



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The American Legion, Department of Nebraska

[awashburn@nebraskalegion.net](mailto:awashburn@nebraskalegion.net)

Contact: Amanda Washburn - 402-464-6338

### **2025 American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State**

(Lincoln) June 13, 2025 – On Saturday, June 7, 2025, 301 boys graduated from Cornhusker Boys State. This week-long program, held on University of Nebraska – Lincoln's campus, is sponsored by the Nebraska American Legion. The course brings boys from every corner of Nebraska to Lincoln to form a mythological 51st state. Boys are split up into eight towns and under the supervision of a Senior and two Junior counselors. They hold elections, overseen by volunteers from Nebraska's Secretary of State's office, draft and introduce bills, and take part in a myriad of classes that are designed to help them understand our political system. The newly elected Governor of Cornhusker Boys' State, Lucas S. Noll, of Omaha Westside High School, was sworn in by Chief Justice Josiah Bitker of Lincoln North Star High School. Following the swearing in, Governor Noll gave a heartfelt speech thanking his family, his other 300 brothers in Boys State, and his faith in God.

The guest speaker at graduation, Commander of the Nebraska National Guard Major General Craig W. Strong., gave a keynote address letting the boys know that not everything goes to plan but you take what you are dealt and do what you can to make yourself better.

Cornhusker Boys' State Program Director Dave Salak said, "We had a remarkable year and our counselors and volunteers performed admirably as always."

Two delegates were chosen to represent Cornhusker Boys State at the American Legion's Boys Nation program in Washington, DC later this summer. They are Roosevelt Wilken of Millard South High School and Reece Santamaria of Papillion LaVista South High School.

Ethan Samuelson of Kearney Catholic High School was chosen as the 2025 Nebraska Samsung Scholarship recipient. Samuelson's application has been submitted to the National American Legion to be considered for one of the \$20,000 scholarships.

The American Legion is dedicated to the motto of "Veterans Strengthening America." Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans. Legionnaires in more than 12,500 posts across the nation and regions overseas serve their communities with a devotion to mutual helpfulness.

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