

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT POLICY - GIRLS STATE

Read the "Department Policy - All Chairmen".

Girls State is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship. It is a non-partisan, non-political attempt to teach the Girls State Citizens a love of Country and a desire to be involved in all phases of government.

APPLICATION

1. Church affiliation or gender orientation can not be asked of candidates.
2. Honoring and saluting the flag are essential. This agreement should be made prior to being accepted to a Girls State session.
3. Each application must have the signature of the candidate, the Unit Girls State Chairman, sponsoring organization and the school representative.
4. Any Deviation will be reviewed by the Girls State Commission.
5. Application and supporting documents can be found on the Department American Legion Auxiliary website.

DISTRICTS

1. An orientation should be held prior to a Girls State session. This gives the girls an opportunity to meet. Refreshments maybe served.
2. Speakers with a knowledge of Girls State would acquaint the girls with first hand information and describe the events that will take place

ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility is limited to any girl, 15 years or older and is an 11th grade student in a public school, home schooled or private school. Must be a legal resident of Oregon.
2. Girls may not have participated in a previous session of Girls State.
3. Candidates shall be selected on the basis of outstanding leadership, scholarship, interest in Community and Government, character, honesty, truthfulness and cooperativeness.
4. If a handicapped student is selected who needs assistance to fully participate, that student's contributing organization must furnish a full time female aide, over 21 years of age to assist that student at the expense of the contributing organization. (National Convention 1974).
5. Material submitted to the school should include the following information describing the basis of selection as a guide to the faculty so that the most qualified girl, according to eligibility requirements, will be selected.
 - A. She must have outstanding qualities of leadership. (3/30/03).
 - B. She must be of excellent character and citizenship.
 - C. She should be able to get along with others.
 - D. The candidate and/or her alternate shall be informed that final acceptance for attendance is dependent upon all papers being in order and all eligibility requirements having been met.

GIRLS STATE CITIZEN

Each candidate shall be accepted with the specific understanding that she will remain for the entire session of Girls State (barring emergencies) and that she cannot be excused from the session for personal reasons. The parent's release form which the parent will sign affirms that the candidate will remain for the entire session.

SELECTION

1. Material containing necessary information relative to the qualifications and method of selection shall be presented to the School Representative by the Sponsoring Organization. The Sponsoring Organization shall reserve the right of approval of the recommendation. Last year's Girls State Citizen can give guidance in the selection of next year's candidates and may be included in the selection committee when interviews are held.
2. When the Sponsoring Organization has approved the selection of the candidate, the supporting papers shall be mailed immediately to the Department Office with a check.
3. Publicity may be released indicating that the candidate has been nominated as soon as the papers have been received from the school, accepted by the Sponsoring Organization and forwarded to the Department Headquarters.
4. Publicity should stress that this is one of the highest honors which can come to a Junior in high school and that this program of youth in government is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.
5. The name of the alternate should be revealed with the understanding that she will be allowed to attend Girls State if the chosen candidate is unable to attend and she cannot fulfill her requirements or if sponsorship is obtained from another source.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Funds will be budgeted for staff meals one day prior to the opening of the Girls State session.
2. There should be an appointed person (staff member) to greet guests.
3. The Girls State session shall be held on a college campus or other suitable available facility; time and place to be decided by the Girls State Commission with the approval of the Department Executive Committee.
4. Date for closing registration shall be determined by the Girls State Commission at the regular meeting called by the Department President and Girls State Chairman prior to November 15th of each year.
5. The Delegate fees will be determined yearly.
6. It shall be the responsibility of the Director and Commission to select chaperons, alternate chaperons, volunteer member as a first aide person, secure counselors and personnel needed for the proper functioning of the session.
7. Any changes in the eligibility requirements for Girls State Citizenship when made by National shall automatically amend the requirements as herein set forth.
8. Girls State Funds will be administered by the Department Treasurer upon written authorization and presentation of itemized bills reviewed by the Girls State Commission.
9. Check the American Legion Auxiliary National website for current updates and guidelines.
10. All drafts of bulletins and instructions being sent to Girls State delegates shall be provided to the Department President for her approval. Copy-ready originals of bulletins, instructions to Sponsoring Organizations and Candidates, and all other material to be sent to Sponsoring Organizations and candidates shall be delivered to Department Headquarters for copying and mailing.
11. The Presiding Girls State Governor and other citizens may be invited to participate in future sessions and shall be assigned specific duties by the Director.