

## Two juniors to attend Boys State

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

---

Two Holyoke High School juniors have been selected to attend the 2009 American Legion Colorado Boys State at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo June 7-13.

This year's selections to represent HHS are Duncan Brandt and Geoffrey Mattson.

Boys State delegates join hundreds of other juniors from high schools throughout the state of Colorado who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service to their schools.

This year, Boys State of Colorado celebrates 60 years. Colorado American Legion hosted its first American Legion Boys State in June, 1949. Eighty-nine boys from high schools all across Colorado gathered at the YMCA Camp in Estes Park.

Under the guidance of director Carl Duncan and 16 counselors and staff members, these high school juniors began a week-long civics learning marathon where they were exposed to the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. And, the American Legion has been doing it every year since.

Delegates to Boys State organize cities and counties and run their own governments. They learn lessons in duty, responsibility, honor, government, privilege, dignity and character.

Geoffrey Mattson is the son of Chris Mattson and Eldene Hinde.

He has been listed on both the Principal's and Superintendent's Honor Rolls and has been a Knowledge Bowl participant for two years.

Mattson recently placed first at the FCCLA state competition and will be attending nationals this summer. He has also participated in FBLA and the HHS golf team, having earned a golf letter for two straight years.

Duncan Brandt is the son of Bob and Brenda Brandt.

While in high school, he has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is a member of National Honor Society.

Brandt is a two-time, first-place winner in the NJC Math/Science Contest for critical thinking, has participated in the Knowledge Bowl for three years and earned the Junior Scholar Award from CU-Boulder.

He has been very active in drama, having participated in 11 Holyoke drama productions since elementary school. His most recent performance was in the musical "My Fair Lady," playing the part of Henry Higgins.

Brandt is also a three-time national qualifier in FCCLA, was the 2008-09 local district winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest, and is a three-time national qualifier in FCCLA.

In addition, he plays tuba and bass guitar in the high school's Concert Band, Pep Band and Jazz Band. He is also a letterwinner on the HHS golf team.