

April 2026

Dear Girls State Delegate Welcome:

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, May 31st to June 7th, 2026, will be sent to you during the first week of May.

Check List for Information:



Please check your name and email address if you use a school account, we need a personal one. If you did not include a parent email, please do so. Please **confirm by email** if there is a spelling error, whether you have a new address and that you got this email. This information becomes the data base and will be used in the handbook and when sending you information. We want the information as accurate as possible and will track each girl's response. Send emails to ... registration@azgirlsstate.com...by **April 25th**.



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 a standardized weighted GPA and 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, your picture or your fee amount**) your card is **INCOMPLETE** and cannot be processed fully. Please respond when called or emailed what is requested **ASAP** or before **April 25th** to assure you have a complete application. Most of you are complete and I have been working with schools and your parents to get needed information.

If needed--Please send missing information to:

Penny Maklary

1354 12th Street

Douglas, Arizona 85607 ahhpenny@aol.com 520-850-1951



Girls State Orientations will be held again 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 Sponsoring Unit will invite you to attend and respond to number provided. Most of you in the Phoenix area are being contacted about the two that will be held in May. Other Orientation Area

dates are listed, and you will be notified by sponsoring Unit. If you are **not assigned** to a Unit, or have not been notified by May 1st, please call me (520-850-1951) or Department Headquarters (602-241-1080). All Orientations have the same material and information provided. We will have **parts** of the Orientation on the Girls State website at www.azgirlsstate.com **after May 29th** as refresher information only and too late for what has to be done before attending. That is why we ask you to open **immediately** any information sent to you. Alternates are asked to attend orientations in case they take the place of a delegate that is unable to attend. **Any updated information will be placed on the Girls State website.**



In your next packet there will be a health paper that needs to be filled out between **May 1st and May 30th**. 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 paper 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 handed to one of the registered nurses we have on staff at registration. Please do not send in any health items. Nurses will call if there is a question from your application that needs to be met prior to Girls State.

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 emails from Girls State **immediately when received and respond accordingly and 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 for latest and most current information on the program. It is currently under construction but will be up 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

SCHEDULE OF GIRLS STATE ORIENTATIONS 2026

WE REQUEST THAT EACH DELEGATE TO GIRLS STATE (and a parent OR guardian) ATTEND ONE OF THE ORIENTATION SESSIONS THAT WE HOLD AROUND THE STATE.

DISTRICT 1

Yuma Area Schools sponsored by Unit 19

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

American Legion Post 19

2575 S. Virginia St.

Yuma, AZ 85364

Contact Sandie Deutsch 615-590-2726 sandiedeutsch@gmail.com

-OR-

Yuma Area Schools sponsored by Units 56 and 46

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026 11:00 AM

American Legion Post 56

1490 W. 3rd St.

Yuma, AZ 85364

Contact Barbara Whitney 602-326-2484 barbaraw527@icloud.com

DISTRICT 2

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 11:00 AM

Tucson Schools...Sahuarita...Oro Valley...Marana...Vail

American Legion Post 36

5845 E. 22nd St.

Tucson, AZ 85711

Contact Jennifer Turner-Jones 520-475-9662 al36family@gmail.com

DISTRICT 3

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 1:30 PM

Cochise County...Benson...Douglas...Tombstone...Sierra Vista

American Legion Post 45

150 W. 5th St.

Benson, AZ 85602

Contact Dolores Chavez 928-386-0841 cheebjejs@cox.net

-OR- Maggie Montijo 520-904-1814 maggiemontijo@gmail.com

DISTRICT 4

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 3:00 PM

Coolidge...Florence...Casa Grande...San Tan Valley...Queen Creek...Maricopa...Blackwater

American Legion Post 54

408 N. Main

Coolidge, AZ 85128

Contact Becky Ruiz 520-723-7557 b13ruiz13@gmail.com

DISTRICT 5

Safford...Willcox...Morenci

SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2026, 2:00 PM

American Legion Post 32

531 - 11th Ave.

Safford, AZ 85546

Contact Kat Sticklin 928-322-1550 katsticklin2025@gmail.com

-OR-

Globe...Miami...San Carlos

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1:00 PM

American Legion Post 4

645 S. Broad St.

Globe, AZ 85501

Contact Patty Nolan 928-812-3027 thenolans127@hotmail.com

DISTRICT 6

Show Low...Blue Ridge...Holbrook...Snowflake...Overgaard

Contact Robyn Hansen 602-999-3486 robyn.hansen@jrhie.com

OR Martha Raether 602-809-0972 orbitzbk@gmail.com

DISTRICT 7

Kingman Area

NO ORIENTATION SCHEDULED

DISTRICT 8

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Prescott...Prescott Valley...Bagdad...Sedona...Mayer

American Legion Post 25

480 S. Calvary Way

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Contact Pam Diffin 928-301-4787 pamrcp@msn.com

DISTRICT 11 -- correction made on 4-15-2026

SATURDAY MAY 16, 2026

presentation begins at 11:00 AM

Phoenix West Valley...Peoria...Buckeye...Tolleson...Sunnyslope...Dysart...Willow Canyon

North West Schools...Surrounding Areas

American Legion Post 62

9847 W. Desert Cove Ave.

Peoria, AZ 85345

Contact Nicki Cruz 602-292-0960 noreennickerson@cox.net

DISTRICT 12

SUNDAY MAY 3, 2026

sign-in Noon to 12:30 pm, presentation begins at 12:30 pm

[Phoenix East Valley...Apache Junction...Fountain Hills...Chandler...Mesa...Gilbert...Tempe
Scottsdale...North East Schools...Surrounding Areas](#)

American Legion Post 27

1018 S. Meridian Rd.

Apache Junction, AZ 85220

Contact Cindy Queen 602-316-7647 cynqueen53@cox.net

April 2026

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 2025, Samsung Scholar ships have awarded more than \$7.6 million dollars to more than 2,618 individuals. These scholarships are derived from interest and other additions to the principal amount.

Only those individuals attending a American Legion Boy State or American Legion Auxiliary session are able to apply.

The 2026 Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program is ready for another great year. Proposed awards are:

- 10 \$10,000 National Scholarships (2 per region)
- 10 \$5,000 National Runner-ups (2 per region)
- Each Department winner will receive \$1,250

If you are a direct descendent (child, grandchild, great grandchild or legally adopted child of a US wartime veteran or person currently on active duty, you participate and complete the American Legion Auxiliary program, 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 pr active-duty person's service.

1. Go to 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

You must complete and submit the online application with all required uploads prior to the first day of Girls State May 31st midnight. When prompted to do so on the web site, print a hard copy of the application with the uploads that will be presented at registration ONLY. The Department winner will be announced on June 7th. National winners will be announced in late September or early October.

Other information will be found on the included pages or by emailing the American Legion. Good luck to each of you that apply

SAMSUNG



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

This document answers many of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship.

Q: Is there a hard copy of the application available?

A: No. The application is completely contained within the online application system. Not only is this more efficient and secure, but it is also more environmentally friendly.

Q: Does an application have to be completed in one sitting?

A: No. In keeping with many college and career web-based systems, an applicant will create a user account and password on legion.org, which will allow the applicant to return to the application at various times, as they collect information and write well-informed essays. After your application is submitted, there can be no edits or added information.

Q: When will an applicant find out the status of their application after submission?

A: The applicant's American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program will make the announcement of the department winner prior to the end of the program. This is not a requirement, and some programs may inform their department nominee later. However, all programs must submit their nominees to National Headquarters by August 1st. As such, you may contact your Boys State or Girls State program after that date with any questions as to a particular applicant's status. National Samsung American Legion Scholars will be announced during the month of **October**. If an applicant has heard nothing by this time, their application did not make it past the first round of judging at the program level.

Q: How are applications judged? What is the process?

A: Initially, all applications are screened by judges at the program level. One person from each Boys State program and one person from each Girls State program are chosen as department finalists. These comprise a pool of 100 finalists from across the nation. A national panel of judges on the Committee of Youth Education decides the final winners. Regardless of the level, each applicant is assigned points for every part of their application based on a common, national rubric.

Q: Are letters of recommendation required?

A: Recommendation letters are not permitted in this scholarship application.

Q: When are decisions made on who is selected?

A: Unlike other scholarship funds at The American Legion, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Endowment Fund is self-perpetuating. It is funded completely through interest earned from the principal. Due to market fluctuations and to be more precise yet expansive in scholarship distribution, the following award levels were adopted beginning with the 2017 award year:

- Ten national scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region)
- Ten national runners-up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region)
- Remaining department (state) finalists each receive \$1,250

Every applicant is encouraged to be very dedicated in time and effort while filling out the application, as ultimately, they are applying for a \$10,000 scholarship.

Q: What counts (and doesn't) as an "official record" of military service?

A:	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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)➤ ANY OTHER DOCUMENT LISTED ON THE "Military Service Verification Documents List" (Link on the Samsung American Legion Scholarship homepage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Any otherwise "acceptable" document that is illegible➤ Obituaries➤ Pictures of military headstones➤ Pictures of servicemembers in uniform➤ Entries in non-military and/or non-official records or books➤ Membership cards from veteran's organizations➤ VA Healthcare Cards

Q: Who is a "direct descendant"?

A direct descendant is the child, grandchild, great-grandchild, et cetera of a veteran. Stepchildren and adopted children ARE considered direct descendants. Any other relationship (e.g., siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles) does not count as direct descendency.

Q: Can I list more than one veteran on my application?

No. No credit is given for being the descendant of more than one veteran. However, if an applicant is the direct descendant of a Korean War veteran, it is advisable to use that person on your application. Whichever ancestor you choose, ensure you can provide acceptable documentation of their time in service.

Q: If I have a question about the acceptability of a document, who should I contact?

A: When an applicant questions the acceptability of any document, they should contact their Boys State or Girls State point of contact. The point of contact information is listed in the delegate packet or can be found at <https://www.legion.org/boysnation/websites>. If a program representative has questions about the acceptability of a document, they should contact ScholarshipFunds@legion.org.

Q: My school uses an embossed stamp; it does not seem to show up on a scan. What should I do?

A: You have a few options here. First, you may try to darken your scan by adjusting the scan density settings. Second, you may choose to shade over the embossed seal with a pencil (preferably) or a dark highlighter to bring out the indentation. If you are taking a picture of the document instead of scanning, you may try illuminating the picture from a particular direction to bring out the embossment. You could also shade the seal and take the picture after doing so.

Q: What happens to applications which were begun but not submitted at the start of a program?

A: Such applications are deleted from the system.

Q: For applications submitted but not chosen as department finalists, how are they dealt with?

A: Such applications will be available for viewing or downloading by the applicant or department until 1 November. On 1 November, the application system will be purged of all applications not selected as department/program finalists.

Q: Can I access my application after my Boys State or Girls State program starts?

A: You can only access your application until the start of your program. You will not be able to request a copy of your application after your program starts. Be sure to save your essays from your application on a storage device. Also, print out a copy of your complete application and all documents used.

Q: Can I bring documents to Boys State or Girls State to add to my application?

A: Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on the first day of your respective programs, on the online application. No other form of submission is acceptable.