



**JUNE 23-29, 2024**

*“The Week That Shapes a Lifetime”*

## **General Information**

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Be a female and a legal US Citizen
- Show respect for and be willing to salute the American Flag
- Have completed the junior year in high school with at least one semester of high school remaining, or if home schooled, be at least 15 years of age and have completed the 11th grade year.

Girls State Delegate selection is also based on leadership, scholarship, character, and interest in community service and government.

### **When and Where:**

ALA Oregon Girls State will be held at Oregon State University. Housing for the week will be in Sackett Hall, 2901 SW Jefferson Way. Delegates must be able to attend the entire session from 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> through 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Program Description:**

Oregon Girls State is a leadership program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary that is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while educating attendees about the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship. Delegates come away with a greater appreciation of our civic duty, the American Flag, and of the sacrifices made by our veterans. Girls State delegates make life-long connections with other exceptional girls from around the state and have a fantastic week that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Girls State establishes a mock government based on the laws of the state of Oregon. Each Girls State “Citizen” is assigned to a housing unit representing a “County.” Elections are held to fill a variety of city and county positions as well as state senators and representatives that will serve in the Girls State Legislature. At the state level, citizens may also run for Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Labor Commissioner, Supreme Court Justice (7) or Girls Nation Senator (2). Officers elected in prior sessions return to attend the 2024 Oregon Girls State session to serve in the office to which they were elected.

The two Citizens elected Girls Nation Senators will attend ALA Girls Nation, in our nation’s capital--Washington DC--where they participate in a federal mock government program. During the 2014 session, one of Oregon’s Girls Nation Senators was elected to the high office of President of Girls Nation.

In addition to the election process, other opportunities may include attending a variety of workshops; preparing for and participating in a mock trial; serving as a journalist or lobbyist and experiencing a wide range of other activities. General assembly’s include presentations from some of Oregon’s top elected officials as well as other inspirational speakers.

Delegates may apply for the American Legion Samsung Scholarship valued at \$1,250.00 at the Oregon Level. The Delegate awarded the Samsung Scholarship for Oregon goes on to compete at the national level for an opportunity at an additional \$10,000.00 scholarship or \$5,000 runner up scholarship.

### **Girls State Fees:**

The total cost for a week at ALA Oregon Girls State is \$400.00. \$100 application fee and \$300 from a sponsoring unit/post or sponsor. **The American Legion Auxiliary Unit, Legion Post or sponsoring organization may elect to sponsor the delegate by paying the full \$400.** The unit may ask the Delegate to pay a portion of the fee to the unit as an incentive to attend. The entire fee is forfeited if the Delegate fails to attend or complete the entire 2024 Girls State session.

### **Application Procedure:**

Interested junior girls should complete the application at: [www.alaoregon.org](http://www.alaoregon.org)

If selected as a delegate, girls will be notified and provided with further information about the 2024 session. Prior to the 2024 Girls State session, delegate orientations are held throughout the state. Delegates will be notified of the orientation being held in their area.

Interested parties are encouraged to email questions to Department at [alamembership@alaoregon.org](mailto:alamembership@alaoregon.org). Further information is also available on our website, [www.alaoregon.org](http://www.alaoregon.org). There is a companion program for junior boys --Oregon Boys State-- sponsored by The American Legion. The 2024 Girls State will be held at OSU at the same time as Oregon Boys State. Joint sessions will include all speaker presentations, a talent show, and an outdoor session that will be like President Roosevelt’s Whistle-Stop.