

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is a marquee program of the American Legion Auxiliary that has been training female high school students for civic leadership since 1937. Through a week-long “simulated government” immersive learning experience, America’s future leaders assume roles in the fictional “National” and “Federal” political parties, run for and hold offices that mirror their state’s elective offices, and in one jam-packed week learn fundamentals about the legislative process, the three branches of government and parliamentary procedure. Students selected to participate in this prestigious program learn life-long lessons in leadership grounded in civility, teamwork, advocacy, consensus-building and respect. They have fun. They make lasting friendships. They leave enriched, using what they learn throughout their lives for the betterment of our country.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a nonpartisan participatory program that teaches young women responsible citizenship grounded in ethics, the principles of our nation’s founders and respect of God and Country. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is among the nation’s most respected educational programs of government instruction and leadership development for U.S. high-school students.

Since the inception of the ALA Girls State program in 1937, nearly one million young women have had the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local government work. The program has grown from a few hundred participants to some 25,000 annually.

The American Legion sponsors a separate but similar program for young men called American Legion Boys State, first established in 1935. Currently, both American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs operate in all states.

High-school juniors are selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units to participate in the program. Local businesses or community organizations may help contribute to participants’ expenses. Because the structure of state and local government varies from state to state, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs may vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic core values in teaching government from the township to the state level.

Female students who demonstrate leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in their school and community should be considered. ALA Girls State participants are to be selected on the basis of merit and ability.

Girls State brochure and other printed material provide further explanation of the program.



American Legion Auxiliary  
Arizona  
**Girls State**

Dear School Principal/Guidance Counselor

The American Legion Auxiliary takes pleasure in presenting to you information about the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State to be held June 2-9, 2024 on the campus of the University of Arizona. We would like to call your attention to the part of the brochure that deals with eligibility, selection, and purpose of the program and request your assistance.

Girls State is privately sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and those assisting become contributors. **NO** government funds are given to the American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State program. If your school is assigned to a local Unit, they will be in contact with your representative to coordinate the selection and application process. If your school is not assigned to a local Unit for monetary assistance, please contact myself or the Department Office of the American Legion Auxiliary for explanation of your responsibility for monetary assistance and inclusion in the program.

The American Legion sponsors American Legion Arizona Boy State. The Legion and Auxiliary are **two** separate and distinct organizations. This might answer the question why we cannot send out the same information to promote our programs. The funding, requirements and cost for each program are different. Each program is held at a different University which has its own requirements. Both programs have the same premise of citizenship education but each are entities unto themselves. We thank you for helping us promote each program.

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State leadership development program is a week-long, 24/7 program for high school Junior girls who meet the requirements and qualifications for eligibility. It is this educational level which best suits the program. Qualifications are (1) Leadership, (2) Scholarship, (3) Character, (4) Co-operation, (5) Community and School Participation and Service. Girls must be willing and available to participate for the entire week. Girls **will not be excused** early, for classes, tests, and activities.

It is an **honor** and privilege to attend Girls State not a **right**. A girl selected has the option to decline the invitation if uncomfortable with the requirements and objectives/observances of the Girls State program **privately sponsored** by the American Legion Auxiliary. Girls State, by nature, is physically strenuous and emotionally challenging therefore, ability to cope adequately with these conditions should be seriously considered. Girls selected to attend must agree to established rules, policies and requirements.

A Girls State citizen should be able to take back to her school and community an interest in and a sense of responsibility toward citizenship, that she is expected to gain by her attendance at Arizona Girls State. The enclosed information is for the counselor or faculty person in charge of this type of school activity. We ask that this information please be given to that person. We earnestly solicit your interest and assistance with our program.

Sincerely yours,

**Penny Maklary**

Penny Maklary...Director  
520-364-5038 alaazgirlsstate@gmail.com

Barbara Matteson...Secretary  
602-241-1080 secretary1@aladeptaz.org



American Legion Auxiliary  
Arizona  
**Girls State**

TO: Counseling Department  
ATTN: Arizona Girls State Coordinator

We welcome your participation in the Girls State program of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona.

American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State is not a camp but a multifaceted, fast-paced, structured program for high school females. Girls State is an educational seminar on Americanism and government activities. It provides citizenship training to girls in their junior year of high school. By teaching girls the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American Citizenship it affords them the opportunity to live as self-governed citizens. The process of Arizona State government will be studied and practiced throughout the week. American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State is sponsored **solely** by the American Legion Auxiliary. No federal funding is used to promote the program. An applicant should be a good citizen interested in and open to others thoughts and opinions. Arizona Girls State is **voluntary** and those selected to attend must adhere to the **established rules, practices and procedures**.

The American Legion sponsors American Legion Arizona Boy State. The Legion and Auxiliary are **two** separate and distinct organizations. This might answer the question of why we do not send out the same information to promote our programs. The funding, requirements and cost for each program are different. Each program is held at a different University which has its own requirements. Both programs have the same premise of citizenship education but each program are entities unto themselves. We thank you for helping us promote each program.

The Girls State Chairman of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit, if there is one in your area and pre-assigned to your school; will be contacting you to discuss the program; set a date to interview candidates if applicable and give any assistance with questions you might have. The Unit helps with the monetary requirement of the delegate/s. If there is not a Unit assigned to your school, please contact the number provided for more information on requirements and fees.

After selections are made of both delegates/alternates, **(1) the delegate/alternate card is to be legibly filled out**, typed if possible; **(2) signature of parent and student notarized**; **(3) appropriate boxes on back of card checked** and then returned to the school with the **(4) questionnaire all forms and media policy**; **(5) registration fee**; **(6) school or a passport size picture** for verification...security; **(7) signature of school representative** and **(8) Shirt Size noted**. All information needs to be current.

**ALL INFORMATION...delegate/alternate card, application forms, school or passport size picture and delegate registration fee of \$100.00 each are then forwarded by the school to the Unit Auxiliary Chairman.** It is **not necessary** for an **alternate** to provide the \$100.00 fee at this time. If an Auxiliary Unit is not assigned to your school, please forward all information to me at the address below. Total fee per girl is \$400.00. Registration fee of \$100.00 is to be paid by the delegate (if possible) and contributor fee for a delegate is \$300.00. **Fax copies are not acceptable.**

See Backside of paper.....

Selection of delegates and alternates **must be completed, cards properly signed, notarized and all information forwarded to Unit Chairman in time to be received by Girls State Director before the March 1, 2024 deadline.** Cards received after the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline are



**subject to a late fee and bed availability.** When bed capacity is reached there could be a chance your delegate/s will not be accepted or placed on the alternate list.

It is essential that alternates be named in the event a delegate cannot attend or space becomes available, up to and including the day of Arizona Girls State. If for any reason after selection, a delegate cannot attend, notify local Auxiliary chairman, the alternate and Director immediately. **Delegates who fail to attend and fail to notify the Chairman or Director maybe held financially responsible for the \$400.00 fee. Schools will be notified to remove Girls State selection from delegate's transcript and student information. Delegates who personally choose not to complete the entire session will also have their name given to school for Girls State removal from transcript. Please make sure this is totally understood. All fees are non-refundable. Illness or other emergencies are not reported to schools for removal of name.**

Delegates are responsible for their transportation to and from Arizona Girls State. **The medical card and specific information on the program will be sent DIRECTLY to the home address of each DELEGATE in May.** Appointments for well check-up examinations dates can be made in advance in order for the 3 week deadline to be met. Information for the Samsung Scholarship will also be emailed directly to each delegate in **April.** Orientations are held in most areas to further provide information and it is highly recommended that each girl and her parents/guardian attend.

Should you have any questions concerning the Girls State program, please contact me, the assigned Unit listed below or Department Headquarters. We greatly appreciate your assistance and cooperation. Participation by your school and delegates is most beneficial.

Sincerely and Thank You,

The Girls State quota for your school is

American Legion Auxiliary Unit

Contact

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ is assigned to your school.

**Penny Maklary**

Mrs. Penny Maklary, Girls State Director  
1354 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Douglas, AZ 85607  
520-364-5038 [alaazgirlsstate@gmail.co](mailto:alaazgirlsstate@gmail.co)

Barbara Matteson Sec/Treasurer  
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602-241-1080 [secretary1@aladeptaz.org](mailto:secretary1@aladeptaz.org)

Encl: Arizona Girls State Brochure...Questionnaire Form...Media Policy to be duplicated for each delegate/alternate...Facts and Information on Girls State Program

**Your delegate/alternate cards will be provided to you separately by Unit Chairman or in the mail.**

# How to fill and sign a PDF form:

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1. **Open a PDF document** in Adobe Acrobat or another app compatible with typing into a PDF.
2. Fill in the form fields and save.

If using an Adobe Reader or Acrobat product:

1. Click the **"Fill & Sign"** tool in the right pane.
2. **Fill out your form:**  
Complete form filling by clicking a text field and typing or adding a text box. You can add checkmarks and fill in radio buttons too.
3. **Save as a new document, and**
4. **Send your form:**  
After you have filled the form, you can share the PDF with others and even send to sign. To share the form, click Next and follow the instructions.



American Legion Auxiliary  
Arizona

## Girls State

Sponsored by The American Legion  
Auxiliary Questionnaire Form 2024

### I. Student Information

Name:

Date of Birth:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Student E-mail Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Shirt Size: XS



Name of High School You Attend:

### II. In Case of Emergency and Parent/Guardian Contact

Guardian A /

Cell Phone #:

Father Name:

Employer

Occupation:

Name:

Guardian B /

Cell Phone #:

Mother Name:

Employer

Occupation:

Name:

### III. Personal Information / Preference Questions

Will you be able to attend the FULL SESSION of Arizona Girls State June 2-9, 2024?

Select One: Yes

Explain any NO  
response:

Do you have any problems that would prevent you from FULL participation in the Girls State program? (Girls State necessitates long hours and long walks to classes and activities in the Arizona heat.)

Select One: No

Explain any YES  
response:

Do you have any objections to sharing a dorm room or "rooming" with another girl during the session? Or, is there any reason why you would need a single room? (The roommate will not be from your school.)

Select One: No

Explain any YES  
response:

### Personal Information / Preference Questions, continued

Do you have any dietary restrictions or allergies that might impact your participation at Girls State? Please explain in detail. (i.e. Food allergies, Celiac, Vegetarian, Vegan, etc.)

What are your plans after high school?  
Explain:

Select one: College

Did any of your family members or relatives attend Girls or Boys State?

Select One: Yes

If YES: Who? When?

Where?

Is/Are any family member/s currently/actively serving in the US Military?

Select One: Yes

If YES: Whom? Branch?

(if known)

Are any family members Veterans who have served in the US Military?

Select One: Yes

If YES: Whom? Branch?

(if known)

Which courses have you taken that will help you at Girls State (Ex: history, drama, government, public speaking, leadership training)?

List any scholastic/honorary awards and any extra-curricular activities in which you have participated (with date):

In 100 words or fewer, please explain why you believe you should be chosen to participate in the Arizona Girls State program. (Use an additional page and attach, if needed.)



## American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Girls State

### Policy on American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Social Networking, Media Use and Bullying

Bullying is when one or more persons exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying is luring and holding a person against their will or for alternate purposes/motives to play a prank on them. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace: through the use of e-mails, text messaging, instant messaging and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to persons being hurt during or after the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State session and be especially hurtful when persons are targeted with meanness and exclusion. At American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State **bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying.** Our position on bullying is based on our goal of providing the most outstanding, unique and coveted educational opportunity available to young women.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona recognizes and supports its American Legion Auxiliary Girls State participants' rights to freedom of speech, expression and association, including the use of online social networks. In this context, however each delegate must remember that participation in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is a privilege, not a right. As a delegate, you represent the American Legion Auxiliary and are expected to portray yourself, your school and the Auxiliary in a positive manner at all times. Any online postings must therefore be consistent with federal and state laws, University of Arizona rules and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State rules, regulations and policies (including the Guidelines listed below).

#### Guidelines

If you participate on a social networking site or use social media, you must keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Everything you post is public information--any text or photo posted online is completely out of your control the moment it is posted--even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters may be accessible even after you remove it.
- Think before you post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it is wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed. Post only pictures and comments that you would be comfortable sharing with the general public.
- Use caution when adding someone or inviting someone to be a friend (this includes The American Legion Boys State citizens).
- Limit information about your whereabouts and plans in order to minimize the potential of being stalked, assaulted or the victim of other criminal activity. Post about where you've been, not where you're going.

- What you post may affect your future. Many colleges' admissions officers and employers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments and posts).
- Similar to comments made in person, you should be respectful online. The American Legion Auxiliary will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online such as:
  - Derogatory or defamatory language and/or images;
  - Comments that create a serious danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person;
- Take the high ground. Don't pick fights or engage in fights, online.
- Respect yourself; respect others; respect the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

### **Monitoring and Consequences**

The American Legion Auxiliary reserves the right to have American Legion Auxiliary Girls State staff members review and/or monitor delegates' social networking sites and postings.

Any violation of law or of the University of Arizona and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State's rules, regulations or policies or evidence of such violation in your online content, is subject to investigation and possible immediate censure by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State staff and/or law enforcement agencies. Internal consequences may include, but are not limited to, notice to remove the content and dismissal from the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

As an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State participant, I attest that I have read, understand and agree to abide by this policy: If I do not abide by this policy, I will be dismissed from the program and school notified.

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Signature of Participant

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Printed Name of Participant

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Signature of Parent/Guardian/Responsible Adult if the above is a minor

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Printed Name of Parent/Guardian/Responsible Adult

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*A signed copy is required prior to participation and retained by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.*



American Legion Auxiliary  
Arizona  
**Girls State**

ALA Girls State Participant Media Release  
Permission to Use Photographs/Videos

Subject American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State

Location University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona

I grant to the American Legion Auxiliary, its representatives, and employees the right to take photographs and/or video of me and my property in connection with the above-identified subject. I authorize the American Legion Auxiliary, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree the American Legion Auxiliary may use such photographs/video of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including, for example, such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising and web-related content.

I have read and understand the above:

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_