

President's Special Project Report 2023-2024

This year Department President Rose Ficklin choose Arizona Girls State as the President's Special Project. The year was a great success in not only giving the units a better understanding of Girls State but also in donations.

This year there were a total of 34 Units reporting and a total of \$46,312.57 in donations during the year. Now more donations will more than likely come in as Arizona heads into the convention rounding out the year. There are normally quite a few donations made at the convention before closing on Saturday evening.

Five units sent in narrative for the President's Special Project awards to be handed out at State Convention in June. The chairman was very happy about the amount of narratives, even though wished there could be more.

Many units reported all sorts of neat fundraisers as well as raffles, dinners and parties that were held in order to help with the President's Special Project this year. A few Unit projects are listed below:

William Bloys Unit 2 had their 29th Annual Sentimental Dreams Dance that was a fundraiser for both Girls State and Boys State. There was an orchestra, raffles and of course food and drink. The theme for the dance was 1930's and 1940's. The raffle included 12 baskets, a 50/50 raffle and door prizes. There were 150 guests in attendance and all proceeds were split evenly between Boys State and Girls State, with Girls State receiving \$1,000.

Merrell-Mitchell Unit 39 spent the year working on fundraisers and raffles for Girls State. The unit participated with Bar Bingo events as well as 50/50 drawings during each monthly dinner held at the post. The total raised was \$1,300.

Verde Valley Unit 25 and District 8 got together and held a Dunk Tank Fundraiser for Girls State. The prime dunk tank sitter was none other than the Department President Rose Ficklin. There were five others who volunteered to be dunked in honor of the special project. For those lucky enough to dunk one of the volunteers the Unit had a patch created with Rose's likeness. After the event the left over patches were then sown onto a red hat and raffled off. The Unit and District totaled \$1,000 for the entire event. What an amazing party and fundraiser.

One other great Unit was event was held by Crandall-Palmer Unit 61 with an amazing joint family event for the Super Bowl. The Legion family held an amazing Super Bowl party with volunteers working 40 plus hours on baking goodies, desserts and setting up for the event. There were also items gathered to have a raffle during the event. Some raffle items were patio swings, big screen tvs and patriotic themed gifts. The unit will be delivering the check at State Convention to President Rose of \$1,025.

This year was an amazing year of learning, teaching and working the amazing Girls State program. It was a pleasure and honor to work this program, one that is near and dear for sure. Arizona has truly proven that they love and support Arizona Girls State.

Shannon Mead
President's Special Project Chairman
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