

The Citizen Builder

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87th Annual American Legion Alabama Boys State is Underway

Akaree Barbour



Basketball Tips Off

Christian Harris



During the beginning of the week, All 10 teams' Activity Directors chose the teams that would represent them on the court throughout Boys State. The City of Perry, a mighty force to be reckoned with, chose Brayden Duncan, Carter Johnson, Aidan Barnes, JP Wilson, Zakary Cain, and Cooper Kilgore. They will be the ultimate team that will lead City 9 to the finals. Currently, their schedule stands as the following: First Game at 4:05 on Monday, Second Game at 4:05 on Tuesday, Third Game on Wednesday, and their last game on Thursday at 4:05. Today, they will be playing against City 10.

The 2024 Alabama Boys State just started this Sunday. This year we have just under 500 students which they're here to learn about leadership, politics, and try a mock government system. The young men were first separated into their cities 1-10 named after influential figures of Boys State. Today the students have elected their City Mayor, City Council, House of Representatives, State Senate, and many more. Here's a quote from House Representative Alex Galloway. "Boys State has been super fun so far, it's given us a good understanding of the inner working of the Alabama government, it felt incredible to be elected to the Alabama House of Representatives because I get to see the stuff that goes behind the scenes." -Alex Galloway.

But this week isn't just about Government, it's about creating lifelong bonds with the boys around you. Many of the counselors here at Boys State have stated that many of their closest bonds with people all came from Boys State whether it was from their year or another year and met later. These bonds have been their best man in their wedding, been to their gender reveal party or the birth of each other's children. So the counselors don't just want the boys to gain more confidence and leadership, they also want the boys to leave here with true life long bonds that will go on forever and hopefully have them come back to Boys State just like they did.

Boys State Kicks off With Enthusiasm and Leadership

Kaden Sledge



An exciting week has kicked off here at Troy University with the 2024 Alabama Boys state Class Arriving this past Sunday. The boys checked in on Sunday morning and wasted no time dividing up in their cities and meeting their fellow delegates. Delegates had the privilege to hear from Alabama Supreme Court Justice and Alabama Boys State Delegate Jay Mitchell in their opening session! Mr.Mitchell gave his experience from his time at Boys State and some helpful tips to the delegates as they go through the week! The Boys wrapped up day one by kicking off party conventions and elected their party officials! All the delegates are looking forward to an outstanding week!

5-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK



Law Schooled

Ethan Schmidt

Stormy skies crowded the sky as over 100 Boys State delegates gathered for a law education session led by Brad Green, Dean of Boys State Law School, on Monday morning. All candidates for judicial office were required to attend to collect their bar exam certification prerequisite, but that did not stop interested non-judicial delegates from participating. In fact, several candidates for various state, county, and municipal offices found themselves

contributing to the socratic-style of the teaching, Green's fundamental "method of the law." Green touched on a myriad of topics, including descriptions of each appellate court, the intricacies of the Alabama Rules of Evidence, and anecdotes of his everyday work life as a civil litigator. The 90-minute educational session culminated in an interactive bar exam that tested the knowledge (and intuition) of its sitters, including questions

on specific civil court verbiage and hearsay exceptions. With this impressive feat now under the belt of many, the delegates of Boys State will, in the coming days, reside under the informed judicial opinion of its elected judges (except for the probate judge, of course, who, as made apparent during party convention opening remarks and doubled down by Mr. Brad Green, requires no judicial education.)

CooCoo Cornhole

Nate Oliver and Cas Boone

Cornhole: a violent, ruthless, and stupidly fun game. Constructed in the dark dungeons of 14th century Germany as most credit, cornhole is a sport of patience, strategy, and skill. Those who lack corn education and an understanding of Euclidean geometry have no place in this atrocious battle ground.

The rules are simple: stand behind the board at all times, wait for your turn, and do not

interfere with yours or any opponents bags during the game. If you are no fan of intense math skills and memory, steer away from this horrifying domain. Scoring in the cornhole is complicated and frustrating. One point if a bag is on the board, three points if one in the hole. The two teams' points cancel out, so if team one got five points on the board and team two only had three. Team one would win only the

excess of the points, so +3 points.

These are some useful tips for our cornhole enthusiasts and competitors. When you are sinking holes in a cornhole match, keep a lookout for your local boys state newspaper for more Cas and Nate adventure Co. stories and the grand world of CooCoo Cornhole.

The Battle of the Wits

Cole Myers

As the weather took a turn and the outside became dark, the lights continued to shine from the minds of the greatest. The first Boys State Academic Bowl of 2024 saw the fulfillment of a grand contest covering topics such as philosophy, geography, and history. With four delegates selected from every city, and all ten cities participating, the quick thinking and rational decision making caused many teams to rise to the top. And the top was

not easy to reach. The delegates required speed, both in mind and in pressing their respective buzzer, to answer the highly complicated barrage of questions. They required cooperation within their city to properly and accurately submit answers. With the questions read one by one, it was a race against time to answer correctly and win points for their team. When asked about his experience, a delegate from City 6 said that the event was

"very intriguing" and that "we faced a very hard competition but it was fun nonetheless." Another member of the Academic Bowl, who is from City 8, called the bowl a "two team fight, with a mix of specific and difficult questions." The Academic Bowl shocked many with its difficulty and fun, creating a start to a new competitive memory.

Trojan Dining Hall's Dedication To Boys State

Michael Swinford

As Boys Staters arrived at Troy University for our 87th Alabama Boys State on Sunday, Trojan Cafeteria opened up for lunch at 11:00 AM and it was free game for everyone; you could enter and leave as you wished and there was no schedule to follow. Our dinner Sunday night introduced us to our alternating schedules between the cities and allowed us to become accustomed to a more formalized

approach to dining.

As Monday morning rolled around, our students here at Boys State were not the only slow ones after having to get up early; the kitchen was unfortunately understaffed for our breakfast and it had felt like chaos ensued in the cafeteria! It had set us back a bit but by lunch and dinner everything had been sorted out and we're beyond grateful for all of the

dedicated employees who took their time out of their Memorial day for the benefit of us!

Through the courtesy of our wonderful kitchen staff, we have Tuesday's menu! Breakfast is the same as Monday's, lunch is a ground beef taco bar including Mexican rice and pinto beans, and dinner is beef stew with white rice and vegetables!

Choir Prepares for Concert

Brice Hubbard

The 2024 Alabama Boys State choir is working hard to prepare for their concerts on Wednesday, Friday and possibly Saturday. They are practicing hard to be able to put on these concerts and show off their musical talents. These delegates are practicing songs such as "Leave Her Johnny Leave Her," "Bound For The Promise Land," and the popular classic, "America the Beautiful." These delegates

are not only singing extremely well, they are singing at hard to reach pitches, extremely low and very high. There are 11 total delegates in the Boy State Choir, many of which are also in band at their high school. If you see these guys around, be sure to say hello and have a nice conversation. They are great singers and even better people.

