



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Photo attached

SMCHS Students Represent Zephyrs as Delegates to Badger Boys and Girls State

Fox Cities: Two St. Mary Catholic High School students recently participated in Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State weeklong civics camps.

Junior Joey O'Neill represented the school at the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State on the UW-Oshkosh campus from June 19-24. Junior Sam Solowicz participated in Badger Boys State on the campus of Ripon College from June 11-18. Joey O'Neill's participation was generously sponsored by The John Hogerty Family and Sam Solowicz's by Neenah Rotary.

The American Legion's Badger Girls and Boys State program is a non-partisan, practical experience designed to develop leadership and pride in American citizens, educate citizens about our system of government, instill a greater understanding of American traditions and stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes.

Most of each day was spent engaging in the various activities of government. The citizens formed a hypothetical 51st American state and were divided into two political parties. They developed their own party platforms and formulated their own issues. Citizens "learned by doing" as they functioned on city, county and state levels by electing officials in the manner prescribed by regular election procedures and conducting business on those levels. Every participant was encouraged to engage in some level of the governmental process.

"This is always a wonderful opportunity for civic-minded students to experience how our government functions first-hand, and we chose excellent delegates who we are confident will apply and share what they learned" says St. Mary Catholic Principal Patrick Batey. "We are grateful to the sponsors who helped to make this possible!"

St. Mary Catholic High School (SMCHS) a regional high school, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](#). The system also includes St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha), as well as St. St. Mary Catholic Middle School in Neenah. SMCHS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.



Badger State Delegates Sam Solowicz (l) and Joey O'Neill (r) are enjoyed meeting Senator Roger Roth (SMC '96) at SMCHS Leadership Day.

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