

Vol. 71, No. 6, Friday, June 4, 2010
Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee

DELEGATES VIE FOR BOYS' NATION

At the conclusion of Boys' State, two delegates will be selected to represent Tennessee as Boys' Nation senators in Washington, D.C., later this summer. A select 100 delegates from Boys' State programs across the nation will travel to Marymount University in Arlington, Va., to learn how the federal government operates. The two delegates will be privileged to participate in a number of events including a special memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery, a visit to the Pentagon complete with a briefing with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a day on Capitol Hill with lunch in the Senate dining room and a visit to the White House. Traditionally, the President has been available to greet Boys' Nation delegates. The trip also offers an excellent opportunity for delegates interested in the U.S. service academies to meet and talk with representatives.

Joseph Riley, the 2008 Tennessee Boys' State governor, was the first Tennessee delegate to be elected president of Boys' Nation. The following candidates are competing for the opportunity to represent their state and the chance to become the next Boys' Nation president from Tennessee: Topher Davison, Cain City; Micahel Ball, Hammer City; Robert Fisher, Kreider City, Shawn Mayo, Lahiere City; Travis Tackett, Levi City; Michael Wallace, Loring City; Jonathan Hawkins, Maddux City; David Valencia, McCollum City; Daniel Howell, Reel City; Logan Morris, Roberts City; Evan Smith, Summitt City; Teddy Huerta, Young City; Richard Henderson, Governor.

THE FACE OF THE GUARD

The volunteer spirit and Tennessee, an inseparable combination since 1780 when Col. John Sevier called for "100 good men"—and 200 answered—has been a source of pride for generations of Tennesseans. Today, that spirit is still alive and well with the more than 10,700 soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard. They serve as full partners with active duty American men and women worldwide.

On Thursday evening, Brigadier Gen. William M. Maloan, a 1966 Boys' State delegate, spoke to Boys' Staters about leadership and the guard. Maloan, assistant adjutant general and a circuit court judge for the 27th judicial district, described the qualities successful leaders always carry with them.

“True leaders have to have the respect, confidence and loyalty of all those around them,” said Maloan. “And one of the most important aspects of being a leader is being fair and consistent in your answers. Avoiding favoritism is one of the hardest things you’ll face in life.

“You have to be fair and use your training to make the right decision,” he said. “Hold everyone to the same standard. Use good judgment and think clearly and calmly. Have a common sense attitude because many times you cannot find the answer in a book.

“Take initiative, set a good example and be honest and truthful.”

Maloan also shared information on the Tennessee Army National Guard. Even though Tennessee is only the 17th largest state in population, it boasts the 7th largest National Guard. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 15,000 guard members have been deployed.

“Recruiting is going well. We are at 100 percent and have people waiting to join,” Maloan said. “All this says a lot about our state’s volunteer spirit. For more information, visit www.tnmilitary.org.”

Q: I’m thinking about joining the National Guard and taking ROTC in college. Can I do both?

A: Yes. If you do ROTC and National Guard service at the same time, you can choose to go regular Army or reserve. All your college tuition will be paid and you’ll receive a stipend of up to \$1,300 per month. While you are in college, your commitment will be one weekend a month for training and two weeks in the summer.

Q: Do you have to be a U.S. citizen to join the National Guard?

A: No, as a matter of fact, there is a fast track program to citizenship if you join.

Q: Is it possible to earn a master’s degree if you are in ROTC or the Guard?

A: You get to choose your college major and when you graduate, you can pursue a master’s degree. If you are in the reserve, you can start grad school the next semester and have a civilian career. If you take a commission out of college and you were on scholarship, your commitment is four years.

Q: Can you be mobilized when you are an undergraduate?

A: Yes, but it is a possibility, not a guarantee. Many times the ROTC and unit agree not to interrupt your schooling unless there is a specific need for your job specialty.

SATURDAY'S EVENTS. . . Lt. Gen. Thurman D. Rodgers will speak at the final day of Boys' State during the inauguration ceremony for Boys' State Governor-elect Richard Henderson. The names of the Boys' Nation delegates and the results of the city competition will be announced. The finalist for the Samsung American Legion scholarship award will also be announced. Samsung established the scholarship in honor of those who served in the Korean War. Only descendants of U.S. veterans who served during wartime are eligible. The winner will join other state finalists, each of whom receives a \$1,000 scholarship, in competition for 12 \$20,000 national scholarships.

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BOYS' STATE HAS GOT TALENT: Some of the most memorable moments of the week happen at the Thursday night talent show and this year was no exception. The variety of performances included hilarious efforts and unbelievable talent. Levi City won this year’s competition showcasing its concert pianist. Cain City placed second with balloon animals made to songs. Reel City placed third with its banjo player. Coming in fourth, Maddux City with the ROTC gun demonstration and rifle skills. Fifth place went to Young City for its singing/dance combo.

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YOU ARE IN GREAT COMPANY

Even if you can't dunk like Michael Jordan or fly in space like Neal Armstrong, you do have something in common with them. Many prominent men were fellow Boys' State participants. By your attendance, you've joined their select group: Michael Jordan (N.C., 1980), Neil Armstrong (Ohio, 1946), Vice President Dick Cheney (Wyo., 1958), Tom Brokaw (S.D., 1957), William J. Clinton (Ark., 1963), Rush Limbaugh (Mo., 1968).

