



April 2025

Dear Girls State Delegate:

This is the first Girls State mailing you will receive with information on the American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State Program. Further information on the Girls State Session, June 1-8, 2025, will be sent to you during the first week of May.

Check List for Information:

- ☐ **Please check** your name and address as it appears on your **mailing label**. Please **confirm by email** if there is a spelling error, you have a new address or if all **your information** is complete. This information becomes the database and will be used when sending you information. We want the information as accurate as possible and will track each girl's response. Send emails to [...ahhpenny@aol.com](mailto:ahhpenny@aol.com)...by **April 30th**. You will receive a confirmation that she received your information.
- ☐ In this packet you will find information to apply for the American Legion Samsung Scholarship. **If eligible**, please follow the directions and fill out the application completely. You will **bring a hard copy** of the completed application with you to Girls State. It is not mandatory that you apply for this scholarship to attend Girls State. **You need to start early as you will need to review the required documents and provide what is asked for in the instructions. Specifically, the requirement to submit supporting documentation from school authorities.** This cannot be completed after **school is out**.
- ☐ Some of you still have missing information (**shirt size...many of you have checked two sizes and you will only be given one size, questionnaire, checked boxes, signatures, social media policy or your picture**) and your card is **INCOMPLETE** and cannot be processed fully. Please respond when called or emailed what is requested **ASAP** or before **April 30th** to assure you have a complete application. Most of you are complete, **thank you so much**, and I have been working with schools and your parents to get needed information. Most information can be emailed.

If needed--Please send missing information to:

Penny Maklary  
1354 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Douglas, Arizona 85607 [ahhpenny@aol.com](mailto:ahhpenny@aol.com)

☐ Girls State Orientations will be held differently this year. Orientations are highly recommended and for some Units mandated that you and a parent/guardian attend to fully understand the program, receive helpful information and be able to ask questions. If you are unable to attend, your parent/guardian or other family member may do so for you. Your Auxiliary Unit will invite you to attend and please respond to the number provided. Most of you in the Phoenix area are being contacted about the two orientations that will be held the last of April or in May. Other dates are scheduled, and you will be notified by your sponsoring Unit. If you are **not assigned** to a Unit, or have not been notified, please call me (520-850-1951) or Department Headquarters (602-241-1080). All orientations have the same material and information provided. We will put orientation schedule on the Girls State website at [www.azgirlsstate.com](http://www.azgirlsstate.com). Alternates are asked to attend orientations in case they take the place of a delegate that is unable to attend.

☐ In your next packet there will be a yellow health card that needs to be filled out between **May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is not a physical but a well check-up (eyes-ears-nose-throat) to make sure you are able to attend. Prior sports physicals are not accepted unless they are done within the time frame required by our insurance. The health card may be completed by any **certified health care provider**. It is a check-up not a complete physical. We suggest making an appointment now and not waiting. All information will be hand delivered to one of the registered nurses we have on staff at registration.

Please use this check list to make sure you have all the needed information completed, emailed or returned by date required. Missing information could result in registration issues, hold-ups and incomplete data base used for elections and awards. Please make sure you open all packets from Girls State **immediately when received and respond accordingly by deadlines**. Important information is always enclosed that will make the Girls State process go smoothly for you.

Please check the Arizona Girls State web site at [www.azgirlsstate.org](http://www.azgirlsstate.org) for latest and most current information on the program. If it is currently under construction, it will be completed soon.

Thank you for your assistance, it makes a difference. Looking forward to meeting each of you at Girls State..... **THE BEST STATE IN THE LAND.**

Penny Maklary  
American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State  
Director



April 2025

Dear Girls State Delegates:

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by the American Legion in 1996. As of 2023, Samsung Scholarships have awarded more than \$7.2 million in college scholarships to 2,422 applicants. These scholarships are derived from interest and other income from the principal amount.

1. Go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)
2. Drop down to Programs and pick up Scholarships
3. Click on Samsung Scholarship
4. This takes you to the online application and will walk you through the process
5. More information...scholarships@legion.org

The 2025 Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program is ready for another great year. The proposed awards for 2025 are:

- 10 - \$10,000 National scholarships (2 per region)
- 10 - \$5,000 National runners-up (2 per region)
- Each Department winner will receive \$1,250

If you are a **direct descendant** (child, grandchild, great grandchild or legally adopted child) of a U.S. wartime veteran or person currently on active duty and you participate in and **complete** the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, then you are eligible to apply for this scholarship. It is not mandatory to apply, nor will it affect your attendance by not applying. During the application process **you must upload verification of the veteran's or active-duty person's service.**

- 1. YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE ONLINE APPLICATION with all required uploads** prior to the first day of Arizona Girls State (June 1, 2025).
- 2. When prompted to do so on the website, PRINT a hard copy of the application with all uploads and attachments** as you will be required to give the hard copy **to the proper person during Girls State registration on Sunday, June 1, 2025.** This is the only time the hard copy of the application will be accepted by Arizona Girls State. Hard copies of the application or any part of an application will not be accepted before or after this date. The Arizona Girls State finalists will be announced on **Sunday, June 8, 2025**, at the awards assembly.

#### **Scholarship Selection Criteria**

Each Boys State and Girls State program makes its national finalist selection using the following criteria:

- ☐ Academic record
- ☐ Involvement in school activities
- ☐ Involvement in community activities

- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Financial need
- ☐ Essay content
- ☐ Additional bonus points will be awarded to descendants of U.S. veterans of the Korean Conflict.
- ☐ Questions regarding the Samsung Scholarship are to be directed to [scholarships@legion.org](mailto:scholarships@legion.org)

## **PROOF OF SERVICE DOCUMENTATION**

### **ACCEPTABLE**

- Form DD214 (Official discharge certificate)
- Official "Honorable Discharge" certificate
- Form DD1300 (Official military death certificate)
- Official record of burial in a military cemetery issued by the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Current or former military ID card
- Current or former LES (Leave and Earnings Statement)
- Official logbook entries from a military unit
- ANY OTHER DOCUMENT LISTED ON THE "Military Service Verification Documents List" linked on the application website

### **UNACCEPTABLE**

- Any otherwise "acceptable" document that is illegible
- Obituaries
- Pictures of military headstones
- Pictures of service members in uniform
- Entries in non-military and/or non-official records or books
- Membership cards from veterans organizations
- VA Healthcare Cards

The following locations may be of assistance.

- Many certificates of discharge prior to 1979 do not appear to be "official" documents as many were typed onto a sheet of paper. If you are unsure if it is an official document, please ask your American Legion service officer. Department Service Officers are listed by state at <https://www.legion.org/serviceofficers>.
- The National Archives and Records Administration: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/index.html>
- The County Clerk and Records Office where the veteran resided.
- The funeral home may have kept a copy if military honors were provided.
- Monument company if VA headstone or marker was ordered.
- If the veteran had utilized a VA Home Loan there may be a copy of the DD214 with the title documentation.
- Veterans who have signed up for EBENEFITS through the Veterans Administration may be able to obtain a printable copy from <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>
- The State Director of Veterans Affairs may have received a copy of the veterans DD214 at the time of discharge from military service. This will be specific to the state in which the veterans home of record.

*Penny Maklary*

Penny Maklary, Director  
American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State