



FROM THE DESK OF

**GAVIN CLARK BLACKBURN**

PERSHING CITY, MISSOURI BOYS STATE

Ashland Optimist Club,

I want to thank you guys for sponsoring my once in a lifetime opportunity to Missouri Boys State. It has truly benefited me and I will take everything that I've learned and experienced with me through the rest of my life. Throughout this week I have learned so much. Coming into this I didn't know a lot about politics or the government, but have now learned so much and will use this knowledge when I'm allowed to vote next year. I had the opportunity to attend law school this week which has opened my eyes to other career paths. Boys State has really pushed me outside my comfort zone and come out of my shell to be able to get involved in things I wouldn't have before this experience. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to come to the 81<sup>st</sup> session of Missouri Boys State and for your financial support that allowed me to attend.

Thank you,

Gavin Blackburn