

# TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

# BOYS STATE

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## 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: John McDowell, Cain City; Dheeraj Namburu, Hammer City; Robert Mathis, Kreider City, Deaton Hildabrand, Lahiere City; Chandler Flint, Levi City; John Poland, Loring City; James Donoho IV, Maddux City; Preston Drinkard, Griffin Duvall, McCollum City; Devin Wiggins, Reel City; Josh Cook, Roberts City; Colton Elliott, Rafiq Malek and Samuel Sullivan, Summitt City; Andrew Brown, Young City.

**SATURDAY'S EVENTS.** . . U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander will speak at the final day of Boys State during the inauguration ceremony for Boys' State Governor-elect Logan Parsons. 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. Reel City won this year's competition, followed by Maddux in second, Young in third, Hammer in fourth and Summitt in fifth.

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## **Tennessee Adjutant General Max Haston Engages Delegates**

Thursday evening, Major General Max Haston, received a standing ovation for his service and his advice to delegates.

Haston was appointed Tennessee's 75th Adjutant General on Jan. 1, 2010. He is responsible for the supervision of the Military Department of Tennessee that includes the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, and the Tennessee State Guard.

Haston shared descriptions of his service abroad and opinions on current events. He also left Boys Staters with some memorable thoughts and quotes that include the following:

"I don't care if you are a Republican, a Democrat, a Whig or a Mugwump, go vote. You will influence people around you. Voter turnout is about 10 percent in local elections. That is an absolute tragedy. "

"I was there for two elections in Iraq. The pride they took in voting made me emotional. Some owned nothing but the clothes wrapped around them. They probably had nothing to eat but goat meat and hard bread. Some walked for hours, even days just to get there."

"I think I'm looking at the greatest generation right now. We have the smartest young men and women that I have ever seen. When you left middle school, you had more knowledge than I had when I got my bachelor's degree. Do not fail to use it."

"Patriotism is a little more than paying your taxes."

"We need selfless service; we live in society today where it is all about me. How come I'm having to stand in line? How come I have to sit in traffic? How come I'm not getting something? Life is about service to others. Take that lesson if you don't remember another thing in the world."

"Serve in some capacity; you don't have to join the military. Volunteer with a non-government organization, work at church, go downtown and volunteer during elections. This nation sits back and says 'other people are going to do that.' The responsibility rests on your back. You have to serve to make a difference."

### **Fast Facts about the state's National Guard**

Tennessee is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest state but ranks as 7<sup>th</sup> largest National Guard state, "true volunteer state"

The Tennessee Army National Guard has almost 11,000 soldiers.

Tennessee has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest National Guard deployment numbers since 9-11.



