today that the only way to instill more trust and confidence in our government is from the bottom up.

Through grassroots democracy, through involvement of people with issues that affect them and with which they have a vested interest, and through the return of politicians who act with integrity and sincerity for the community that they serve. Then we can begin to trust our government again. Ordinary citizens have the best and most well-informed perspective of the issues facing our communities. At Boys State, we will learn the inner workings of our government and how to effectively involve ourselves in government, however, most importantly of all we will learn how to become better and more informed citizens who can help restore faith in our scared American democracy.

## Confederate Leaders as City Names: Respectful or Archaic?

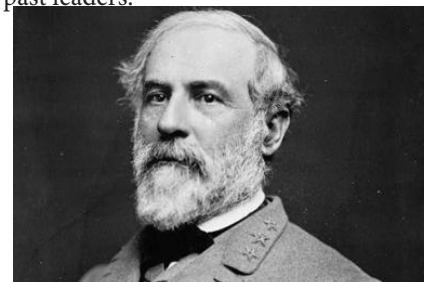
**Jake Tisdale** | As addressed by Sunday night’s keynote speaker RADM William Cobb, diversity is an important factor in a modern day Boys State. He spoke about his time as a Boys State citizen which, while important and educational, lacked the inclusivity of today’s program. While this progress is obviously significant and meaningful, Boys State of Virginia is still lagging behind in meaningful reform by naming cities after Confederate figureheads.

Citizens of color at Boys State are expected to reside in, and show pride for, cities named after men who fought for their subjugation and captivity. This is unequivocally wrong. Robert E. Lee, Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, and James Ewell Brown “J.E.B.” Stuart should no longer be the names of cities. This removal should continue the advancement and progress that Cobb spoke about.

as a man with no contempt in his heart, and one who fought in the Civil War (called the War Between States by a decidedly apologist Boys State flagbook) with no cause other than the dream of reuniting his beloved homeland. This myth is harmful to the cause of education and enlightenment about this difficult time in American history. Lee remarked on slavery being a “painful discipline,” however he also described it as “necessary.” He also notes that enslaved Americans were “better off here than in Africa.” And no matter how much we try to cover it up and defend it, Lee ultimately fought on the side of perpetuated suppression of basic human rights.

In my research, I hoped to discover more positive historical military leaders to replace problematic city names, but the unfortunate truth about Virginia’s military past is that it is deeply rooted in racism, oppression, and intolerance. I have even avoided touching upon the cities named after noted slaveholders Patrick Henry and George

Washington. I am not suggesting there are few current military heroes readily available to honor, but perhaps we should reflect on the role of Boys State in leading the charge against systemic racism. We have many leaders and figureheads in our great state’s history that are venerated, but with an asterisk next to their name. As Cobb called upon us to embrace our future as “the greatest generation,” we should strive to become leaders and professionals with no red in our ledger. It should be our duty to serve our country in a manner that garners praise without the controversies of past leaders.



# SPORTS AND SUPERLATIVES

## Kickoff to Boys State Athletics

Let the games begin!

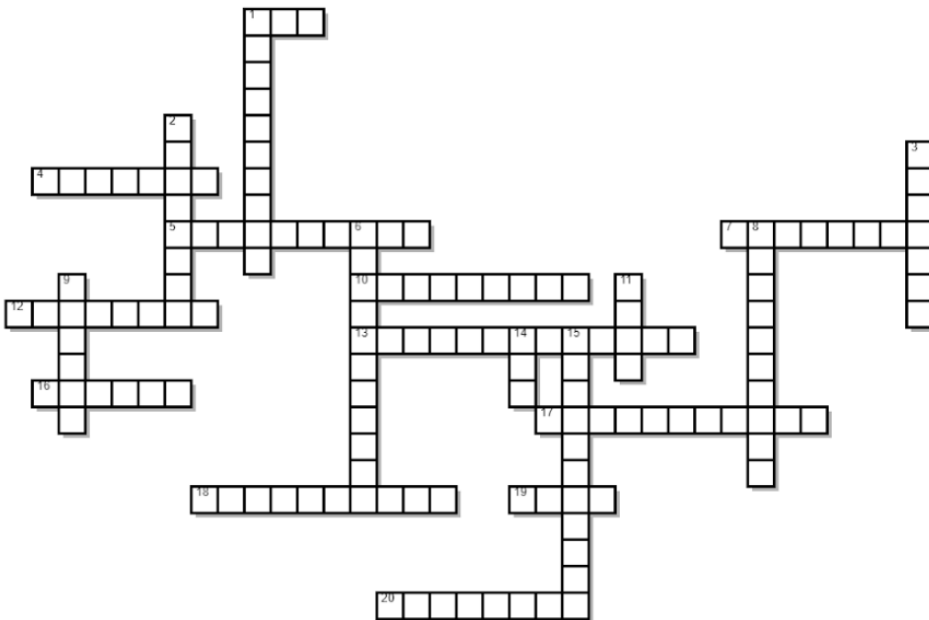
Jack Rhoades With the beginning of Boys State on Sunday, citizens not only began running for a few elected offices, but also joined athletic programs. Since the program began in 1939, Boys State citizens have looked forward to participating in sports, granting them a break from rigorous elections or political classes. Around 3:30 PM Monday through Thursday, citizens have their activity period until dinner time, during which many have chosen, or have been selected, to play in one of the many athletic options. The first step in the process was electing an Athletic Director for each city, chosen based on athletic experience and drive to guide their city to athletic

variety of sports are available, they are not all your typical activities. The basketball games will consist of 3 on 3 tournaments rather than a typical game of 5 vs 5. Additionally, flag football will be available to play, which will provide a fun alternative without the risk of injury of tackle football. The soccer games will be played in gymnasiums- smaller than typical- and no cleats are allowed, again to avoid potential injuries during the games. Games of frisbee golf will also be played on campus, as well as 2 vs 2 billiards, bowling, and table tennis. On Sunday evening, team members were selected with input from the respective city citizens and the athletic director, resulting in teams that are sure to prove strong competition. The teams feature

some varsity players at their high schools as well as some who excel at their sports outside of school, such as bowling prodigies. The Athletic Director compiled official rosters, which will be handed off to the game officials for scoring during play time. The officials will watch the teams for positive sportsmanship in the grand competition for Best City, while negative attitudes may result in demerit points. The sports will be scattered in fields across the campus, so be sure to walk around to catch some exciting games! For example, on Monday, you can watch the highly competitive Marshall vs Nimitz volleyball game at 4:15 on Field 1. Let the games begin!

### First Day

Welcome to the first day of American Legion Boy's State



### ACROSS

- 1 Not fully grown human male
- 4 The college that so graciously accepted us in its halls
- 5 Taking charge
- 7 Democratic process in selecting leaders
- 10 Our formal titles for this week
- 12 The BEST Nationality
- 13 Democratic governance of a state where the executive derives its democratic legitimacy from its ability to command the confidence of the legislature
- 16 Great number of ancient Roman troops in a formation
- 17 What grants us our RIGHTS as Americans
- 18 A large meeting of members of a political party
- 19 Another word for a metropolitan area
- 20 Oversees the enlisted

### DOWN

- 1 A program that we are apart of
- 2 The State you are in
- 3 42nd President of the United States
- 6 Neither Nationalist or Federalist but still something
- 8 A trait that we are here to learn
- 9 Clinton Romesha
- 11 Representative banner
- 14 Human male
- 15 These are required to apply to service academies