

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

Hello...

Please let us introduce ourselves. We are the American Legion Auxiliary, the oldest patriotic membership organization. We believe that training our youth about the basic ideals and principles of our system of government will help to ensure the survival of our republic. Through a unique citizenship-training program, Auxiliary members teach the youth of our nation to understand, comprehend and appreciate their roles as United States citizens. The program is called **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ARIZONA GIRLS STATE**. Many confuse us with **AMERICAN LEGION BOY STATE**. We are **two** separate and distinct organizations. This answers the question why we cannot send out the same information to promote our programs. The funding and requirements for each program are also 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.

For over seventy-five years, the American Legion Auxiliary has succeeded in giving girls the finest citizenship training program possible.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has grown from a few hundred participants to nearly 25,000 delegates annually. Each summer, these approximately 25,000 enthusiastic young women participate in American Legion Auxiliary Girls State sessions across the nation in each state. At Girls State, the "delegates" (girls selected to attend) study city, county and state government processes. They do this by setting up their own miniature city, county and state government and govern themselves according to the rules and procedure set by their particular state's laws. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State affords participants an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens by informing them about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. This learning experience will better familiarize the participant with their duties as United States citizens, and will encourage their participation in the democratic processes as they progress into adulthood.

The American Legion Auxiliary is solely responsible for the program's content and operation. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State receives **NO** financial government assistance. American Legion Auxiliary members provide a variety of different activities that encompass education, recreation and friendship. Junior Counselors, who were former Girls State citizens, return to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with the girls. Elected Officials provide first hand knowledge through speeches and activities. All work done before, during and in preparation for a Girls State session, **is done by volunteers...no one, from Director to Staff receives a salary or is paid** in the Girls State Program.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has provided a valuable learning experience for hundreds of thousands of accomplished women. They left Girls State less intimidated by government...able to see it for what it is ...ordinary people working for the betterment of society.

American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State will be held June 4-10, 2023, on the campus of the University of Arizona in Tucson. The cost for a girl to attend is \$400.00, which covers the cost of her room, meals, educational material, 2 shirts and insurance. We hope you will consider becoming part of this very worthwhile program that is **"LAYING a SOLID FOUNDATION for a STRONGER TOMORROW"** through **"Learning by Doing"**. If you would like for us to give a presentation or a former Girls State Citizen to speak and answer questions, we would be most happy to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Penny Maklary

Penny Maklary...Arizona Girls State Director
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