

The Citizen Builder

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The Boys State Experience: Reflecting on the First Day

Briggs Brown & Maddix Harrison



So far this week at Boys State, the feedback has been positive and the weather has been electric. When three Boys Staters were asked the question “What are your thoughts on Boys State so far; the schedule, rooming, speakers, and overall experience?” These students responded respectively. David MacIsaac said, “I have enjoyed everything so far! I really enjoy the party system, and the way we are being separated and getting to choose what the parties believe in, and the random events have helped me get to know people.” Abel Morris commented, “I thought it has been really good...I think the experience has been great, I have been able to meet a lot of really good people, and so far I have had a really good time.” Wood Jones replied with, “I think the main thing is being able to meet new people, and being able to learn about the government, meeting people you wouldn’t meet everyday.” “Mr. 4.00’s” speech was very motivating” These positive remarks match the views of many Boys Staters’ this year and the week will only get better as it goes on.

While at Alabama Boys state this year,

the weather forecast may be telling signs of peril, but that is not stopping these Boys Staters from having the time of their lives. I interviewed three boys staters, Taylor Boshell, Weston Burton, and John Luke Grisham. I asked them all, “What is your favorite thing about Alabama Boys State this year?” Taylor Boshell answered with “ It’s really the people more than anything. Getting to meet all these guys from all over the state, and getting to connect with them is something really special.” Weston and John Luke both reiterated the same thing. I asked Weston, “Do you feel like you’ve gotten something out of the speakers, and the classes?” He said, “ Absolutely, I learned from the guy last night, if life just sucker punches you in the face, get right back up and keep on facing it no matter what.” While all three guys said positive things about Boys State, there is one underlying negative factor to all of them, and that is the walking distance. So no matter what the forecast says, or how tired we may be, Alabama Boys State this year is headed towards something special.

Law School: What YOU need to know!

Evan Heartsill and Jayden Jones

Today at 9:25 in Lloyd Hall 132, more than 100 delegates attended Boys State Law School. Taught by Boys State counselor Brad Green, delegates learned the basics of law and the importance of the court system. He presented his information with a new, interactive method to engage each delegate into thinking more about what it truly means to attend Law School. The delegates in attendance, first learned about the Socratic Method, which is named after Socrates, and the importance of why lawyers use it daily. While many delegates came into this class for the opportunity to run for Judicial Office, such as Attorney General and Judge of Civil Appeals, many left the class more interested than ever in the Law field. Green ended his class with giving the delegates a mock Bar Exam, just like the Law students take to become a Lawyer. Even though difficult, everyone passed with flying colors! We at *The Citizen Builder* are excited to see the future that each one of these delegates pursue in their journey to state wide office!



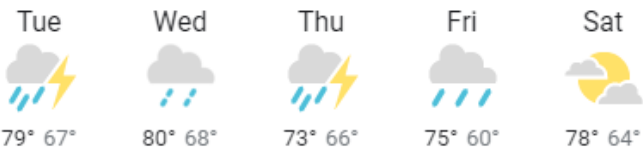
Blowout at Kickball

Demetrius Coleman

At Alabama Boys State, there are a number of activities boys staters can take part in: sports, academic bowl, and journalism. This Monday, May 26, at Alabama Boys State, cities began partaking in these activities. During this time, one city managed to stand out due to their road to victory in kickball. This victor was City 5, Cooper, as they played against City 7, Frazier. With a final score of 6-1, Cooper didn’t let Frazier score until the bottom of the last inning. From the beginning,

Cooper exuded confidence, entering the game with an unwavering belief in their ability to win. Their hopes would prove true as they stuck to a plan. Their plan had been to not move people around as much, and instead have them remain in their initial position. A simple but successful strategy. The game itself was described as “solid,” a true testament to the high level of play from the team.

5-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK



On the Menu This Week: Lakeside and Fresh Foods Dining Reveal Weekly Specials

Landon Grove and Harris Dunham

As part of the Boys State experience, mealtime isn’t just about fueling up — it’s about bringing future leaders together around the table. This week, Fresh Foods Dining has served up a crowd-pleasing classic: crispy chicken nuggets, creamy macaroni and cheese, tender green beans, and a warm dinner roll to round it out. Although that sounds like a lot of food by itself, Fresh Food has much more to offer for today’s meal, such as cheeseburgers,

pizza, grilled cheese, and a delicious dessert bar. While The Fresh Food Company serves us lunch and dinner for the rest of the week, Lakeside Dining will be supplying our breakfast. So far, Lakeside has served fluffy pancakes with warm syrup, scrambled eggs, turkey sausage, and potatoes in addition to several other a la carte items. In other news, the meals for today have

been revealed. Lunch at Fresh Foods will contain a beef taco, a grilled chicken sandwich, grilled cheese, pizza, and an assorted dessert bar. Breakfast at Lakeside Dining tomorrow will be bacon, O’Brien potatoes, turkey sausage, and ffc dipped waffles in addition to the normal a la carte options.



Controversy in the Nationalist Party: Platform Revealed

Paine Gray and Oz Harbin

With the beginning of the 2025 - Boys State, many have been excited to see how the workings of the new Nationalist party will unfold and reveal themselves. However, some may be disappointed with the controversial decision to support the legalization of gambling as a new party platform. The Nationalist party platform meeting at 11:15 on Monday, May 26th, voted to support the legalization of gambling in Alabama after close debate between both sides. Those against the legalization claimed that the inclusion of gambling into commonplace society would cause an increase in crime, addiction, and financial ruin for Alabama citizens. However, those for argued that the increase in state funding from taxes would help for the maintenance of failing city and road infrastructure, and more funding for public education. While the motion passed with a majority affirmation, many are still uncertain of the party’s political future.

The Nationalist party also has platformed topics focusing on the economy, education, and infrastructure sectors. Nationalists also made the decision to increase the tax percentage on “sin taxes,” which are taxes on “sinful” products like alcohol or tobacco. The Nationalists claim that they can use the increased sin taxes and gambling taxes to improve education and infrastructure of Alabama. This spans from increasing scholarships to annual infrastructure checks to the maintenance of roads and bridges. Many in the party have specifically shown dismay to the sin tax. The vote went into a runoff vote after the party could not come to a consensus. But soon after the sin tax increase was affirmed as a platform. With these new platforms revealed it is tough to say if this will benefit the Nationalist party or not, but we are sure to keep the readers at Boys’ State in the know.



Boys State Weather Tracker

Jack Haynes

Monday- High: 82 Low: 67. Cloudy weather is expected with a chance of rain and thunderstorms during the night. Tuesday- High: 80 Low: 68. Attention! There is a 70% chance of thunderstorms! Be sure to wear your rain gear and be mindful as you go from your conventions and meetings. Wednesday- High: 84 Low: 67. Cloudy weather throughout the day. However, the

temperature will reach into the mid-eighties. Thursday- High: 80 Low: 68. You guessed it...cloudy weather with a 60% chance of thunderstorms. Be attentive and comply with Boy Sate staff as they help you (and your safety) from place to place. Friday- High: 77 Low: 61. Cloudy weather with rain expected throughout the day. However, still enjoy this day’s great

opportunities and activities such as touring both the State Capital and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Saturday- High: 83 Low: 58. Congratulations! You made it to the end of an awesome week at Boys State! Your reward is little to no sign of mass quantities of clouds (as of now) and a warm temperature in the low eighties.

Pickleball Interviews

Clay Clemons

In my interviews at the pickleball courts I spoke with Kaamil Meghani post game. I asked how he felt about his performance? He said he feels disheartened about his loss but states, “I have high hopes for tomorrow and we’re gonna get back out there and redeem ourselves” What was your strategy? “Reserve

energy on the walk up there and rely on the power of my serve to get us the win” What was the toughest part about your opponent? “They were really smacking the ball and forcing a lot of hard shots to return on” I also spoke with his teammate, Sawyer Clemons. Tough match out there, how are you feeling? “Emotionally,

Crushed, Physically, Also crushed and hungry. So not great” What was your plan going in? My plan was to hit the ball, don’t embarrass myself, and get the win. Unfortunately I only succeeded in 2/3 of those. What made your opponent so tough? “He hit the ball really hard, that’s about it”