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Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee

**GOV. PHIL BREDESEN, STATE SUPREME COURT TO VISIT
BOYS' STATE AT TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY**

AMERICAN LEGION HOSTS 46th BOYS' STATE AT TTU MAY 30-JUNE 5

COOKEVILLE, Tenn.—The number one American Legion Boys' State program in the nation will begin its 46th year at Tennessee Tech University this Sunday.

“This program is number one in the nation because of the established relationship between the American Legion and Tennessee Tech University,” said Judge John J. Maddux Jr., circuit court judge for the 13th judicial district. “These two organizations work together to produce a top-notch product.”

During the week, about 600 delegates are immersed in learning state government by running a mock 51st state, Boys' State. They will organize political parties and establish city, county and state governments by election, complete with primaries and political campaigns. American Legion Posts across the state sponsor delegates and fund the activities held at Tennessee Tech.

This year's session also will feature an address from Gov. Phil Bredesen. For the eighth consecutive year, Boys' State will host the SCALES program, the Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students, during which the Tennessee Supreme Court will hold a special session to hear oral arguments in two actual Supreme Court cases.

"Boys' State promotes a respect for our government, our leaders and our military," said Marc Burnett, director and TTU's vice president of student affairs, who has worked with the program since 1984.

During the week, Boys' Staters will receive qualified instruction and advice from elected state officials. Gov. Bredesen will address the group on Tuesday afternoon. NASA astronaut Rex J. Walheim will speak to delegates Monday evening. Harlin Miller of Clarksville will make opening remarks as the 2009 Boys' Nation president Sunday night. Lt. Gen. Thurman D. Rodgers will be the featured speaker at Saturday's inauguration.

Judge John J. Maddux Jr. has overseen the program as Tennessee Boys' State chairperson for almost three decades and invites all speakers and guests. Community leaders assisting with government instruction include John Keys, commissioner for Tennessee's Department of Veterans Affairs; Henry Fincher, state representative; Jere Hargrove, former state representative; Jerry Jared, former state representative; Craig Fickling, Cookeville attorney; Steve Qualls, former Cookeville city councilman; and Kim Blaylock, Putnam County county executive.

The 2009-10 American Legion officers for Tennessee are Don E. Mathis of Evensville, state commander; A. Mike Hammer of Nashville, adjutant and finance officer; Perry D. Roberts of Cookeville, national executive committeeman; and Rollen Bradshaw of Loudon, alternate national executive committeeman. Serving on the Boys' State Board of Directors are John J. Maddux Jr. of Cookeville, A. Mike Hammer of Nashville, and Perry D. Roberts of Cookeville.

BOYS' STATE STAFFERS CALL TTU HOME

As the host of Boys' State, Tennessee Tech University provides counselors and staff who guide and assist participants throughout the week. This year, Marc Burnett, TTU's vice president of student affairs, returns for his tenth year at the helm. Mark Ochsenbein also returns for his tenth year as assistant director.

Counselors for the 12 cities of Boys' State include the following Tennessee Tech faculty, staff and administrators:

- **Cain City:** Senior Counselor: CPT Jarrod Ison, assistant military science professor; Junior Counselor: Christopher Rice, junior criminal justice major from Rhea County.
- **Hammer City:** Senior Counselor: Brian Waite, assistant football coach, Cumberland University; Junior Counselor: Zach Chase, freshman criminal justice major from Sunbright.
- **Kreider City:** Senior Counselor: Ron Mezime, residential life coordinator; Junior Counselor: John Kell, sophomore business major from New Market.
- **Lahiere City:** Senior Counselor: James Stewart, English and Communications professor; Junior Counselor: Derek Pepin, freshman political science major from Cookeville.
- **Levi City:** Senior Counselor: Major Ron Pepin, assistant military science professor; Junior Counselor: Robert Carter, military science, Rhea County
- **Loring City:** Senior Counselor: Steve Law, ROTC human resource manager; Junior Counselor: Chase Dial, senior management information systems major from Sparta.
- **Maddux City:** Senior Counselor: Josh Edmonds, residential life coordinator; Junior Counselor: Patrick Martin, sophomore secondary education/history major from Cookeville.
- **McCullum City:** Senior Counselor: Rob Schabert, sports information assistant director; Junior Counselor: Kevin Franks, John Galliher, freshman criminal justice major from Bristol.
- **Reel City:** Senior Counselor: Darrell Thompson, MSG(R); Junior Counselor: Zach Trujillo, freshman political science major from Mt. Juliet.
- **Roberts City:** Senior Counselor: Tony Marable, director of the minority engineering program; Junior Counselor: Matthew Whitson, sophomore biology health science major from Gainesboro.
- **Summitt City:** Senior Counselor: Andrew Moneymaker, residential life coordinator; Junior Counselor: Darrell Thompson Jr. freshman criminal justice major from Cookeville.
- **Young City:** Senior Counselor: Maj. Jim Reed, military science assistant professor; Junior Counselor: James Toliver, junior human resource major from Dayton.

Athletic counselors are Stephen Oakes, senior mechanical engineering major from Crossville; John David Wells, freshman environmental geology major from Athens; Nick Reed, senior EXPW fitness and wellness major from Crossville; and Shane Watson, freshman soils major from Sweetwater.

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Meet the 2009 Boys' State Governor Harlin Miller —

Harlin Miller shaped his image early and often during last year's Boys' State program with his charisma, enthusiasm and energy. He said he was unsure about running for governor when he arrived, but changed his mind quickly.

"I thought I had a God-given talent for public speaking and have what it takes to be successful," he said. "Running here lets you really learn how to mass promote yourself like a real politician. You have to do that with 600 guys; it's different than running for office at school.

"What motivates me is that I want to live my life for those who gave their lives for me," he said. "Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, and others strove for excellence, I feel like I have to take advantage of opportunities or I would be shaming their memories."

At Clarksville's Rossville High School, Miller is a debate champion and band section leader. He also joined the football team as a senior for a new experience. "It's about being courageous and not being afraid."