



## ***2019-2020 Program Action Plan*** ***GIRLS STATE***

<b>Chairman</b> Jennifer Shaw Website address: <a href="http://www.okgirlsstate.com">www.okgirlsstate.com</a>	<b>Committee</b> Natalie Wood Cheyanne White
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**Girls State: May 24-May 29, 2020**

**Committee Members:** Jennifer Shaw, Chair  
Natalie Wood  
Cheyanne White

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

The Girls State Committee is excited about the 2020 ALA Oklahoma Girls State Program. Jennifer Shaw will serve as director for the 2020 program, Natalie Wood will serve as Assistant Director/Staff Coordinator, and Cheyanne White will serve as office administrator. Jennifer, Natalie, and Cheyanne attended the National ALA Girls State training program in September 2019. They plan to use the information received to continue to make our program one of the best in the nation.

The committee will have an advisory board again this year. We will have Girls State staff members who are auxiliary members on this committee. We hope this will help to disburse the workload and train new leaders to run the program in the future. These members will be invited to be on the advisory board in October.

### **Relevant Girls State Dates**

**Mid-October:** Will mail information to American Legion Auxiliary units

**November 22, 2019:** Requested allotment changes due back to Jennifer Shaw

**Second week of January 2020:** Will mail allotment notification, brochures, and GS application procedures to units

**March 28, 2020:** Delegate selections should be completed, names and payment sent to Jennifer Shaw

**May 1, 2020:** Delegate registration must be completed

**May 15, 2020:** Deadline for refunds for cancellation notifications

**May 24-May 29, 2020:** Oklahoma Girls State, University of Oklahoma



### Delegate Fee

A reminder the delegate fee increased to \$275 per girl.

### Unit Allotments and Information

**Delegate Number Request:** You will receive a letter to your unit indicating the number of girls sent in year 2019 and asking if you would like to change this number. If a change is requested you will be required to submit that request on or before November 22, 2020. The Committee will then review all delegate requests and make the final allotment.

**Girls State Allotments:** Allotments notifications will be mailed by the second week of January 2020. 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 Department, the number requested by other units, and space available. You may be put on a waiting list 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 28, 2020**. If we do not receive your information by this time those 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 January 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 notify Jennifer Shaw as soon as possible in order to allow alternate delegates to be contacted.

If a delegate is unable to attend and lets us know prior to May 15, 2020, your unit is eligible for a full refund of \$200 or your unit may send an alternate. If it is after May 15th, then your unit may send an alternate but is not eligible for a refund if they do not have an alternate.

All cancellations must be submitted in writing to [jenn.okgs@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.okgs@gmail.com).



### 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 \$1000 (amount varies) state winner, competes nationally for larger scholarship.

**Oklahoma Girls State Checkout:** We will be holding a closing ceremony on Friday afternoon and the delegates should be checking out by late afternoon on Friday.

**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 Jennifer Shaw at [jenn.okgs@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.okgs@gmail.com)

**Un-sponsored 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. **This opportunity will only be available to schools which do not have a sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary unit.**

### Contact

In an effort to simplify communication the committee has decided that we will have one primary contact. This will be Jennifer Shaw. Please note that Jennifer works during the day and out of respect for her employer she will not usually answer her phone during business hours. She will however try to return all calls/emails promptly.

Jennifer Shaw / Director  
3122 Walnut Rd  
Norman, OK 73072  
405-820-7884  
[jenn.okgs@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.okgs@gmail.com)



### GIRLS STATE ORIENTATION TIPS

- Holding an orientation for your delegates prior to Girls State helps them to know what to expect and improves the chances that they will arrive and stay at Girls State.
- Orientations should be held at your unit several weeks before Girls State. This allows delegates time to plan and pack accordingly. Also, if the delegate finds that Girls State is not what they expected, the unit has time to find an alternate.
- Encourage former delegates to come to orientation and share experiences.
- 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.
- **Each delegate must stay for the entire session. They may not leave and come back. Do not make promises contrary to this policy to any delegate. If a delegate leaves early, she will forfeit all rights to graduate as a Girls State citizen.**
- All delegates must have completed their junior year and be going into their senior year of high school.
- Delegates do NOT get to choose their roommates. We intentionally separate them from classmates to ensure fairness in elections, to prevent cliques, and encourage them to make new friends.
- Make sure your delegate knows who sponsored them...the American Legion Auxiliary. A business may have paid their registration fee, and while it is appropriate for the delegate to acknowledge that gift, but the American Legion Auxiliary Unit is the sponsor.
- Stay in touch with your delegate periodically and especially in the week or two prior to Girls State. This help keeps “no-shows” to a minimum and keeps your unit from losing their investment.
- Have alternates available...we’re always looking for fill-ins at the last minute.
- Feel free to work WITH your school counselors but do not let them choose the delegates FOR YOU.
- Do not blindly send the delegates you have not met to Girls State. Girls State is building leaders of tomorrow and they must be of high moral character.
- 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.



## ALA Girls State Reporting

### Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction.

Unit Mid-Year narrative reports due to Girls State Chairman - **December 21, 2019**

### Annual Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participant if award requirements are met.

Unit Annual narrative reports due to Girls State Chairman - **May 1, 2020**

### ***Special 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Program Facts:***

The first ALA Girls States were recorded as starting as early as 1938 and now is held annually in every state in the nation. The first ALA Girls Nation President elected was George Ann Hicks from little college town in Oklahoma and her dream was to have ALA Girls Nation be expanded to a Girls World, with girls from around the world attending. George Ann also recognized that would be difficult to do as ALA Girls Nation is structured after the U.S. form of government and other countries have different forms of government.