

 **AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

Arizona
Girls State

Dear School Principal/Guidance Counselor

The American Legion Auxiliary takes pleasure in presenting to you information about the 78^h Session of American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State to be held May 31-June 7, 2026 on the campus of the University of Arizona. We would like to call your attention to the part of the brochure that deals with eligibility, selection, and purpose of the program and request your assistance.

Girls State is privately sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and those assisting become contributors. **NO** government funds are given to the American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State program. If your school is assigned to a local Unit, they will be in contact with your representative to coordinate the selection and application process. If your school is not assigned to a local Unit for monetary assistance, please contact me or the Department Office of the American Legion Auxiliary for explanation of your responsibility for monetary assistance and inclusion in the program.

The American Legion Sponsors American Legion Arizona Boy State. The Legion and Auxiliary are **two** separate and distinct organizations. This might answer the question why we cannot send out the same information to promote our programs. The funding, requirements and cost for each program are different. Both programs are held at The University of Arizona, but each has their own requirements. Both programs have the same premise of citizenship education, but each are entities unto themselves. We thank you for helping us promote each program.

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State leadership development program is a week-long, 24/7 program for high school Junior girls who meet the requirements and qualifications for eligibility. It is this educational level which best suits the program. Qualifications are (1) Leadership, (2) Scholarship, (3) Character, (4) Co-operation, (5) Community and School Participation and Service. Girls must be willing and available to participate for the entire week. Girls **will not be excused** early, for classes, tests, and activities.

It is an **honor** and privilege to attend Girls State not a **right**. A girl selected has the option to decline the invitation if uncomfortable with the requirements and objectives/observances of the Girls State program **privately sponsored** by the American Legion Auxiliary. Girls State, by nature, is physically strenuous and emotionally challenging therefore, the ability to cope adequately with these conditions should be seriously considered. Girls selected to attend must agree to established rules, policies and requirements.

A Girls State citizen should be able to take back to her school and community an interest in and a sense of responsibility toward citizenship, that she is expected to gain by her attendance at Arizona Girls State. The enclosed information is for the counselor or faculty person in charge of this type of school activity. We ask that this information please be given to that person. We earnestly solicit your interest and assistance with our program.

Sincerely yours,

Penny Maklary

Penny Maklary...Director
520-364-5038 or 520-850-1951 [**alaazgirlsstate@gmail.com**](mailto:alaazgirlsstate@gmail.com)


**AMERICAN
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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 procedures 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 firsthand 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 May 31 – June 7, 2026, on the campus of the University of Arizona in Tucson. The cost for a girl to attend is \$500.00, 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 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
alaazgirlsstate@gmail.com



May 31-June 7, 2026

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona**

***Dolores Chavez
President***

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
ARIZONA GIRLS STATE COMMITTEE**

**Penny Maklary, Director
1354 12th Street
Douglas, Arizona 85607
Phone (520) 364-5038
alaazgirlsstate@gmail.com**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Alisha Matteson
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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 is a nonpartisan participatory program that teaches eligible high school females responsible citizenship. 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, ability to adequately cope with these conditions should be seriously considered.

Qualification Requirements

- A junior (11th 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 rule. **Must** attend one of the scheduled orientations.
- Notarized signature of parent /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 non-denominational activity/prayer. Respect should be given for those that choose to participate in these activities. **If a girl has a problem with respect or 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 3 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 3 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.

Precaution will be taken to avoid accidents and 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 waives all liability for any illness or injury.

ACTIVITIES

Upon arrival each Delegate is a Citizen assigned to a mythical City, County and Political Party.

The Citizens are instructed in the duties of various public offices; learn the function of each office, its powers and limitation, 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/Blog and Pizza Party are some of the scheduled activities.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 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 as well as insurance.**

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 checks should be made payable to the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY OR ARIZONA GIRLS STATE.**

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Samsung Scholarship information:

www.legion.org

Website...www.azgirlsstate.com

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.

AZ GIRLS STATE DELEGATE & ALTERNATE CHECKLIST



How to fill and sign a PDF form:

1. **Open a PDF document** in Adobe Acrobat or another app compatible with typing into a PDF.
2. Fill in the form fields and save.

If using an Adobe Reader or Acrobat product:

1. Click the “**Fill & Sign**” tool in the right pane.
2. **Fill out your form:**
Complete form filling by clicking a text field and typing or adding a text box. You can add checkmarks and fill in radio buttons too.
3. **Save as a new document, and**
4. **Send your form:**
After you have filled the form, you can share the PDF with others and even send to sign. To share the form, click Next and follow the instructions.



American Legion Auxiliary

Arizona

Girls State

Sponsored by The American Legion Auxiliary
Questionnaire Form 2026

I. Student Information

Name:

Date of Birth:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Student E-mail Address:

*Provide a personal email, not one from school.

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Shirt Size:

Name of High School You Attend:

Parent E-mail:

II. In Case of Emergency and Parent/Guardian Contact

Guardian A /
Father Name:

Cell Phone #:

Employer
Name:

Occupation:

Guardian B /
Mother Name:

Cell Phone #:

Employer
Name:

Occupation:

III. Personal Information / Preference Questions

Will you be able to attend the FULL SESSION of Arizona Girls State May 31-June 7, 2026?

Select One: Explain any NO
response:

Do you have any problems that would prevent you from FULL participation in the Girls State program? (Girls State necessitates long hours and long walks to classes and activities in the Arizona heat.)

Select One: Explain any YES
response:

Do you have any objections to sharing a dorm room or "rooming" with another girl during the session? Or, is there any reason why you would need a single room? (The roommate will not be from your school.)

Select One: Explain any YES
response:

Personal Information / Preference Questions, continued

Do you have any dietary restrictions or allergies that might impact your participation at Girls State? Please explain in detail. (i.e. Food allergies, Celiac, Vegetarian, Vegan, etc.)

What are your plans after high school?

Select one:

Explain:

Did any of your family members or relatives attend Girls or Boys State?

Select One:

If YES: Who? When?

Where?

Is/Are any family member/s currently/actively serving in the US Military?

Select One:

If YES: Whom? Branch?

(if known)

Are any family members Veterans who have served in the US Military?

Select One:

If YES: Whom? Branch?

(if known)

Which courses have you taken that will help you at Girls State (Ex: history, drama, government, public speaking, leadership training)?

List any scholastic/honorary awards and any extra-curricular activities in which you have participated (with date):

In 100 words or fewer, please explain why you believe you should be chosen to participate in the Arizona Girls State program. (Use an additional page and attach, if needed.)



ALA Girls State Participant Media Release
Permission to Use Photographs/Videos

Subject American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State

Location University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona

I grant to the American Legion Auxiliary, its representatives, and employees the right to take photographs and/or video of me and my property in connection with the above-identified subject. I authorize the American Legion Auxiliary, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree the American Legion Auxiliary may use such photographs/video of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including, for example, such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising and web-related content.

I have read and understand the above:

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Girls State

Policy on American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Social Networking, Media Use and Bullying

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people wants to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying is luring and holding a person against their will or for alternate purposes/motives to play a prank on them. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace: using e-mails, text messaging, instant messaging and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to persons being hurt during or after the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State session and be especially hurtful when persons are targeted with meanness and exclusion. At American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State **bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying.** Our position on bullying is based on our goal of providing the most outstanding, unique and coveted educational opportunity available to young women.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona recognizes and supports its American Legion Auxiliary Girls State participants' rights to freedom of speech, expression and association, including the use of online social networks. In this context, however each delegate must remember that participation in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is a privilege, not a right. As a delegate, you represent the American Legion Auxiliary and are expected to portray yourself, your school and the Auxiliary in a positive manner always. Any online postings must therefore be consistent with federal and state laws, University of Arizona rules and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State rules, regulations and policies (including the Guidelines listed below).

Guidelines

If you participate on a social networking site or use social media, you must keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Everything you post is public information--any text or photo posted online is completely out of your control the moment it is posted--even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters) may be accessible even after you remove it.
- Think before you post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it is wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed. Post only pictures and comments that you would be comfortable sharing with the public.
- Use caution when adding someone or inviting someone to be a friend (this includes The American Legion Boys State citizens).
- Limit information about your whereabouts and plans to minimize the potential of being stalked, assaulted or the victim of other criminal activity. Post about where you've been, not where you're going.

- What you post may affect your future. Many colleges' admissions officers and employers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments and posts).
- Like comments made in person, you should be respectful online. The American Legion Auxiliary will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online such as:
 - Derogatory or defamatory language and/or images.
 - Comments that create a danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
- Take the high ground. Don't pick fights or engage in fights online.
- Respect yourself; respect others; respect the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.
- No interaction on web sites for adults in any form. Immediate dismissal.

Monitoring and Consequences

The American Legion Auxiliary reserves the right to have American Legion Auxiliary Girls State staff members review and/or monitor delegates' social networking sites and postings.

Any violation of law or of the University of Arizona and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State's rules, regulations or policies or evidence of such violation in your online content, is subject to investigation and possible immediate censure by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State staff and/or law enforcement agencies. Internal consequences may include, but are not limited to, notice to remove the content and dismissal from the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

As an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State participant, I attest that I have read, understand and agree to abide by this policy: If I do not abide by this policy, I will be dismissed from the program and school notified.

Signature of Participant

Printed Name of Participant

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Responsible Adult if the above is a minor

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian/Responsible Adult

Date Signed: _____