

## ALA GIRLS STATE SELECTION PROCESS

ALA Girls State delegates are a diverse group of young women with a shared desire to learn and lead. Girls State "citizens" come together from small towns, big cities and rural areas to hold Girls State elections, and their varied backgrounds set the stage for a week of spirited, experiential learning.

Delegates to ALA Girls State programs have completed their junior year in high school and are selected by American Legion Auxiliary units. The units work with local high school educators to identify young women who have demonstrated leadership qualities.

The number of Girls State citizens varies by state and is determined by each state's American Legion Auxiliary resources.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

ALA Girls State programs are funded by the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion, with additional support from various civic and nonprofit organizations. Scholarships ensure that participating young women incur only nominal expenses. Students interested in scholarships are encouraged to contact their local Auxiliary units regarding availability and qualifications.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

ALA Girls State offers hands-on experience in how state governments function. Other activities at ALA Girls State foster fellowship and creative expression:

- ★ Reporting
- ★ Public speaking; debate
- ★ Singing
- ★ Talent shows
- ★ Field trips
- ★ Group devotions
- ★ Patriotic ceremonies
- ★ Mock court system



American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has empowered hundreds of thousands of accomplished young women to aspire to great things. Their stellar accomplishments are grounded in leadership skills enhanced at ALA Girls State. Past ALA Girls State participants include members of presidential cabinets, mayors, governors, state representatives, U.S. senators, corporate CEOs, nationally known journalists and military officers.



Each state's American Legion Auxiliary department manages its Girls State program. Most are held on college or university campuses that offer dormitory accommodations. ALA Girls State programs currently exist in all Auxiliary departments except Hawaii. As separate corporations, Girls State programs vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level.

**For more information on ALA Girls State, visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org), or contact your local American Legion Auxiliary unit at:**



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# American Legion Auxiliary

**Inspirational, Educational,  
Life-changing and Fun**

# ALA Girls State



**In the Spirit of Service Not Self  
for Veterans, God and Country**

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



## ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Developing leadership skills, confidence and action-based understanding of the governmental process gives young women a lasting foundation for personal and professional success.



The American Legion Auxiliary believes that educating youth about the basic ideals and principles of government will help ensure our democracy's survival.

ALA Girls State is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program in which Auxiliary members guide young women to become patriotic, knowledgeable stewards of freedom and democracy.



## WHAT IS ALA GIRLS STATE?

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, first presented in the late 1930s, is one of the most respected experiential learning programs in the United States. Guided by the principle "For God and Country," the program epitomizes the Auxiliary's mission to honor those who have brought us our freedom by continuing to train young women to be leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism. Girls State participants become extremely knowledgeable about the democratic process and how our republic works at the state and national levels.

About 20,000 young women participate in weeklong ALA Girls State programs across the nation each summer. Every American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program operates with the same patriotic values.



Using a nonpartisan curriculum, participants assume the roles of government leaders, campaigning as "Federalists" and "Nationalists" to become elected officials in their mock Girls States. During the immersive-learning program, delegates live in "cities" within a dormitory on a college or university campus. The knowledge, memories, and friendships they take home last a lifetime.

## ALA GIRLS NATION

Every year, two outstanding girls from each ALA Girls State program are selected to attend ALA Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. As Girls Nation "senators," they campaign for political office, craft and debate the passage of legislation and meet with their real-life counterparts on Capitol Hill.

Nearly 6,500 politically astute young women have

attended American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation since 1947. Besides a chance to experience the workings of federal government personally, they gain further opportunities to sharpen their leadership skills and learn about their American heritage.



## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program:

- ★ Develops leadership and pride in American citizens.
- ★ Educates citizens about our system of government.
- ★ Instills a greater understanding of American traditions.
- ★ Stimulates a desire to maintain democratic governmental processes within our republic.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible, young women must:

- ★ Have completed their junior year in high school.
- ★ Be keenly interested in government and current events.
- ★ Have high moral character.
- ★ Show strong leadership abilities.
- ★ Demonstrate above-average scholastic achievement.