

The Boys State Chronicle

Volume 81, Issue 1

“A SCREECH OF FREEDOM”

June 17, 2024

WELCOME TO BOYS STATE!

Silas Green - Nimitz City
Shatique Willis - Henry City

The 2024 session of Virginia Boys State is off to a joyous start. Following an efficient check-in process, cities discussed standard Boys State procedures and protocol. Afterwards, the soon-to-be citizens receive an introduction to cover Boys State in its entirety, rules, regulations and courtesies Boys State citizens are to adhere to, the dorm living situation, getting to know fellow city members and a plethora of other valuable nuggets of knowledge sponged up throughout the lengthy day.

Citizens are reminded to respect all properties and facilities of Radford University and to win elections with humility and lose them with grace. Citizens are further reminded that severe breakage of these rules could result in an expulsion from Boys State.

All Boys State participants pledged to adhere to the rules and regulations presented by both Radford University and the Boys State program; vowing to themselves as they represent not only the state of Virginia's Boy's State but also Boys State as a whole, and us, the future leaders of America.

The first day is only the beginning of the arduous and adventurous week here at Radford University Boys State. Citizens are excited to participate in all manners of activities and campaign for public office, and there's a clear feeling of excitement for the week to come.



Attitude and Effort, Citizenship and Leadership

MacPhearson Strassberg - *Bradley City*

Boys State was honored today by the presence of Russel Dash, a former Boys State attendee and one of 44 current Coast Guard Rear-Admirals. His speech tonight was focused on two main ideals: citizenship



paired with leadership, and effort paired with attitude.

Admiral Dash wisely stated that “Freedom is not free” and that we as citizens of Boys State, and America, need to play an active role in our democracy and help out in our community. He warned against growing apathy among U.S. citizens, which he said is just as dangerous as foreign and domestic threats. When discussing leadership, he named two main types: Positional Leadership and Personal Leadership. Positional Leadership, in his words, simply consists of a position’s title and rank. He bluntly stated that any leader that pulls rank in every situation or says “because I say so” after issuing a command is a poor leader. Instead, he advocated for Personal Leadership, where a leader is confident in their abilities,

while also forming deep and personal connections with their followers to inspire them.

He also voiced his belief in the importance of effort combined with a positive can-do attitude. He argued that pairing both of these mentalities will lead to success at Boys State, and in life. After his speech, he opened the floor up for questions from Boys States attendees. One of the best questions was about his favorite and least favorite traits of Gen Z.

After thinking for a few moments, Mr. Dash eagerly replied that his favorite trait was how involved and passionate Gen Z was in their community. His least favorite trait, or rather inaction, of Gen Z was their low military application rate, which was the lowest since the draft was disabled in the late 60’s. He argued that pop culture, through video games and movies, falsely portrays the military as a commitment that will permanently “break” the serviceperson instead of aiding in their development.

In conclusion, Admiral Dash’s speech was moving and inspiring for the attendees of Boys State. His strong advice will guide Boys State attendees during the program and beyond.

Senator Angus King's Message To Boys State

Nicholas Hourihan- *Washington City*

Senator Angus King greeted the 81st Session of American Legion Boys State of Virginia with a welcome video. Contrary to previous sessions, there was a slight technical mishap that caused laughter to echo throughout the auditorium. The welcome video started with, "You're probably wondering why a state Senator from Maine is talking to Delegates of Virginia Boys State?" Immediately after this sentence, the video abruptly cut off. Thankfully, the staff of Boys State promptly fixed this issue by restarting the video, so there was no harm, no foul.

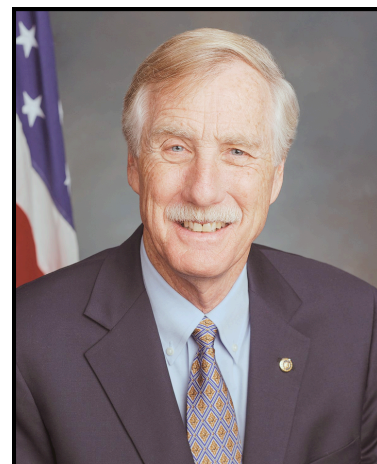
Going past that technical mishap, King proceeded to explain that he is a former graduate of Boys State, and in fact, was the Governor of his session as well in the 1961 Conference.

After his time at Boys State, Senator King went on to graduate from Dartmouth, and eventually came back to Virginia to graduate with a J.D from UVA. King worked as a lawyer and a businessman, which contributed to his election as the Independent Governor of Maine in 1994.

Looking to further contribute to his state after his time serving as Governor, King pursued the Senatorial position in 2013.

As mentioned in his welcome video, King is dedicated to improving bipartisan relationships in congress. His effort is displayed with his famous BBQ parties at his home. During these parties, he ensures the events are a political-free environment where attendees can get to know one another on a personal level, instead of the conversations being dominated by politics and current events.

Senator King is a prime example of the values that Boys State wants to instill into its citizens for a better future: Leadership, Patriotism, and Americanism. In other words, Senator King is a perfect product of the Boys State program, a program that aids and guides the youth with insight to politics, experiences in leadership, and fond memories.



The Competition Between Cities Begins...

Anthony Xu - Patton City

Less than twenty-four hours ago, words like “Patton,” “MacArthur,” or “Nimitz” only occupied the realm of World War II generals and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. New dorms, sights, smells, sounds, and opinions have quickly attached themselves to these words with the doling of a single paper slip by the registrar.

Organized chants, sly snippets, and well-intentioned shouting have quickly infiltrated kaffeeklatsches, the mess hall, the keynote speaker Q and A, or any other place where more than three unique name tags can be seen at the same time. Here to winnow out the noise from the news are statements from every member of The Boys State Chronicle:



Photo Credit: @vaboysstate

Bradley City - MacPhearson Strassberg

“BRAAAAAAADLEY!” Though we may be small, Bradley has all the other cities beat in spirit and camaraderie. Seeing all Bradley’s citizens sing proudly during the opening assembly proved to me that Bradley City has the most patriotic citizens in the entire program and it will easily live up to its reputation throughout the week.”

Burke City - Eli Kopp

“BURKE IS BEST!” rang through the halls of Preston Bondurant Auditorium last night. I believe that Burke City will Rise to the challenge of Boys state, just as Arleigh A. Burke rose through the ranks of the US Navy.

Eisenhower City - Diego Quintanar-Peña

“WE LIKE IKE!” Eisenhower city has big shoes to fill. Eisenhower, as one of the most popular presidents and the first Supreme Allied Commander, commanded not only troops, but the respect of his citizens. Eisenhower City is certainly prepared to uphold this legacy of leadership, as comradery and community were early distinctions of this group. The week’s outcome is already clear: supreme allied victory for, “EISEN-POWER!”

Gravelly City - Nathan Benyame

“I have big hopes for Gravelly to win big this week. I’ve seen the energy our citizens bring, and I’m betting that will prove its worth in the upcoming elections. Go Gravelly! (P.S. IT’S NOT GRAVLEY!!!)”

Reporter's Remarks

Henry City - *Shatique Willis*

“We came, we saw, we conquered... ALL HAIL – HENRY!!!” is Henry city’s barbaric yet refined city chant. I’ll admit, we had a bit of a rough start but we’re certainly an adaptable and resilient bunch. After a little bit of time to get our bearings, I’d say we’ve proven ourselves on the first day as one of, if not the most disciplined city. All hail Henry!

James City - *David Foster*

The Citizens that inhabit James City strove for nothing less than perfection yesterday and achieved their goals thoroughly. With many charismatic leaders emerging, who rally other citizens behind their causes and ideas, James City has become a symbol of strength and teamwork.

MacArthur City - *Joey Schlatter*

“While our city, similarly to others, does not exemplify or embody anything approaching objective perfection, it is our individualized quirks and shared initiative to put forth the most extensive effort possible that gravitated the initially timid citizens of MacArthur together within mere hours of our arrival.”

Marshall City - *Taebeen Han*

“From the moments we all arrived into our designated dorm rooms, Puller citizens instantly began making connections amongst each other. Amongst our city, we had many young men take leadership within the group almost instantly, including an aspiring Governor candidate, and many of his planned appointed cabinet members.”

Nimitz City - *Silas Green*

“Nimitz City is off to a productive and pleasant start. The city enjoyed bonding over a city wide ultimate frisbee game. “

Patton City - *Anthony Xu*

“We weren’t the loudest—but we’re the best. The great thing about our camaraderie and self-effacing style is that it might not rupture eardrums, but it will quickly show itself after we demolish the competition in the coming activities.”

Puller City - *Cole McConnell*

“From the moments we all arrived into our designated dorm rooms, Puller citizens instantly began making connections amongst each other. Amongst our city, we had many young men take leadership within the group almost instantly, including an aspiring Governor candidate, and many of his planned appointed cabinet members.”

Washington City - *Nicholas Hourihan*

“Many cities speak of their cities' ambition and substantial feats on the first day that are shared across all cities, including Washington City, but no other city is named after the first president of the United States. To represent George Washington, Washington city will show the utmost excellence to the staff, guest speakers, and other cities as well to scream proudly, “Washington!” loud and clear. We also have all the staff offices which adds to how important we are. “

Monkey Business

Diego Quintanar-Peña - *Eisenhower City*

Sightings have been reported of an anonymous group of citizens gathering late at night to make animal noises outside of competing city dorms. Their reported purpose seems to be to keep rivals awake. In an alleged controversial campaign speech, a potential sheriff whose identity will be kept secret for his own safety, voiced his would-be constituents' competitive and aggressive approach to getting an upper-hand in their quest to become "Best City": making monkey noises after lights out outside the windows of innocent victims. Only time can tell if their approach will work, but citizens can be assured that our recently elected sheriffs will keep us safe and sleeping soundly. We here at The Boy's State Chronicle will eagerly await comments from elected sheriffs on their plans to stop this "monkey business."

Pitch Perfect?

Diego Quintanar-Peña - *Eisenhower City*

Backstage at Preston Hall, a group of unsuspecting citizens was corralled into a backroom, minutes before Boy's State would be addressed. Frantically, music was passed out as the group, part volunteer and part draft, prepared to sing our national anthem before an audience of Boy's State citizens. With just a few minutes to prepare, the choir managed to perform and stay together with minimal casualties. At their later rehearsal at Covington Hall, the group only grew in numbers as experienced singers and novices gathered to prepare a program for today's ceremonies. The appeal is clear: a guaranteed spot among the first in the breakfast and dinner lines, an incentive potentially undermined by the reality that no one seems to like the food served.

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