



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
ARIZONA GIRLS STATE  
COMMITTEE**

Penny Maklary, Director  
1354 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Douglas, Arizona 85607  
Phone (520) 850-1951  
alaazgirlsstate@gmail.com

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

|                 |          |
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**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**AUXILIARY**

Arizona  
Girls State

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**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Arizona**

**May 31-June 7, 2026  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona**

## PURPOSE and OBJECTIVE

Girls State is a citizenship education program **privately sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona** open to junior girls in high school. The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program provides a nonpartisan participatory program that teaches eligible high school females responsible citizenship grounded in ethics, the principles of our nation's founders and respect for God and Country. It educates young women on the privileges, rights and duties of American citizenship in order to grasp an understanding of the responsibilities they will assume as adults. Girls State is a positive and tangible program in Americanism.

American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State was established by the American Legion Auxiliary in 1947, and is an annual program designed as a practical experience in self-government, based on Arizona State Government. Girls State is non-partisan and non-political, in that no existing party is promoted.

The purpose of American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State is threefold:

- To emphasize the importance of government in modern life.
- To educate young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.
- To awaken a sincere conviction that a well informed, intelligent, participating citizenry is vitally needed to protect and preserve our American institutions and our democracy.

These goals are achieved by actual participation in a simulation of the political and governmental process.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is designed so that each citizen may participate in the programs electoral process, have an opportunity to hold public office and be encouraged to share in the formulation of public policy within the program.

Each citizen can be a definite and integral part in the function of American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and will have an opportunity of learning for herself that government is what she makes of it. It is the hope that American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State citizens will complete the program with a mature appreciation for the basic strengths and weaknesses of the American system of government. It is further hoped that these young women will have a firm resolution to make government an effective and responsible servant of the people, and that as citizens, they will exercise the many rights accorded them.

It is an honor and privilege not a right to be selected to attend Arizona Girls State. A girl selected, **has the right to decline the invitation if uncomfortable with requirements and objectives/observances of the program.** A girl is not forced to attend this Auxiliary program and attends with the full knowledge of what will be expected of her as a delegate.

## PERSONNEL AND SUPERVISION

The 2026 American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State program will represent 198 high schools in Arizona. The girls will live as self-governed citizens **with adult supervision** during the full period of Arizona Girls State. Arizona Girls State personnel are in attendance throughout the entire session. Capable women and counselors will supervise the delegates.

Citizens will not be allowed to leave the campus area assigned to Arizona Girls State as they are covered by Girls State insurance only when in these designated areas.

Any girl guilty of misconduct or leaving a designated area, except with the permission of the Girls State Director, will be subject to immediate dismissal and school notified of girl's action. Security of all participants is most important and practiced through established

American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State rules, policies and code of conduct.

## SELECTION of PARTICIPANTS

### Eligibility

Although Arizona Girls State is a program privately sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, eligibility to attend is not confined to daughters or relatives of The American Legion family, military dependents or former alumnae.

**A girl in the junior class of high school that meets the necessary qualifications and requirements is eligible TO BE CONSIDERED as a citizen of Arizona Girls State.**

The basic qualifications for Arizona Girls State selection are leadership, scholarship and community service. Selection should also be based on **character** and excellence in leadership, scholarship or extra-curricular activities and achievements.

**Girls State is strenuous, both physically and emotionally; therefore, the ability to adequately cope with these conditions should be seriously considered.**

### Qualification Requirements

- A junior (11<sup>th</sup> grade) who will complete her senior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining.
- May not have participated in a previous session of American Legion Auxiliary Girls State.
- Must be able to participate fully in all phases of the fast-paced program.
- Must remain for the entire session including the awards ceremony on Sunday morning.
- Should indicate an interest in government; be cooperative, and have the ability to follow directives and established rules
- **Must attend one of the orientations.**

- Notarized signature of parent or guardian on registration card. Signature of parent on medical form and media/bullying policy.
- **Required to report to her sponsoring Unit in writing or in person after attending.**
- Must provide own transportation to and from Arizona Girls State. Citizens driving cars to Arizona Girls State must turn their car keys into the Director and purchase a University of Arizona parking permit.
- **WILL NOT** be excused during the session or early for **testing, activities, appointments or classes.**
- The Director, prior to registration, must approve all special requests.

**The Board of Directors of American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State may accept or reject any application for Girls State participation.**

Since American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State is a privately funded/sponsored program receiving **NO** government funds, whose preamble states "For God and Country", citizens participate in flag ceremonies and show respect for non-denominational activity/prayer. **If a girl has a problem with these requests, maybe this is not the program for her.**

## Medical Requirements

**Medical information must be on file with Arizona Girls State Medical Personnel for each Delegate in case of illness or the need for emergency treatment.** Each girl will have a wellness check-up by a health care provider **within the 4 weeks prior to attending Girls State; the results recorded on the proper form and turned in at registration. Sports or other physical examinations not done within 4 weeks of the session are not acceptable.**

Appointment for the check-up can and should be made in advance.

A girl may not be admitted without this medical form and if not in good health at the time she presents herself for admission.

Precautions will be taken to avoid accidents or illness. There will be registered camp nurses on duty 24 hours a day. In case of illness, or need to be seen by the nurse, the parent/guardian and/or doctor will be contacted immediately. **Limited** sickness and accident insurance coverage is provided. Arizona Girls State, and University of Arizona waive all liability for any illness or injury.

### ACTIVITIES

Upon arrival each Delegate is a Citizen assigned to a mythical City, County and Political Party. There are four Counties, each composed of three Cities.

The Citizens are instructed in the duties of various public offices; learn the function of each office, its powers and limitations, including the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches. The citizens then nominate and elect the various City, County and State officials from their peers. **It is learning by doing.** Arizona Girls State conforms to the structure of state government as specified by Arizona's state constitution.

Campaigning, pictures, Glee Club, Talent Show, Newspaper/Yearbook and Pizza Party are some of the scheduled activities.

### GIRLS NATION

Climaxing the Arizona Girls State program is American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation. Arizona elects two Citizens to attend this program on the Federal government process. The two Citizens elected as Girls Nation Senators will attend a week-long trip to the Nation's Capital.

### REGISTRATION FEE

The fee is \$500 for the week of Girls State. This fee includes **2 shirts, meals, housing room and all educational materials.**

**NO ONE** on staff receives any compensation from this fee. Registration and the fee which is **non-refundable** must accompany each application and sent to Unit Sponsor or Penny Maklary, Director of Arizona Girls State before **March 1, 2026.** Registrations received after March 1st may be charged a late fee and subject to limited bed space. Alternates are used as delegate replacements when necessary and are vital to the program. All Units are responsible for extra requirements. **All checks should be made payable to the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY OR ARIZONA GIRLS STATE.**

### SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Samsung Scholarship information:  
**[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)**

Website...**[www.azgirlsstate.com](http://www.azgirlsstate.com)**