

Alabama Girls State

The Mission Statement of the Girls State Committee is:
"To provide an outstanding, unique, and coveted educational opportunity to the young women of our nation that instills the basic ideals and principals of American government through our Girls State and Girls Nation citizenship training programs."

It is a **WONDERFUL** program of our organization and it is our hope that every unit will participate by sponsoring a delegate or delegates. Information and applications are sent to each unit and to all Alabama's High Schools. It should be the goal of each unit to work with the local school to send the girls who will benefit the most from the program.

Selection and Orientation are the key!

Selection:

- 1) Only one (1) delegate should be selected from each school unless the junior class is larger than 200. Classes over 200 get 2 delegates and classes over 600 get 3.
- 2) To meet eligibility requirements, girls must have completed their junior year in high school, have an interest in government, high moral character, leadership ability, and above average grades.
- 3) Units should work with local school representatives early in the school year to explain our program and the selection criteria. Unit chairmen should be prepared to answer questions from school personnel. Work with school representatives to arrange some time to talk to the junior girls about the Girls State program. It is important that the schools understand that the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the Girls State program.

- 4) Don't say, "Our unit is too small. We can't afford to participate." Invite other civic and non-profit organizations to help with financing. They realize that the Girls State program is a worthwhile investment!

Orientation:

- 1) It is important that delegates are prepared and know what to expect prior to their arrival at their Girls State session.
- 2) Units sending several delegates, or several units in a certain area, should get the girls together for introductions and orientation.
- 3) Past delegates are usually the best ones to tell girls what to expect. They have "been there" and are able to advise and reassure about the wonderful experience that is awaiting the newly selected delegate.

Publicity and Public Relations are important, too

- 1) Make the public aware that the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the Girls State program.
- 2) Recognize delegates at some event upon their completion of the program. Have a tea or supper and invite them to speak. Some do this jointly with their Legion post and Boys State delegates. Publicize this event.
- 3) Recognize outside sponsors who have helped financially. Show them your appreciation!

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