

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

212 N. Verlinden Avenue Suite B · Lansing, MI 48915 · Phone (517) 267-8809 Ext. 19

Visit our website at: www.michalaux.org

TO: PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF THE 2017 GIRLS STATE DELEGATES:

Congratulations on your daughter's selection as a delegate to Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. The ALA Girls State program provides young women of high school age the opportunity to come together to study state, county and local government. It teaches them to understand that they are an integral part of the political process and helps them realize they have a responsibility to make tomorrow a better time, the world a better place, and that the job is up to them regardless of religious or political beliefs. It gives them the opportunity to live together under their own government, which is executed entirely by them, to deal with problems as they arise and to see the political process work effectively. **THE CITIZENS MUST REMAIN AT ALA GIRLS STATE FOR THE ENTIRE SESSION, JUNE 18 – JUNE 24, 2017. **THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS IF THERE IS A FAMILY EMERGENCY.** Attendees who leave the program before the Awards Ceremony on Saturday at 3:00 p.m., June 24th, **will not** be permitted to include their ALA Girls State experience on college or employment applications, or receive their Girls State Pin and Certificate of Completion for the program, unless pre-approved by contacting one of our Chairmen:**

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PLEASE NOTE: The first meal provided will be a light lunch on Sunday, about 1:00 p.m.

Please **carefully read all the information** that is available on our Department website: www.michalaux.org, click on Girls State, so you will be familiar with our program and rules. We would like to stress that this is a full, seven day session which can be physically, mentally and emotionally challenging. The program is structured as a very intensive learning situation and involves walking from the dorm to classrooms. If you or your daughter's physician feels she is unable to enter into the activities without ill effects, you should notify her sponsor, immediately.

Transportation to and from the program is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Delegates living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula can make arrangements to reserve a seat on the UP Bus. Delegates living in the upper portion of Lower Michigan, along the UP-Bus route, can also inquire regarding the possibility of riding the bus, providing space is available. The bus will be traveling from the UP to Grand Valley State University. If your daughter is in need of transportation, please contact Girls State Committee member, Diana Mella, at grandmadi6@yahoo.com, or 989-640-0109 to see if those arrangements can be made.

Please be advised that your daughter will be expected to pay for any linens, bedding, meal card, room key or shower room key, if not turned in to Michigan State University at checkout. The University applies this regulation to all organizations using its facilities.

Citizens may depart on Saturday, June 24th, following the Awards Ceremony which will end at approximately 4:30 p.m. Parents may attend this ceremony, however seating is very limited. It will be held in Wells Hall room B115 starting at 3:00 p.m. **No parent will be allowed to enter Shaw Hall prior to the Award Ceremony for early luggage pick up or any other reason.**

We recommend having your daughter look at the Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Government Manual, you can find that on our website www.michalaux.org, click on GIRLS STATE then click on *Girls State Manual 2015*. They will receive a copy of this manual when they arrive at Girls State, however, having a chance to study it prior to their arrival will assist them with the bar exam that is administered first thing Monday morning!

If your daughter is eligible to apply for the Samsung Scholarship please make sure all the rules for completing the form are followed. Lack of the proper signatures, information, and military discharge documentation for the relative they qualify under, will result in disqualification. **This scholarship application is now completed on-line, and must be submitted prior to arriving at Girls State.**

The American Legion Auxiliary is currently recruiting new members. Did you know if your daughter was eligible to apply for the Samsung Scholarship that she is eligible to join our organization? If she is eligible to join there may be additional members of your family that are also eligible to join the American Legion family. For your convenience we have included applications for the American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion, and the Sons of the American Legion. Additional information is available on www.michiganlegion.org and www.michalaux.org. We can help you locate an American Legion Post and/or Auxiliary Unit in your area. Check it out...are you eligible to join us in our mission to provide services to our Veterans?

We are looking forward to becoming acquainted with your daughter, and we know this experience will become a life-long memory for her.

The 2017 American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Committee