

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Girls[★]
STATE



ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

Developing leadership skills, confidence and action-based understanding of the governmental process gives young women a lasting foundation for personal and professional success.

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program in which Auxiliary members guide high school juniors to become patriotic, knowledgeable stewards of freedom and democracy.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- ★ Develops leadership and pride and an understanding of American traditions.
- ★ Educates citizens about our system of government.
- ★ Stimulates a desire to maintain democratic governmental processes within our republic.

For information on ALA Girls State, visit us at www.ALAforVeterans.org/ALA-Girls-State, or contact your local American Legion Auxiliary unit.

Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program

Celebrating 78 years of Developing Leaders

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls State program changes lives by bringing together dynamic young women for an intense week of leadership, patriotism and community. A fictional self-governing state of young ladies elect their own leaders, write bills for debate and run a legislative session.

Michigan's ALA Girls State program is currently recruiting female students who will complete their junior year of high school in May or June of 2018. We are seeking young women who have an above average scholastic standing, an interest in our governmental process, and a desire to get involved in their communities.

ALA Girls State Objective:

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State provides an opportunity for superior high school women to experience the “nitty gritty” of state governmental processes - the chance to live outside the text book. This program not only instills in its attendees a sense of pride and loyalty in America, but also prepares these women for a career in politics, public service, and excellence along their career path. It is the chance to plunge head-first into democracy, develop sharp leadership skills, and create the foundation for informed and responsible world citizenship.

We provide you with all the tools you need!

Don't let your students down by not getting the word out about this fantastic opportunity. Included in this brochure is a list of names and contact information for the Michigan ALA Girls State Committee; an ALA Girls State Poster to help boost awareness of our program, a reservation application for sponsoring organizations, a delegate application for students interested in attending to complete, and a number of helpful websites. All of this material can be duplicated and are available online at: www.michalaux.org, click on Girls State.

The Selection Process:

Selection of a delegate should be based on her interest in government, along with the important qualities of leadership, character, honesty, moral values, cooperation, and scholarship. Once you have collected names of perspective delegates, contact your local sponsoring organization so arrangements can be made to interview applicants. ALA Girls State is a premier program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, the world's largest women's patriotic organization. However, there are many organizations in your neighborhood that are willing to sponsor students such as The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders, Kiwanis, Lions Clubs, Women's groups, Rotary Clubs, law firms, and individuals including family members.

The cost to send one delegate to ALA Girls State is \$350 paid for by a sponsoring organization. The sponsor will also select one alternate for every paid delegate. **Every girl who wants to attend will be given that opportunity!** In past years, the ALA Girls State Committee has found sponsors for every available alternate. It is important to impress upon your candidates that all delegates are expected to participate in the **entire program** in order to receive their certificate of completion and ALA Girls State pin. Attendance at ALA Girls State is of value when applying for college, employment and military academies.

IT'S A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE, SELECT YOUR CANDIDATES NOW!

Where and When:

Michigan State University - - Shaw Hall

June 17 through June 23, 2018

A LITTLE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE HISTORY

The idea for “ALA Girls State” was first considered in 1937. Since 1948 it has been a regular part of our ALA’s better citizenship activity in all 50 of our United States.

Michigan’s program began in 1941, under the guidance of Mrs. Dorothy Pearl and Mrs. Edna Alber, at the University of Michigan, with 200 girls participating. Both of these “Grande Dames” are now deceased, but they live on in our program as Alber-Pearl County. Michigan is one of the few states which continued our program throughout the war years. We will hold our 78th session in 2018, on the campus of Michigan State University located in East Lansing, MI.

When the program began, the emphasis was on teaching young women to be better, more responsible homemakers, with classes in sewing, cooking, organizing., and just a little government and parliamentary procedure thrown in!

After W.W.II, priorities shifted, and our leaders felt it was necessary for our young women to become more aware of what was going on in our government. Therefore, our program shifted to a hands-on practice in running city, county, and state governments. The political arena of today’s Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls State includes 12 cities and 4 counties; the citizen’s very own **American Legion Auxiliary GIRLS STATE!**

WHAT WE ARE TODAY

Michigan’s ALA Girls State has come a long way since those early days. We continue to offer a premier, hands on, government simulation program, with continuous advancements in technology. Last year we had 325 paid reservations, 315 Delegates arrived at ALA Girls State on opening day, 312 registered to vote on Wednesday, and we ended the program with 312. We are striving to raise our number of Delegates to at least 350 for our 2018 session; you can help by sharing our information with potential sponsors!

In 2015 we retired our daily, hard copy newspaper *Politically Speaking*, and went digital! Our City Reporters can now blog, tweet, post horoscopes and their stories on the daily happenings at ALA Girls State. The Delegates utilize Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Google to report the news in real time, all under the guidance of Amber La Croix, a 1993 Michigan ALA Girls State alumni. Check us out at: <https://michigangirlsstate.wordpress.com/>.

Our registration process was also recently updated. Once ALA Girls State Delegates are selected by a sponsor they receive an instructional letter, and checklist . The Checklist gives a brief description of what they need to know, and directs them to our Department website where they can download the mandatory forms, and other important information. The delegates now register on-line directly with MSU at a cost to them of \$25 Alternates to the program receive a letter that encourages them to stay available and ready to attend as openings become available. Their sponsor will complete a registration form for them that is routed to Beryl Robbins along with their delegate application. The first 20 alternate forms Beryl receives are guaranteed a spot at ALA Girls State, so don’t delay! Last year we called in every available alternate! If they want to attend, we will get them there...don’t give up!

THE METHOD OF TEACHING USED IN THE PROGRAM

The basic method of teaching used at American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, by which we hope to achieve our goal, is actual participation in the political and governmental process, and build leadership skills.

The program is designed to allow every one of the citizens the right to participate in the electoral process, to run for and hold a public office and share in the formulation of public policy.

Participants have the opportunity to campaign and vote for their State Officers using real voting equipment. Two delegates from ALA Girls State are chosen to attend **ALA GIRLS NATION** as Senators from Michigan. This is a program very similar to ALA Girls State except it is based on the Federal level of government.

It is our hope that the “citizens” will leave ALA Girls State with a better understanding and appreciation for the American system of government, and that they will attempt to make government better by being more effective and responsible citizens of our United States of America.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

AMERICAN LEGION SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Samsung, a worldwide leader in electronics, endowed a scholarship fund of \$5,000,000 to be administered by the American Legion to show appreciation for our U.S. Veterans who aided in the efforts during the Korean War. Participants in ALA Girls State and AL Boys State, who are direct descendants of a wartime veteran, have the opportunity to win a scholarship. The award structure is: \$1,250 for Department finalists; \$5,000 for ten National runners-up, and \$10,000 for ten National scholars.

Applications will only be accepted on-line this year.

The application link is: <https://www.legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application>

Instructions and helpful hints are available on our Department website at: www.michalaux.org, click on Girls State.

Applicants must provide a Veterans Verification Document, such as a DD-214 (proof of honorable discharge) for the relative you qualify under. If you do not have this document available you can apply for a copy at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/index.html>, **please note it takes approximately six weeks to receive your documents!**

The relative you qualify under must have served during one of the periods noted below:

Persian Gulf War - Aug. 2, 1990 - Until cessation of hostilities Includes Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and War on Terrorism

World War I - Apr. 6, 1917 - Nov. 11, 1918

World War II - Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946

Korean War - June 25, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955

Lebanon/Grenada - Aug. 24, 1982 - Jul. 31, 1984

Panama - Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990

Vietnam War - Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

The Michigan American Legion Auxiliary supports high-education through our scholarship programs

2018 National Spirit of Youth Scholarship

Five scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each will be awarded in 2018

Must be a senior in High School and a Junior member of the ALA since 2015, and continued during the four-year scholarship period.

2018 National Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

Five scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2018

Must be a current member of the AL, ALA, SAL since 2016, and for calendar year 2018

2018 National Children of Warriors Scholarship

Fifteen scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each will be awarded in 2018

Must be in their Senior year of high school, and a descendent of a veteran during eligibility dates for membership in the AL

2018 Michigan Past Presidents Parley Medical Scholarship

Scholarships in the amount of \$500 to apply toward the expense of tuition for training men & women for medical careers for 1 year only.

Must be a descendent of a veteran during eligibility dates for membership in the AL, and a resident in the State of Michigan

2018 Michigan Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship of \$500 to apply toward the expenses at any school, college, or other educational institution in the State of Michigan

Must be a descendent of a veteran and a resident of the State of Michigan

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION VISIT: www.michalaux.org/scholarships

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest"

The American Legion Oratorical contests are **held yearly** and can be financially as well as educationally rewarding. High School students who are U. S. citizens or lawful residents can hone their speaking skills, while learning about the U.S. Constitution. Department level scholarship awards range from \$800 to \$1500, with Zone runners-up receiving \$200. At the National level they range from \$14,000 to \$18,000.

Registration form and information sheet is available on their website at: www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical

ATTENTION SPONSORS: Encourage your 2018 Delegates to register in November of 2018!

A contestant must register with their American Legion, Department of Michigan in November 2018. A Zone Chairman will notify American Legion Posts of the dates, times and locations of all contests at the District and Zone level. All Zone contests will be conducted in January 2019, and the Department contest will be conducted in February 2019. Nationals will be held in April 2019.

Most American Legion Posts have information available and interested students should contact their local American Legion Post and let them know they are interested, and seeking a sponsor. If there is not an American Legion Post in your area contact the Department Programs Coordinator for more information by e-mail at: legion@michiganlegion.org (click on Programs, then Scholarship Programs), or call 517-371-4720 ext. 23.

Quotes from our 2017 Citizens: "Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend Girls State. It was an experience of a lifetime! One I will never forget." **Kathryn Cornett** "Girls State was many things for me: it was an opportunity to learn, grow and lead, as well as to make new friends and connections." **Amanda Vallillee** "I cannot put into words how grateful I am for the opportunity you granted me. This was a week that will never evade my mind or future conversations. I found a power in the fact that I am a woman conquering a week of... well it's not "Girls State" that I conquered. I conquered my public speaking fear. I conquered my fear of coming off as "too aggressive or strict" when being a leader. I conquered meeting new girls that had no clue I existed before this. These are life skills that I will hold near and dear for the rest of my life." **Jacqueline Waizani** "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for sponsoring me to attend the 2017 Michigan Girls State. I had the time of my life and made friends that will last forever." **Delaney Alward**

Need assistance finding a candidate? Have any questions? Call a Committee Member!

YOUR 2017-2018 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE COMMITTEE

BERYL ROBBINS, CHAIRMAN

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RESERVATION APPLICATION

The **Seventy-eighth** session of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls State will be held on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

June 17 through June 23, 2018

Mail this **entire reservation form** and **check** to the Department ALA office at the address above.

Receipt of this reservation form and the \$350 fee guarantees your reservation(s). You will be mailed one delegate registration letter and checklist, along with one alternate letter and their registration form, for each paid reservation. **Please make sure you get the letter and checklist to your Delegate as soon as you make your selection! It is very important that you recruit an alternate for each delegate, and make sure she receives her alternate letter. It will be the sponsor's responsibility to route the alternate's application and completed registration form to Beryl Robbins at 14683 Shenandoah Dr., Riverview, MI 48193, or berylrobbins@comcast.net.**

THIS YEAR: If you choose to pay in advance for the t-shirt(s) for your delegate(s), please complete the order form below and include that expense on your reservation check. We also added the option for you to make a donation to our program that will help sponsor our alternates. If you include a donation with this form, we will combine it with other donations to send alternates to Girls State.

Number of Girls Sponsored: _____ x \$350 per girl \$ _____
Number of Shirt Orders: _____ x \$10 per shirt \$ _____
Donation to ALA Girls State: \$ _____

Make check payable to: **ALA, Department of Michigan** (Memo line: Girls State)
Enclosed is check no. _____ for the total amount of \$ _____

DO NOT INCLUDE SPENDING MONEY FOR YOUR DELEGATE, OR THEIR \$25 REGISTRATION FEE ON YOUR CHECK/RESERVATION FORM! Those arrangements must be made directly with your Delegate(s).

Please provide **ALL** information below for the individual you want to receive the delegate/alternate information.

Sponsoring Organization _____

City _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-Mail _____

**Got the funds, but can't find a Girls State Delegate? Contact us for the name of an alternate.
Beryl Robbins: berylrobbins@comcast.net or 313.318.6845; Rysta Brown: rvstab@hotmail.com or 989-739-1360**



DELEGATE APPLICATION

June 17- June 23, 2018 at MSU

www.michalaux.org



Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender* (circle one): F / M

* The ALA Girls State leadership development program is a weeklong 24/7 program for high school junior girls. Participation is limited to females, as evidenced by her birth certificate or a sworn statement signed by a licensed medical doctor.

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

School: _____ Legal inhabitant of U.S.? Yes ___ No ___

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ Grade: _____

Name(s) of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian address: _____

Parent/Guardian Daytime/Evening phone number(s): _____

Please list or describe (attach additional pages if needed):

1. Applicant, please provide a brief bio of yourself, including
 - a. school activities
 - b. outside school interests/hobbies
 - c. awards received in school/community
 - d. work and/or volunteer experience

2. Is any family member currently serving in the military?
 - a. If so, who? _____
 - b. Relationship to applicant _____

3. Are you a direct descendant of a veteran: Yes ___ No ___
 - a. Relationship _____

4. Are you considering a military career? Yes ___ No ___

5. Have you, or do you plan to apply to any of the U.S. Military Academies? Yes ___ No ___

6. What are your future goals:

7. Why do you think you would be a good candidate to represent your community at ALA Girls State?

8. Do you know anyone who has attended ALA Girls State or TAL Boys State; if so, who?

9. Does anyone in your family belong to The American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary; if so, what Post or Unit?

Section 2 – Applicant Eligibility Verification

Eligibility to participate in ALA Girls State

High school girls eligible to participate in the ALA Girls State/Girls Nation programs must have completed their Junior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining, be a United States citizen or legal inhabitant of the United States as evidenced by a current and/or valid birth certificate, visa, passport, Green Card or other United States government-issued documentation verifying a legal presence in the United States for at least the duration of the ALA Girls State/Girls Nation program.

Applicant Health Information

I certify that a completed medical form (available at www.michalaux.org, click on Girls State) will be completed and turned in on registration day, and if one is not provided, she will not be allowed to take part in ALA Girls State.

Eligibility to participate in ALA Girls Nation

*For any girl to be eligible to take part in the **ALA Girls Nation** program, she must be able to clear a background check by the United States government, the White House and the U.S. Secret Service.*

Eligibility to Serve in an Elected Office

The purpose of the ALA Girls State program is to provide a nonpartisan participatory program that teaches eligible high school females responsible citizenship grounded in ethics, the principles of our nation's founders and respect for God and Country. For consistency among the 50 states presenting ALA Girls State programs, each program should conform to the structure of its corresponding state government as specified by its state constitution. ALA Girls Nation is modeled after the provisions in the United States Constitution.

Documentation Requirements

I attest that my daughter (ward) has a U.S. government-issued birth certificate or legal documentation of her legal presence in the United States provided by the U.S. government (e.g. visa, Green Card, passport).

We both certify that the answer to each question above is correct, and verify that we have read and understand the applicant eligibility requirements.

Applicant's Signature

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Dated:

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR SPONSOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

NOTE TO APPLICANTS: If you are chosen to attend ALA Girls State you will be responsible for paying a \$25 fee to register online with MSU. Your sponsor, who pays the reservation cost of \$350 for you to attend, will make sure you receive your delegate letter (needed in order to register with MSU), and a checklist that contains important information needed before registering and attending. Please retain a record of who your sponsor is, and their contact information so you stay in touch with them! **Students/Counselors/Parents:** If you have questions or need assistance in locating a sponsor, please contact Beryl Robbins at berylrobbins@comcast.net or Rysta Brown at rystab@hotmail.com.