BOYS, GIRLS STATE
NOW TAKING
APPLICATIONS

Girls and Boys State sessions will take place from Sunday, June 1 through Saturday, June 7. Boys State will be at Kansas State University in Manhattan, and Girls State will be at Kansas University in Lawrence.

Delegate qualifications for Boys State include being a junior in high school, church, or home school (2007-08 term), being in the upper half of the class, being a self starter, and being involved in extra curricular activities.

The total fee for the 2008 session of Boys State is $250. Usually, a delegate or their family pays $30, and a sponsoring organization or individual pays the remainder. Both fees must accompany the application, which must be post-marked by March 31. No refunds after May 11. For information, contact 1937 or a high school counselor.

Girls are eligible to attend Girls State if they are completing their junior year of high school at the end of this second semester, have high moral character, have strong leadership abilities and have an above average scholastic standing.

The program is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary with additional financial support coming from civic and non-profit organizations. The cost for each applicant is $250. The local organization asks the applicant to apply $30 to help with her share of expense. For an application, as a high school counselor or go to ksgirlstate.org. The program is also open to church or home school juniors.

For both Boy and Girl State, applications received after March 31 will be accepted as space is available. Graduates can choose to earn one hour of college credit while attending sessions and may apply for one of 12 National Samsung Scholarships worth $20,000.

For more information, contact 624-2984.
The Kansas Small Business Development Center presented its fifth annual Emerging and Existing Businesses of the Year Awards Ceremony at the state capital on March 11. Nineteen Kansas small businesses were recognized for their accomplishments and presented plaques by their Kansas legislators. These businesses were selected from more than 2,200 businesses that received KSBDC services in 2007.

In the Existing Business category, Front Row Sports of Garnett, owned by Roger and Sandy Sample was named. They opened their business in April of 1997 with the goal of providing sportswear for everyone - players and fans alike, Sandy said. They specialize in custom screen printing for a number of organizations, clubs, and teams, followed quickly by brand name sports shoes and apparel sales, Roger said. Over the years, Front Row Sports has become the place to get T-shirts made for special events. The business also offers sports gift items and sporting goods.

The event opened with remarks from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who thanked the business owners for contributing to the economic prosperity of Kansas and encouraged them to help others who may want to go into business for themselves.

"You are being honored for your entrepreneurial skills and willingness to actually step up and create a business. That takes an enormous amount of courage, vision, business planning and willingness to take a little risk," she said. "I hope others can learn from you in the future."

Wally Kearns, state KSBDC director, introduced guest speaker Antonio Doss, associate administrator of the office of Small Business Development at the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C. Doss emphasized that the award recipients represent true entrepreneurism.

"You represent what is important to this country. You represent entrepreneurship. It is your drive, your energy, your commitment actually, that fuels this economy that makes this nation something special." Doss recognized the award recipients for being willing to at some point in their lives make a choice to open a business. "You decided, as the governor said, to take a risk. When you take a risk and go into small business, you know there is an opportunity to real-
Lawrence Journal-World, on cleaning up Potter Lake:

The Kansas University campus has a few iconic locations, and Potter Lake is one.

A group of students is looking at the possibility of cleaning up the lake and sprucing up the area around it. Given the many memories Potter Lake holds for generations of KU alumni, it seems likely that raising funds for such a project would be a popular effort in the eyes of many alumni.

Students first are concerned about pollution of the lake, which was placed on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's list of most polluted bodies of water in 1999. The primary problems are trash left by visitors to the lake and fertilizer-laden runoff, which encourages the growth of smelly algae in the water.

Students would seem to be the ideal group to spearhead an anti-littering campaign to address the trash problem. Volunteering to police the area and pick up trash on a regular basis would be an ideal project for a KU student group. The run-off issue would require working with the administration, but it is hoped KU officials would be amenable to reducing fertilizer, using more environmentally friendly products and/or adding native plants around the lake to filter draining water.

The students also would like to see additional benches and improved paths around the lake along with a gazebo where musicians could perform. All of these certainly would be in keeping with the traditional uses of Potter Lake.

Students have suggested that unused student fees that are sitting in a reserve account could be used to fund the improvements. ...

A number of alums generously stepped in to repair and improve Danforth Chapel — another KU icon — after it was seriously damaged in the 2006 microburst.

The deplorable condition of Potter Lake likely would strike a similar emotional chord with alumni who want to preserve the lake they treasured for future generations of KU students.

Potter Lake has been — and could be again — one of the most peaceful and scenic locations on the KU campus. It's great to see a student group drawing attention and seeking plans to restore the lake's natural beauty.
KU Alumni honors seniors

Eight Hiawatha High School seniors were honored by the University of Kansas Honors Program Wednesday, Feb. 27. Local Alumni of KU facilitated the evening’s event which included a meal entree, guest speaker and awards presentation. The program honors the top 10 percent of the senior class for academic achievement. Each student received a certificate and a KU Honors customized dictionary. Honorees were, from left, Alexa Sprick, Lindsey Mueller, Ashley Mueller, Austin Hrencher, Kelsey Lillie, Matthew Sommers, Erin Geron and Mollie Grove.
Jennifer Harness, Ottawa, has been chosen as one of 22 assistants for the University of Kansas' new student orientation programs this summer.

Orientation assistants are hired through a process that includes essay writing, group interaction activities, a five-minute speech and final interview. The assistants prepare for orientation sessions by attending three weeks of training that covers KU academic and student services, public speaking, interaction with the public and diversity issues.

New student orientation programs, which are tailored to students' fields of study, offer information about KU to first-time freshmen, transfer students and readmitted students. The programs are designed to help students with their academic, social and personal transitions to KU and to reduce anxieties about attending college.

Harness, a senior in biology and pre-medicine, is the daughter of David and Cynthia Harness. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
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Alicia Kranker has been selected as an assistant for the new student orientation program this summer at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

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Kranker, a KU sophomore in design, is the daughter of Brian and Mary Kranker, Frontenac. She is a graduate of St. Mary's-Colgan High School.
Kansas License Plates Supporting Breast Cancer Research Now Available

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – Kansans can now show their support for breast cancer research with a “Driven to Cure” license plate benefiting the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC). The breast cancer license plates are now available and can be purchased for a $50 annual fee in addition to normal vehicle registration costs.

Upon payment of $50 to the University of Kansas Endowment Association (KUEA) for the specialty plate, drivers will receive a certificate from KUEA showing proof of purchase. With that proof of purchase and payment of regular state license fees, drivers will be issued their breast cancer license plate by their county treasurer.

Royalties from the specialty plates support a statewide coordinator for the Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA), the outreach arm of KUCC. The coordinator will serve as a liaison among the Cancer Center, hospitals, physicians and clinics across the state to ensure the latest information regarding cancer prevention, early detection and treatment is being shared with cancer care professionals and patients across Kansas.

Legislation for the plates was championed through the Kansas legislature in 2007 by Senator Barbara Allen (R-Overland Park), a breast cancer survivor, and the Kansas Medical Society Alliance. Prior to production of the plates, 500 commitments were secured and $10,000 was raised before January 2008.

“I am very excited and proud that so many Kansans have rallied behind this cause, showing their support for breast cancer research,” said Senator Allen. “I know this license plate will generate much-needed funds to educate Kansans about cancer for years to come.”

University of Kansas Cancer Center Director Roy Jensen, MD, said the license plates are an important step in raising awareness about breast cancer.

“With the funds generated from the plates, we will be able to better disseminate information throughout the state so that Kansans everywhere have access to information about preventing and fighting cancer,” said Jensen. “We are eternally grateful to Senator Allen for her commitment and dedication to this cause and to our efforts in achieving NCI designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center.”

Driven to Cure license plates can be purchased at https://www.kuendowment.org/licenseplate/Default.aspx or by calling 1-888-588-5249. Once purchased from KUEA, plates may be picked up at the local county treasurer’s office.
KU students hope to clean up campus lake

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Potter Lake, lined with trees and nestled in the slope of Mount Oread, is one of the most peaceful spots on the Kansas University campus.

But often that picturesque atmosphere is disrupted by beer bottles, garbage and sometimes even the odor of rotting algae. The pollution, both by chemicals and garbage, can be so bad that the pond landed on a 1999 Kansas Department of Health and Environment list of the most polluted bodies of water in Kansas.

KU students England Porter, an Independence junior, and John Kenny, a Leavenworth senior, would like to change that.

"We see a couple of problems with Potter Lake so far," Kenny said. "That would range from water quality to accessibility to the area for students to come and hang out."

The water-quality issue is caused by the use of fertilizer on campus that then drains into the lake. The fertilizer encourages algae growth, which can trap garbage and change the color of the lake. It also can cause an odor.

Three ideas to help alleviate the lake's pollution are to eliminate drainage from Jayhawk Boulevard and Memorial Drive into Potter Lake, to reduce the amount and change the kinds of fertilizer used on campus, and to add native plants to the perimeter of the lake which would serve to filter out some of the pollutants.

"There are a number of things that could be done," Kenny said. "We're still getting ideas. We're getting new ideas all the time."

Other proposed changes include additional benches, a gazebo where musicians could perform and new paths with permeable surfaces to increase access to the south and west sides of the lake.

"The places where people could sit, where there's grass, (are) often muddied because of a lot of foot traffic and a lack of paths," Porter said. "In general, we want to make Potter Lake the icon it once was and really restore what it once had."

During the past 100 years, Potter Lake has been home to athletic events, including swimming, diving and fishing. But since the lake has become so polluted — cars were pulled out of it in the mid-1950s — those activities are not advised. The lake once was 16 feet deep but now averages less than 3 feet deep.

While there's not yet a price tag for how much these improvements would cost, Kenny and Porter would like to fund the project through the Student Senate Reserve Account. The account is built up from student fees not
expended at the end of the year. The account has a few hundred thousand dollars right now.

POLLUTED LAKE — Kansas University students Steve Connoly and Michelle Caldwell relax atop a stone walkway bridge on Potter Lake at KU. Sedimentation and chemical pollution have transformed the lake and some students are leading an effort to revive it. (AP Wirephoto)
University of Kansas students plan to cycle coast to coast

By KARREY BRITT
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE (AP) — Two Kansas University students plan to spend this summer pedaling for a cause.

Stephanie Meehan, a senior from Topeka, will ride from Boston to Santa Barbara, Calif., with Bike & Build, a nonprofit organization that helps provide affordable housing.

Meanwhile, Josh Schoenfelder, a senior from St. Joseph, Mo., will cycle from Seattle or San Francisco to Washington, D.C., as part of the Journey for Hope, which benefits people with disabilities.

Both are athletic but have never been big bicyclists. Meehan competes in triathlons. Schoenfelder runs and lifts weights. The students said they expect the approximately 4,000-mile trips — that’s 80 round trips from Lawrence to Topeka — to be challenging but rewarding.

“I will just have to struggle to get up a mountain, but somebody in a wheelchair fighting a disease has to struggle every day, so I guess that is what will motivate me,” Schoenfelder said.

He also finds motivation from family and friends: His grandmother has been in a wheelchair for nearly 10 years; his mother was diagnosed with pemphigus vulgaris, a rare autoimmune skin disorder two years ago; his teenage cousin is fighting an unidentifiable disease that requires several hospital visits a year; and his roommate has cerebral palsy.

“It has really affected me personally,” he said.

That’s why he wanted to participate in the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity’s annual charity event that started in 1987. Each member — there are three teams of 20 participants — raises at least $5,000, and 88 percent of the proceeds benefit organizations that help people with disabilities. So far, he has raised $4,025, but his goal is to raise between $8,000 and $10,000.

Beside helping financially, participants stop and visit with groups that serve people with disabilities. One of the three Journey for Hope routes will go through Kansas and stop at the Topeka Association for Retarded Citizens and the Kansas State School for the Deaf in Olathe.

Schoenfelder won’t know which route he will be on until next month, but he is looking forward to the approximately 100 visits on his journey and the culmination of the event at the U.S. Capitol.

“I’ve heard that’s quite the moment,” he said. “I’ve traveled a little bit, but nothing like this. I am going to meet a lot of interesting people but also while promoting a good cause.”

Joey Smith, director of logistics and a former participant, assures Schoenfelder that it will be a life-changing event.

“You just really grow up quickly and learn how to work with other people,” he said. “You learn to appreciate people from all kinds of walks of life. Honestly, it’s pretty phenomenal.”

Schoenfelder said KU fraternity members Stephen Sanger, of Oklahoma City, and Matthew Wullf, of Prairie Village, also plan to participate in the Journey of Hope this summer.

Meehan is the lone student from KU participating in Bike & Build, which began in 2003 and has seven routes this year. After she graduates in May with degrees in speech-language-hearing and English, Meehan said she wanted to do something “fun yet worthwhile,” before attending graduate school in the fall. Bike & Build sparked her interest because she will help build nine houses during the 67-day trip which will go through Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. She will travel with 30 other 18- to 25-year-olds.

“It wasn’t just raising money and raising awareness. It was actually, physically building and seeing what those efforts were going to,” Meehan said.

She is required to raise $4,000 and has raised only $635. Fifty percent of the money raised will benefit organizations such as Lawrence Habitat for Humanity, where Meehan also is required to perform eight hours of “sweat equity” before the trip.

Although she’s worried about raising “so much money,” she’s excited about the trip.

“It will be so neat, and I am going to see so much,” she said.