

ALA GIRLS STATE SELECTION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

ALA Girls State delegates are a diverse group of young women with a shared desire to learn and lead. Girls State “citizens” come together from small towns, big cities, and rural areas to hold Girls State elections, and their varied backgrounds set the stage for a week of spirited, experiential learning.

American Legion Auxiliary units work with local high school educators to identify girls who have demonstrated leadership qualities. Eligible female students are then recommended and selected by sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary units. Female delegates to ALA Girls State programs must be a legal inhabitant of the United States, either a U.S. citizen, or a have a valid U.S. government-issued identification, have completed their junior year in high school and have at least one semester remaining. Each ALA Girls State program and/or ALA unit determines the process they will use to select the delegates for their state, and those decisions are final. The number of ALA Girls State citizens varies by state and is determined by each state’s American Legion Auxiliary resources.

Female high school juniors interested in applying to attend ALA Girls State are encouraged to contact their school counselor or their local American Legion Auxiliary units regarding the application process and deadline.

COST

The costs of ALA Girls State programs are underwritten by each state-level American Legion Auxiliary. Girls State delegates’ registration fees are paid for by the sponsoring local American Legion Auxiliary unit with additional support and funding sometimes coming from various civic and nonprofit organizations. Participating young women may incur nominal expenses for transportation, site-specific fees, or contribution to an optional service project.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

ALA Girls State offers hands-on experience in how state governments function. Other activities at ALA Girls State foster fellowship and creative expression:

- ★ Reporting
- ★ Public speaking; debate
- ★ Singing
- ★ Talent shows
- ★ Field trips
- ★ Group devotions
- ★ Patriotic ceremonies
- ★ Mock court system



American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has empowered hundreds of thousands of accomplished young women to aspire to great things. Their stellar achievements are grounded in leadership skills enhanced at ALA Girls State. Past ALA Girls State participants include members of presidential cabinets, mayors, governors, state representatives, U.S. senators, corporate CEOs, nationally known journalists, and high-ranking members of the military.

For more information on ALA Girls State, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org, or contact your local American Legion Auxiliary unit at:



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American Legion Auxiliary

Inspirational, Educational, Life-changing and Fun

ALA Girls State



In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country



ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Developing leadership skills, confidence, and action-based understanding of the governmental process gives young women a lasting foundation for personal and professional success.



The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) believes that educating youth about the basic ideals and principles of government will help ensure our democracy's survival.

ALA Girls State is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program in which ALA members guide young women to become patriotic, knowledgeable stewards of freedom and democracy.



WHAT IS ALA GIRLS STATE?

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, first presented in the late 1930s, is one of the most respected experiential learning programs in the United States. Guided by the ALA principle "For God and Country," the program epitomizes the Auxiliary's mission to honor those who have brought us our freedom by continuing to train young women to be leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism. ALA Girls State participants become extremely knowledgeable about the democratic process and how our republic works at the state and national levels.



About 16,000 young women participate in weeklong ALA Girls State programs across the nation each summer. Each state's American Legion Auxiliary manages its own ALA Girls State program, so they may vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level. Using a nonpartisan curriculum, participants assume the roles of government leaders, campaigning as "Federalists" and "Nationalists" to become elected officials in their mock ALA Girls States. During the immersive-learning program, delegates live in "cities" within a dormitory on a college or university campus. The knowledge, memories, and friendships they take home last a lifetime.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program:

- ★ Develops leadership and pride in American citizens.
- ★ Educates citizens about our system of government.

- ★ Instills a greater understanding of American traditions.
- ★ Stimulates a desire to maintain democratic governmental processes within our republic.

SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible, young women must:

- ★ Be a legal inhabitant of the United States. Participants must provide a copy of their U.S. birth certificate or their U.S. government-issued documentation verifying they are in the United States legally (e.g. Green Card or visa).
- ★ Have completed their junior year in high school and have at least one more semester remaining before graduation.
- ★ Be keenly interested in government and current events.
- ★ Have high moral character.
- ★ Show strong leadership abilities.
- ★ Demonstrate above-average scholastic achievement.



ALA GIRLS NATION

Every year, two outstanding girls from each ALA Girls State program are selected to attend ALA Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. As ALA Girls Nation "senators," they campaign for political office, craft and debate the passage of legislation, and meet with their real-life counterparts on Capitol Hill.

More than 6,500 politically astute young women have attended American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation since 1947. Besides a chance to experience the workings of federal government personally, they gain further opportunities to sharpen their leadership skills and learn about their American heritage.

