**Oklahoma Girls State**

**Plan of Action**

 **Girls State: May 28-June 2, 2023**

**Committee Members: Jennifer Shaw, Chair**

**Natalie Wood**

**Jackie Crawford**

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

The Girls State Committee is excited about the 2023 ALA Oklahoma Girls State Program. Jennifer Shaw and Natalie Wood will serve as co-directors for the 2023 program, and Jackie Crawford will serve as an at-large committee member. Along with the committee, an advisory council of Girls State staff members, who are auxiliary members, will serve on this council. These members are invited to be on the advisory council in October.

ALA Oklahoma Girls State is excited to announce that we will host our 2023 session at Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Oklahoma.

**Program Overview**

American Legion Auxiliary Oklahoma Girls State is a premier program for young ladies across the state of Oklahoma. The ALA Oklahoma Girls State program will be held at Oklahoma Christian University on May 28 to June 2, 2023. Female high school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units for this program.

Candidates should be interested in government and current events and show strong leadership abilities. During this weeklong program, delegates create and operate city, county and state governments, while developing leadership skills and an appreciation of their rights as a citizen through interactive learning.

If your unit has not sponsored a delegate to Girls State in the past, or if you have any questions regarding the program, please email Natalie Wood at natalie.okgs@gmail.com

**Relevant Girls State Dates**

**Mid-October:** Registration information, including application procedures, will be sent to American Legion Auxiliary units

**December 2, 2022:** Requested allotment due on website (www.okgirlsstate.com)

**March 10, 2022:** Delegate selections should be completed, names and payment sent to Oklahoma Girls State Post Office Box (listed below)

**May 1, 2023:** Delegate registration must be completed

**The week of May 22, 2023:** ALA Oklahoma Girls State virtual delegate orientation

**May 29-June 2, 2023:** ALA Oklahoma Girls State, Oklahoma Christian University

**Delegate Fee**

The delegate fee is $275. An additional required fee of $20 is due from each delegate upon delegate registration.

**Unit Allotments and Information**

**Delegate Number Request:** You will receive a letter to your unit indicating the process and password that will be needed to request your 2023 delegate allotment. This will be due by December 2, 2022. The Committee will review all delegate requests and make the final allotment.

**Girls State Allotments:** Allotments notifications will be mailed by the second week of January 2022. We do not automatically assign the same number of delegates that your unit has always received. We do our best to give you the number of delegates that you have requested, but it is based on membership, size of the high schools, mandatory fees paid to the Department, the number requested by other units, and space available. You may be put on a waitlist for additional delegate requests. Please be patient. We are usually able to honor all requests but sometimes it is the last week before Girls State begins.

**Delegate Selection:** Please do not wait until the last minute to choose your delegates. The deadline for delegate selection and payment is **March 10, 2022**. If we have not received your information by this time, your spots will be reassigned to alternate units.

**Delegate Applications:** The registration process is streamlined. We will have information on how to register the delegates in the October packet. You must read and follow the directions in this packet.

**Cancellations:** If you choose not to use all of your allotment, it will not affect your ability to send delegates next year. Please email Natalie Wood as soon as possible in order to allow alternate delegates to be contacted. Reminder, we are unable to issue refunds.

**General Girls State Information**

**Website:** [www.okgirlsstate.com](http://www.okgirlsstate.com) Many questions may be answered at this website including, but not limited to, dress code, what to pack, and scholarship information.

**Scholarship opportunities:** There are two scholarships offered through the American Legion Auxiliary Oklahoma Girls State program. Be sure to promote these through your school counselors. Further details may be found on our website.

1) George Nigh Scholarship $200: For best written legislation.

2) Samsung Scholarship: approximately $1,000 (amount varies) state winner, competes nationally for larger scholarship.

**Oklahoma Girls State Delegate Information:** Starting on May 1, the Girls State Committee will begin communications with registered delegates. This will include: dress code, packing list, required paperwork, check-in details and additional information needed for the 2023 session.

**Oklahoma Girls State Checkout:** We will be holding a closing ceremony on Friday at 11:30 am for delegates and their families. Delegates will be ready for checkout by 12:30 pm on June 2, 2023.

**Girls State Schedule:** The daily schedule for Girls State is not published prior to the girls arrival. If your unit has any specific questions, please have them contact Natalie Wood at natalie.okgs@gmail.com

**Unsponsored schools:** Many schools do not have an American Legion Auxiliary unit, yet there are many deserving young ladies that would like to attend Girls State. A certain number of spots will be reserved for the Department unit. Applicants may submit an application to the Girls State Committee. The Committee will then review and select the attendees from these applications. The sponsorship fee will be the responsibility of the sponsoring school and/or chosen delegate.

**Contact**

Natalie Wood is the primary contact. Please note that Natalie works and has a young family, and will be as prompt as possible when returning any missed calls and emails.

Natalie Wood | Co-Director

918-290-0977

Natalie.okgs@gmail.com

**Girls State Selection Tips**

**Recruitment**

* It is recommended to contact the schools you are sponsoring in January to establish a relationship to help with recruiting delegates.
* Provide schools with your application process, the website and any materials available for you to download from the Girls State website.
* Set a deadline for applications that provides you with plenty of time to meet the deadlines outlined above.
* All delegates must have completed their junior year and be going into their senior year of high school.
* Consider reaching out to local community sponsors to fund your delegate fees.
	+ Please note if you do have outside sponsors they communicate directly with your unit and not the Girls State committee.
* Girls State is a patriotic, government program that emphasizes God and Country. There will be prayer and the Pledge to the Flag during each session. Delegates must participate

**Application Process**

* A sample application is available on the ALA Oklahoma Girls State website ([www.okgirlsstate](http://www.okgirlsstate).) You are not required to use this application but we have found it to be helpful.
* Some units choose to interview applicants to narrow down the selection, but please do what works best for your unit.
* Remember upon your selection, our delegates are a diverse group of young women, with a shared desire to learn and lead.
* Do not talk someone into going that does not want to be there. They usually end up going home or making their fellow citizens miserable.

**Additional FAQ**

* Each delegate must stay for the entire session. If a delegate leaves early, she will forfeit all rights to graduate as a Girls State citizen.
* Stay in touch with your delegate periodically and especially in the week or two prior to Girls State. This helps keep “no-shows” to a minimum and keeps your unit from losing their investment.
* The Girls State Committee will begin communicating the dress code, packing list, required paperwork, check-in details and additional information needed for the 2023 session with registered delegates the beginning of May.