



One Hundred Ninety-Six, young women from one hundred-forty High Schools throughout Arizona were scheduled to attend American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State at the University of Arizona in Tucson from June 1-8, 2025. Forty Units reported some form of Girls State Activity.

Fifty-one Units sponsored one or more delegates to attend the 78th session. Eleven High Schools without Unit representation sent delegates. These numbers are **up** from previous years.

You name a way to make money...members of the Auxiliary did it, to generate the funds needed to sponsor each delegate. Because of today's economic conditions and the rise in Girls State fees, many Units needed contributions from other organizations, people and agencies...Legion Posts, Junior Groups, Legion Riders and SAL Squadrons.

Again, major focus was placed on a standard Orientation with everyone receiving the same information through a power point presentation. Orientations were emailed to all delegates who were not attending and downloaded to phones during Orientations.

We are missing a membership opportunity by not asking delegates if they are eligible to become a member of the Auxiliary. Information on the Samsung Scholarship was sent to delegates again this year...to apply you must be a **DIRECT** descendant of a Veteran. Were girls asked?

Two Units submitted an entry for the **Yvonne Granger Plaque**, and it was a hard decision for the judges to make. Girls State publicity was from local newspapers that covered the events as daily doings, from the Girls State website and Ring Your Bell.

Units rewarded contributors with certificates, plaques and thank you cards. Several Units reported returning the money paid by the Delegate if they attended Girls State and reported back to the Unit.

Two new or gently used books were requested from each Delegate as a Community Service Project. They will be given to first responders to distribute when needed.

The Girls State Yearbook is a success and we will be taking orders again. We will continue to promote enrollment for Girls State Alumni Association and "Friends of Girls State". This helps with funding of the two scholarships that are awarded each year.

REMINDERS: The political workings of the Department should not be a part of Girls State. The Units work within established Girl State guidelines and policy. This makes it fair for all schools and Units. Allotments and schools are changed each year to accommodate enrollments and bed capacity or Unit problems. **ONLY SPONSOR** of Girls State is the American Legion Auxiliary. All **OTHERS** are **CONTRIBUTORS** to the program. We need to work on payment with one check. We will be working on completion of forms, pictures, school signatures and notarized signatures by email.

We still need to work on the March 1st deadline. You don't have to wait until March to get started as packets are sent to school around January 15th each year. This year many Units did not contact schools or become involved. Many schools non participation was due to no Unit involvement. Hopefully we can work on this for next year.

We thank each of you for your **dedicated service and assistance** to the Girls State program. We more than appreciated that when asked to help with extra schools or delegates or take on other responsibilities, you were willing to do so for the program. We also appreciated your thoughtful contributions over the required fees.

There will be a Girls State update at Convention. **FLASH...FLASH!** Who will be elected Governor and Secretary of State at the 78th session? Who will be the Girls Nation Senators going to Washington D.C.? Who will receive the Samsung Scholarship? Until then...**Look to Girls State and you'll find...tomorrow's leaders of mankind.** Girls State...**The Best State in the Land!**

Penny Maklary...Chairman/Director

Committee Members: Donna Arnoff...Alisha Matteson...Mary Jo Ficklin