

My week at Boys State truly was one that I will remember for the rest of my life. I held the positions of State Senator and of a Board of Elections representative for Bickett City. Over the course of just a week I took part in campaigning, elections, and procedures of the government of Tar Heel Boys State.

I learned a lot about the inner workings of the government especially within the Senate. I now understand why it takes so long to get things done in the government. In the Senate we spent entire days arguing bills. Some of the bills that we debated were very serious such as the legality of abortion, while some were seemingly silly like a bill which in an effort to save money prohibited the use of spoons and forks and left only the option of sporks. It shocked me how all bills no matter what their significance took such long periods of debate. Through the process of readings, debate, and voting all using parliamentary procedure the time spent to either pass or deny a bill seemed endless. That was only the senate. Because I was elected as a bill messenger, I was able to witness a little bit of what was happening in the House of Representatives. The House was debating the bills that we had tirelessly debated and amended. Often times the House would amend a bill sent from the Senate and the whole process would start over. I never fully understood how much time and effort had to be put forth to pass a bill. The funny thing is that at the end of the week none of our bills mattered. It makes me respect the elected government officials a lot more, because what they do or don't do really matters. We felt a lot of pressure at Boys State to make sure we defended our bills, and amended others, but in reality our bills didn't change anything. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn how government at the state level really works, and to have a one week immersion into the world of politics.

Thank you American Legion post 6 for giving me this incredible opportunity.

God bless you. God bless the American Legion. And God bless the United States of America.