



# The Ambassadors GAZETTE

Culture Center

WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX

June 2017



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Students hopped aboard the *River Queen* with the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau and explored the city and its beautiful views from the Kanawha River.

See more photos of the river tour on page 17.



## **A Message from Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith**

**F**or five years, the West Virginia Ambassadors Camp has been a highlight of summer at the Culture Center.

From the time you arrive at the University of Charleston for check-in to the time you say your final goodbyes after our presentation program, you are an exciting addition to the State Capitol, the University of Charleston and Charleston. You bring energy, curiosity and enthusiasm to every place you visit and every activity in which you participate.

This year was made even more special because our campers had the opportunity to participate in our annual West Virginia Day celebration. It was a highlight of the week for me to see you singing our state songs and bringing smiles to the faces of all of our celebration guests and visitors.

The camp is much more than that, though. While we want you to learn more about our state, we hope that you are learning more about yourselves. As you take part in the arts activities, we hope you are realizing that creativity starts with just a spark of interest. As you tour the State Capitol, Governor's Mansion and State Museum, we hope you begin to appreciate that you are walking through buildings where history is being made and preserved. During your internships, we hope that you enjoyed learning first-hand about how people are working for our state every day and in many different professions. Finally, we hope your riverboat ride on the Kanawha River was a chance to see the city and Capitol from a new perspective.

As I watch you throughout the week of camp, I see students who come from all corners of our state, maybe knowing one or two other students. While you are here, you make new friends, discover what it is like to live in dorms on a college campus and learn about what it takes to be on your own. Most importantly, you experience a deeper love and appreciation for our state and how together we will build a bigger, better and brighter West Virginia. Remember...YOU can do ANYTHING!!!

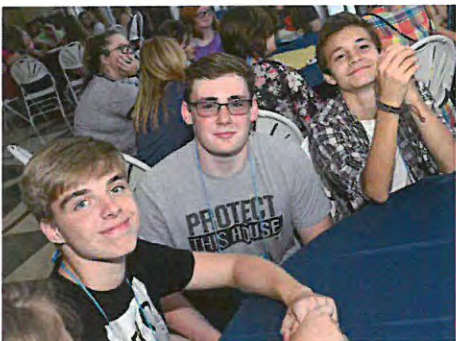
Many people come together to make this camp a reality. You make the experience worthwhile. I want to wish you much success as you start high school, and as you pursue your future and write your history.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Randall Reid-Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in the bottom right corner of the page.



# Welcome to Ambassadors Camp 2017

## UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON



# Ambassadors Camp 2017 Counselors



First Row, left to right: Dawn McGinnis, Trap Hill Middle School; Veronica Barron, West Virginia Department of Education; Kennetha Parker-Howes, Hacker Valley K – 8; Amy Kammer, Cabell Midland High School; Randall Reid-Smith, West Virginia Division of Culture and History

Second Row, left to right: Matthew Altobello, Petersburg High School; Tim James, Cabell Midland High School; Bo Berry, Chapmanville High School; Joey Wiseman, West Virginia Department of Education

During the week of June 19, students from across the Mountain State gathered together in Charleston for the 2017 Ambassadors Camp. We all arrived at the University of Charleston for check-in Monday evening and we experienced dorm living the entire week.

On Tuesday, we helped celebrate West Virginia Day, had birthday cake at the Culture Center and explored the Capitol grounds. We took tours of the State Museum, State Capitol and Governor’s Mansion. Later that day, we participated in arts and culture workshops and took part in a fun boot camp workout.

Ambassadors were broken into small groups on Wednesday to take part in internships and learn how state gov-

ernment works. Ambassadors worked with the Division of Culture and History, Secretary of State’s office, Department of Education and Capitol Police among other state agencies.

Our group worked with the Division of Culture and History’s communications staff to put together this newsletter. We moved around to as many internships as we could and observed what the other ambassadors were learning about.

First, we stopped by the Secretary of State’s office. We learned that this is where the state seal and state constitution are kept. The SOS office is the

smallest constitutional office in state government and oversees voter registration and business registration for the whole state. We also met the current secretary, Mac Warner, and took a photo with him.

Next, we visited the State Museum education staff, where we learned about the many different programs offered for visiting school groups, including one where students get to take a video of their experience in the museum and then take the video home with them. The interns were really having fun checking out and learning about all the available activities.

## Getting to Know Everyone



### The Ambassadors GAZETTE

#### WRITERS

Hannah Hamrick, Webster County  
Rayne Metzger, Hardy County  
Perry Whetzel, Hardy County  
Connor White, Hardy County

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History is an agency within the Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts.



EEO/AA Employer

Interns in both the State Archives and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) learned about preserving our state and its resources. The archives staff preserves old maps, county and state records, newspapers, yearbooks, etc. The SHPO helps residents of West Virginia to identify and preserve sites around the state and oversees the state's listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

We didn't get to shadow all the internships, because of the limited amount of time, but after talking to students from most of the groups, it was clear that everyone had fun and learned a lot about state government they were unaware of before.

Though we all had different experiences this week, we can all agree Ambassadors Camp 2017 was a great experience and one we will never forget.

# Party Time!



# Touring the West Virginia Governor's Mansion and State Capitol





LEARNING ABOUT  
THE HISTORY  
OF OUR STATE

# State Archives

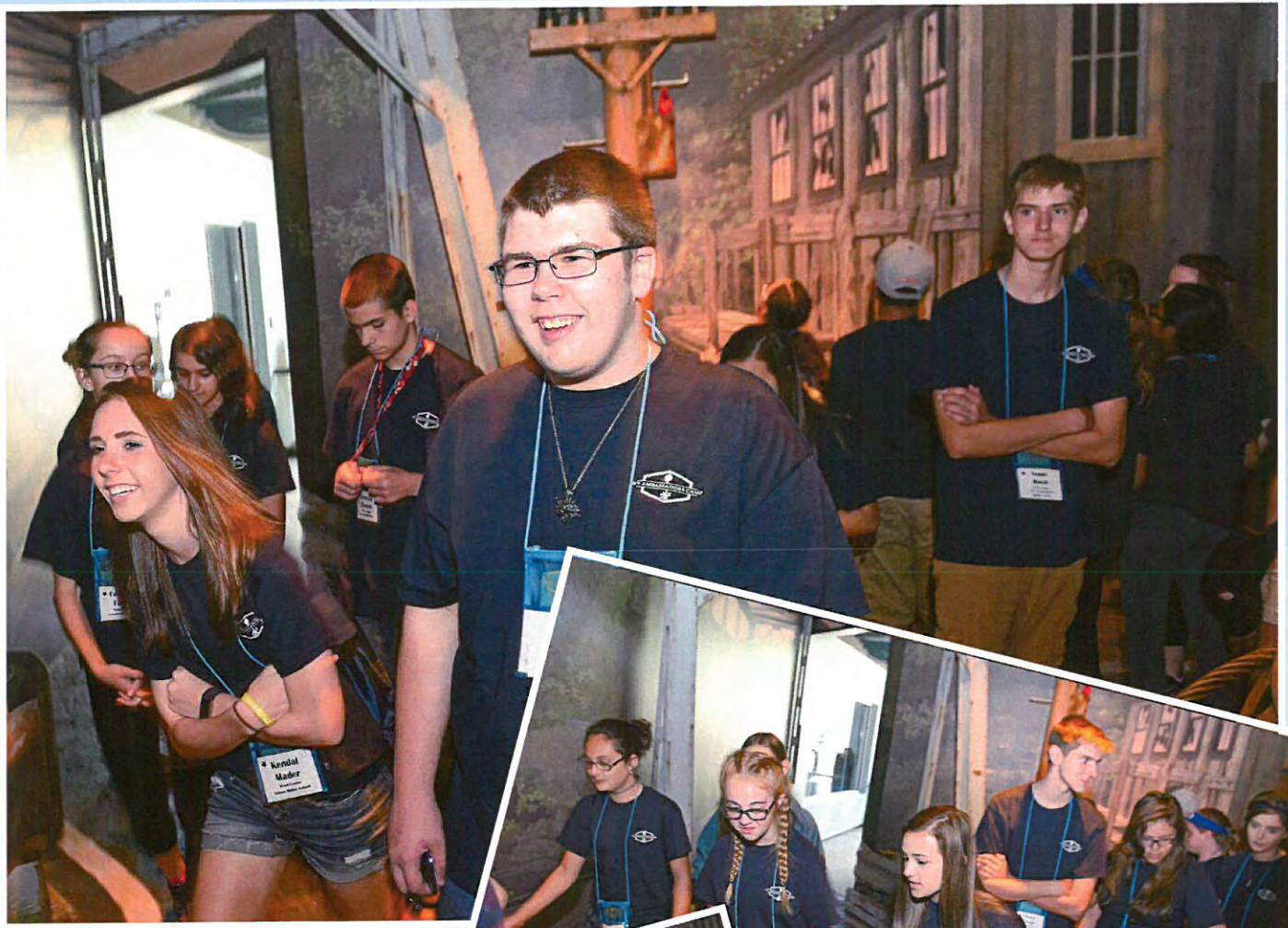


# Historic Preservation





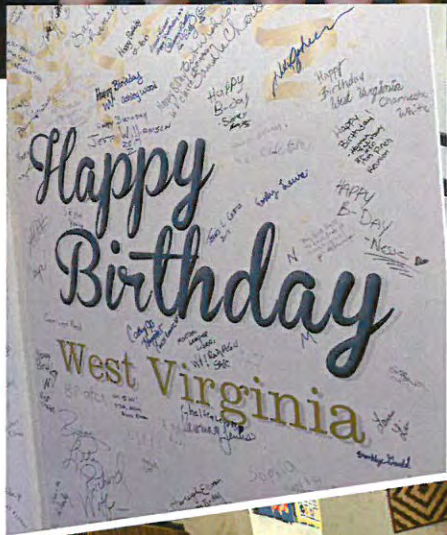
# West Virginia State Museum



See more camp photos at  
<http://wvculture.zenfolio.com>

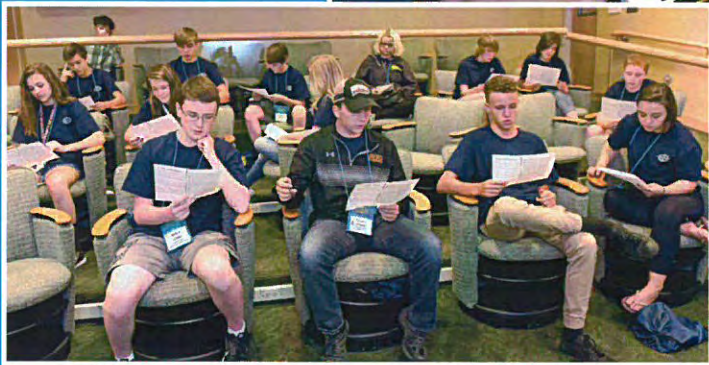
# Happy 154<sup>TH</sup> Birthday West Virginia





# Arts works!

West Virginia's culture and arts play an important role in our heritage and our future.



*Song with Dawn McGinnis*



*Instrumental Music with Tim James*



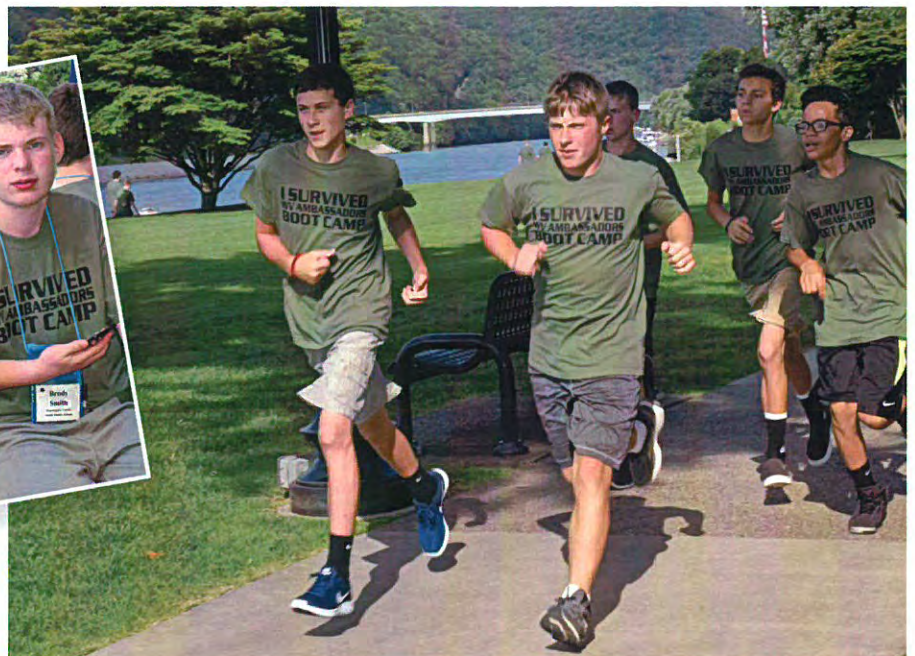
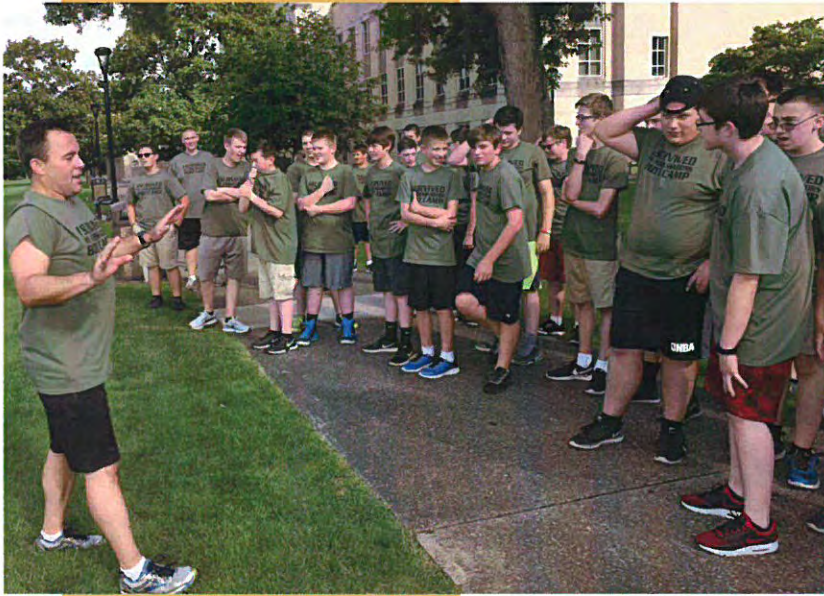
*Square Dancing  
with Lou Maiuri*



*Poetry/Arts with Jim Wolfe*

# WV AMBASSADORS BOOT CAMP

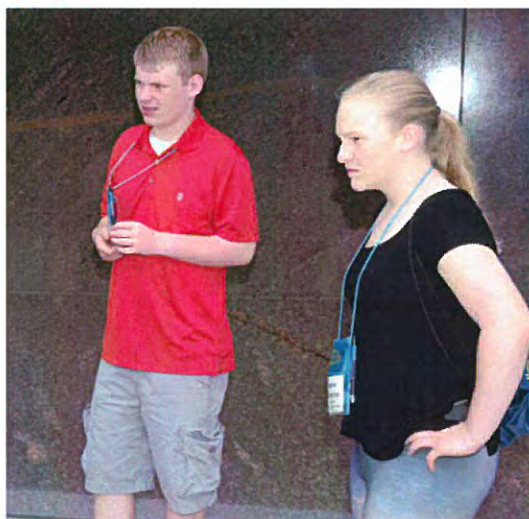
Campers participated in  
Let's Get Physical!  
on University of Charleston's  
riverfront with fitness guru  
Joshua Grant.





# West Virginia Public Broadcasting and Ambassadors Camp interns took lots of footage of students and the grounds during internship day at the State Capitol.

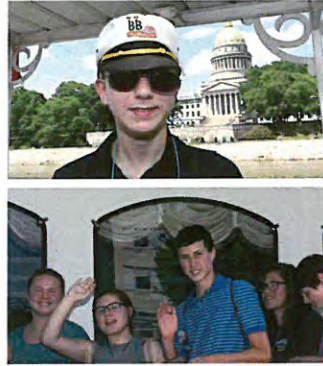
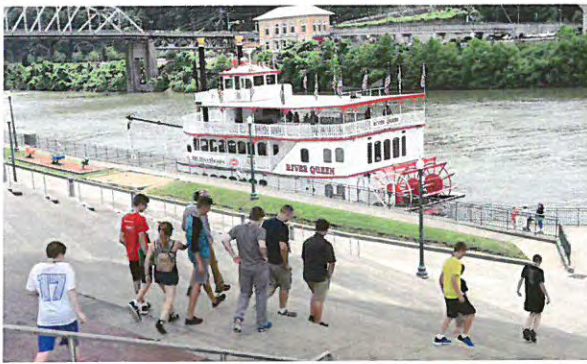
Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/rfu11molqdE>.



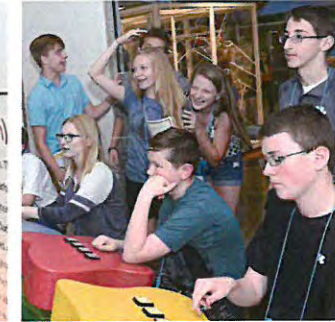
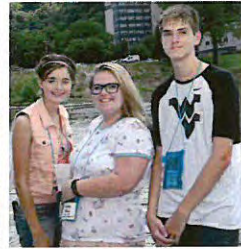
State legislators and government officials spoke to campers about the responsibilities of their positions and answered questions about state government and how it works. From top to bottom: Senate President Mitch Carmichael, Jackson County; Senator Kenny Mann, Monroe County; and Secretary of State Mac Warner.





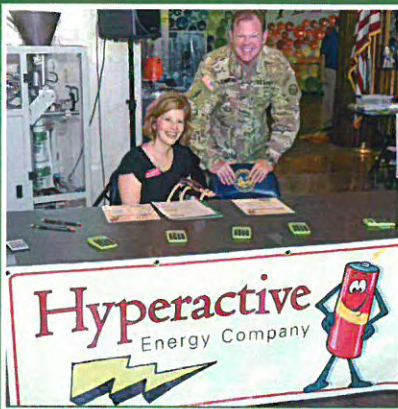
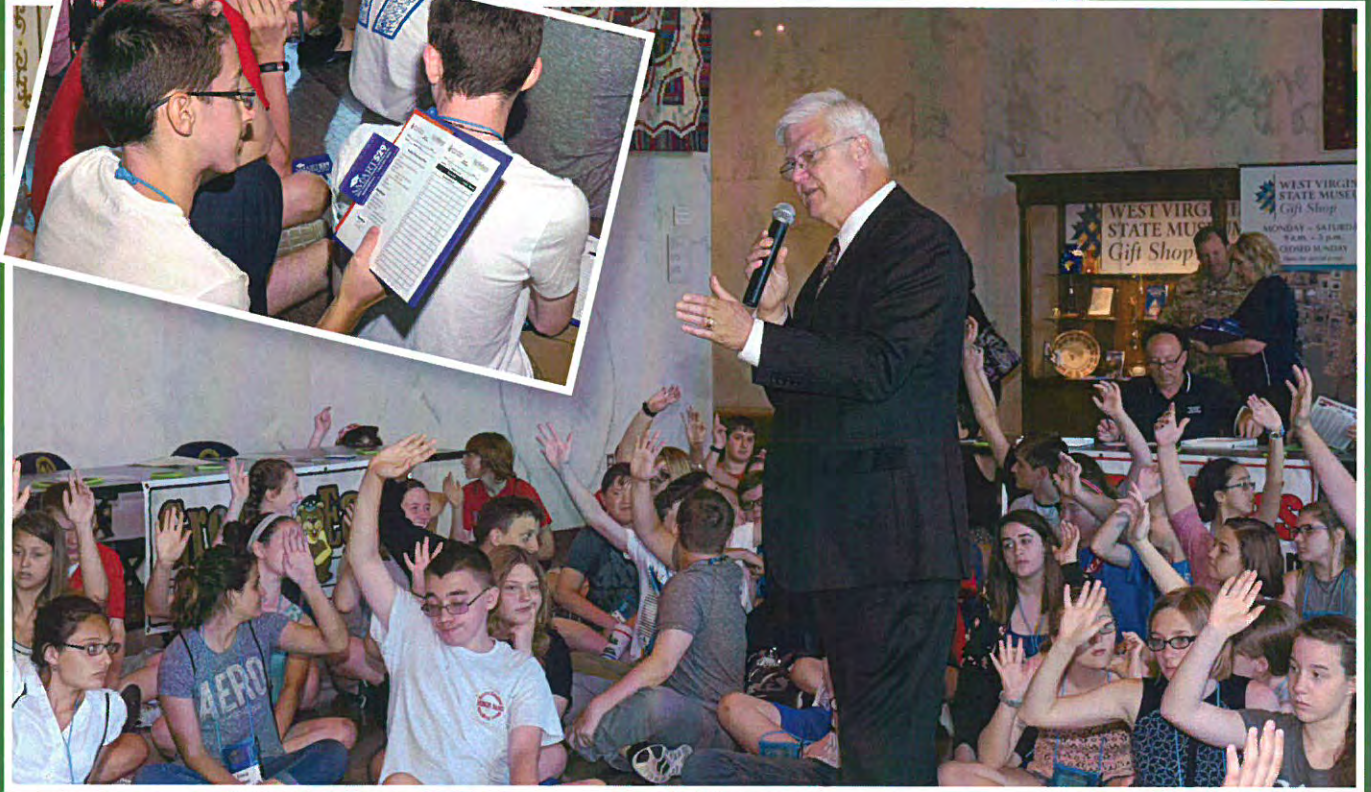


# River Cruise and Clay Center Visit



# Get A Life!

With State Treasurer John Purdue  
and the West Virginia State  
Treasurer's Office



# My **FAVORITE THING** about Ambassadors Camp was ...

*We caught up with a few students during camp to ask them what they most enjoyed about their week in Charleston.*



**“Seeing the vault in the treasurer’s office was so cool!”**

– Arabella McCloud, Preston County

**“It was really interesting to see how creative people can be.”**

– Lilaina Cavendish, Marion County

**“To be honest, boot camp was really fun.”**

– Emily Bibey, Randolph County

**“I really liked the internship; I’ve learned that I am better at making friends than I thought.”**

– Lenae Rader, Putnam County

**“...meeting new people and learning how to hold a drumstick.”**

– Emma Shockey, Berkeley County

**“...square dancing and learning about state government.”**

– Abigail McCoy, Berkeley County

**“...the photography internship; getting to go around and take photos of other interns and sites on the capitol grounds.”**

– Carrie Ross, Wayne County

**“...exploring the Museum and learning about our state’s history; learning about wildlife.”**

– Sydney Cooper, Randolph County

**“...seeing all the quilts at the Culture Center; learning to have more self-confidence.”**

– Isabella March, Wirt County





# West Virginia Ambassadors Camp 2017

