



ALA GIRLS STATE GUIDE

2021 - 2022

The 81st session of Michigan's American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 2022 will begin on Sunday morning, June 12, 2022 and ends on Saturday afternoon, June 18, 2022 on the beautiful campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing.

The American Legion Auxiliary has provided a unique citizenship educational opportunity for America's female high school juniors for over 80 years. The program has grown from a few hundred participants to over 25,000 annually. Additional program information, including ALA Girls State Posters are available on the National ALA website www.ALAforVeterans.org.

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN ALA GIRLS STATE COMMITTEE

SPECIAL ALA GIRLS STATE EMAIL ADDRESS: alamigirlsstate@gmail.com
(Please use this email address for all inquiries directed to Beryl or Rysta)

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PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

Let's make our 81st year a memorable one!

DONATION AWARDS PROGRAM:

Award certificates will be given at the 2022 Fall Conference for cash donations (not sponsorships) over \$50.00 that are made to the Michigan ALA Girls State general fund for the 2021-2022 fiscal period.

- Please make sure to **make the check payable to “American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of MI.**
- On the memo line, **indicate it is earmarked for “ALA Girls State”**
- **Mail your donations to Department Headquarters:** 212 N. Verlinden Street, Suite B, Lansing, MI 48915.

DISTRICT AND UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ALA GIRLS STATE PROGRAM

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN:

- **PLEASE contact Chairman, Beryl Robbins, with your name and contact information and the names and contact information of the Unit Chairmen from your District.**
- Maintain a copy of the ALA Girls State materials available for copying at all times.
- Handle requests for information from the Units in their District.
- Reach out to each Unit Chairman in their District to make sure they have the necessary materials available to contact local schools.
- Contact the ALA Girls State Committee for a list of delegates from your District with their names and contact information. Plan an Orientation and send an invitation to those Delegates and encourage them to bring their parent(s) or guardian.
- Invite school counselors and other sponsoring organizations in your area to the Orientation.
- Present a motion at your District meeting to sponsor a delegate to ALA Girls State.

UNIT PRESIDENTS:

- **Make sure your Unit’s ALA Girls State Chairman receives this guide, the reservation form, delegate application, and the flyer that is mailed to all the schools.**
- Remind your ALA Girls State Chairman that the Department website is updated regularly and contains information on the upcoming session and Scholarship opportunities. **They will need all of these tools to do their job!**

UNIT CHAIRMEN:

- **Read your materials! Everything you need is available in this guide and posted on the Department’s website at www.michalaux.org click on Girls State.**
- Present a motion at a Unit meeting to sponsor Delegates to ALA Girls State!
- Contact your local high school(s) counseling department, or Principal now! Contact Beryl Robbins who has a complete listing of every high school in Michigan. They are very responsive to online contact.

- When emailing schools, attach the ALA Girls State flyer and the Delegate Application and make sure they have your name and contact information. Make certain they understand what the program is about, the type of girl we are looking for, who pays the fees, and the deadlines.
- **Select only those students that can commit to attending the entire program.**
- Convey the importance and excitement of the program to potential delegates.
- **Make sure your applicants understand that the American Legion Auxiliary stands for God, Country and Diversity.** Delegates can participate without conflict with their own beliefs, as long as they show respect the Auxiliary's commitments, program requirements, and our American flag.

Candidates do NOT need to be the descendent of a veteran or an American Legion Auxiliary Member to attend ALA Girls State.

TIPS FOR SELECTING YOUR DELEGATE(S):

When making your selection(s), you should be looking for the following attributes:

- Must be a female junior (11th grader) who will complete her junior year of high school in 2022.
- Must be a legal inhabitant of the U.S. (a U.S. Citizen or Legal Inhabitant of the U.S.)
- You should interview your candidates. **MAKE SURE THEY WANT TO ATTEND.**
- Important that they have an interest in the government process and leadership abilities.
- Important qualities to look for are character, honesty, good scholastic achievement, high moral values, and intellectual curiosity.
- Enthusiasm for the program. **THE DESIRE TO GET INVOLVED.**
- Fitness, as the program is a seven-day program that can be physically and mentally challenging. When running for any office, there are speeches to make, reference work to be done, campaigning, lots of walking, and long days. ALA Girls State is a high-energy program!
- Please keep in mind that if a delegate is physically, visually, or hearing impaired and needs assistance to fully participate in the program, the contributing group must furnish a full-time female aide to assist the delegate. This aide must be 21 to 30 years of age and, preferably, someone other than a family member. The contributing group will be responsible for all expenses for the aide, including conference fees, meals and lodging. The aide must be approved by the ALA Girls State Committee.
- Participation in community, school and church activities are a plus when applying for the Samsung Scholarship!
- Make certain that each candidate knows and understands that THIS IS NOT A SUMMER SPORTS CAMP, but an interactive government simulation & leadership program that will require her to participate in learning the governmental process. In addition to learning, she will experience fellowship and friendships that will last a lifetime.

DELEGATE REGISTRATION WITH CAMPDOC:

- **THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS APRIL 30, 2022.**
- Your Delegates will be required to register with CampDoc immediately after receiving their delegate letter that will contain complete instructions. The cost to them is \$30, and they will be required to provide contact information, the name of their sponsor and reservation number. They will also provide medical history, insurance information and immunization records. Mandatory forms such as the parental consent form and loyalty pledge are also available in CampDoc.

ORIENTATIONS:

- **PLAN AHEAD!** It's the goal of the ALA Girls State Committee to have every ALA GIRLS STATE DELEGATE attend an orientation. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is very beneficial to them. ALA Girls State Committee members are available to assist you with your orientations. You are encouraged to invite them to speak at your orientation to ensure that everyone is receiving correct, up to date information.
- When you set your date, take into consideration spring breaks, special activities of the schools in your District; including, proms, musicals, plays, major sports events, etc., to assure the best attendance for your orientation.
- If you contact us, we will do everything in our power to have one of our six committee members available for your orientation. In Districts with large numbers of delegates, we are willing to do more than one orientation. In fact, we encourage you to hold more than one. If your delegates are unable to attend on the day you have chosen, perhaps they can attend on another date, or make plans to attend an orientation in another district.
- Extend an invitation to Unit members, city officials, your school counselors, the history or social studies teachers and any potential sponsors.
- Make sure you notify the ALA Girls State Chairman with the date, time and location of your District's Orientation. This schedule will be posted on the ALA Girls State page of the Department's website: www.michalaux.org. If you have girls that can't attend yours, encourage them to check the Orientation calendar for one they are available to attend. **Informed ALA Girls State delegates and alternates make better ALA Girls State citizens!**
- Don't be too extravagant with your ALA Girls State orientation/tea. Punch and cookies or snacks on the tables is sufficient.
- **NOTE:** Many times, delegates sponsored by associate sponsors, are not included on orientation invitation lists. **Make sure you contact Beryl Robbins to get the names of all delegates from your district. *These girls need the orientation information too.***

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOUR DELEGATES MAY ASK:

- **ALL Smoking is prohibited** by MSU in accordance with their written policy.
- **Students from the same school or home town are not assigned to room together, and cannot make special requests to be housed in the same room as a friend.**
- MSU will more than likely enforce mandates such as placing each delegate in their own room, face masks, and proof of vaccination. We will provide details once MSU updates us on their policies.

- Delegates must bring their own spending money, toiletries, washcloths, hair dryer, watch, radio, alarm clock, calculator, fan, rain coat, and sweater or jacket. Their cell phone probably covers some of these items now. Wireless service is available in most MSU halls now.
- Casual clothing (shorts & jeans) is acceptable. **NO short shorts, or skimpy tops are allowed.**
- Dresses, skirt and blouse, or nice slacks and blouse are required for the opening session, Wednesday city photos, and Saturday's closing awards ceremony. **No jeans for these events please.**
- Comfortable walking shoes are a must! While flip flops are acceptable, remind them of the ten-minute walk multiple times a day to a hall where their classroom activities take place.
- Laptop computers or tablets are not mandatory, but can be beneficial for research projects. They will have access to a computer room during the day for these projects.
- Spending money can be useful for vending machines, ALA Girls State Merchandise Store, a trip to the MSU dairy store, or the MSU Book Store
- We have an ALA Girls State Bank that is open at registration and available daily during the lunch and dinner hours. Delegates are encouraged to bank their money to avoid loss or theft.
- ALA Girls State Staff and/or MSU **IS NOT** responsible for the loss of money that is not banked, lost jewelry, the loss or damage to laptops, and other electronic devices they choose to bring.

PUBLICIZE THE ALA GIRLS STATE PROGRAM:

- Mention the American Legion Auxiliary whenever possible in the interviews, literature and discussions in connection with ALA Girls State to increase the awareness of our program.
- Contact your school and ask them to post a notice on their message board, or school radio program.
- Contact local newspapers and cable television stations to see if you can submit an article, or a public service announcement. Some cable programs offer to tape an interview with you, or an ALA Girls State counselor or your delegate from a previous year.
- There are sample press releases available on National website for your use in recruiting students and associate sponsors in your communities.
- Press releases and pictures should be given to the media upon selection of your delegates. Make sure you include "Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls State", your name, address and phone number in addition to the Unit name and location.
- Submit another press release when your delegate returns home from her week at ALA Girls State. Include a picture, her name, hometown name, sponsor information, a quote about her experience and activities she participated in at ALA Girls State.
- If one of your delegates is selected to attend ALA Girls Nation, or is awarded the Samsung Scholarship, make sure you contact your local newspaper! This is HUGE news!
- **Reach out to civic and non-profit organizations and encourage them to sponsor a student, or make a donation. Most are willing to help financially, recognizing that the ALA Girls State program is known nation-wide. Once again, contact them early in the fall when they are planning their budgets.**

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP:

- Every eligible ALA Girls State citizen is encouraged to apply for this financial assistance. **Applicants for this scholarship must be a descendant of a U.S. wartime veteran.** Each Department selects one winner, in accordance with the foundation rules. Her application is forwarded to the National headquarters of The American Legion. Ten National scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region), Ten National runners-up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region), and the remaining Department finalists receive \$1,250 each. Make sure you tell them to **follow the rules** set by the Samsung Scholarship Foundation. Information for this scholarship, the application and criteria can be found at: www.michalaux.org, www.ALForVeterans.org or www.legion.org. **The form is now completed and submitted by the student on-line with a completion deadline of midnight, June 12, 2022, although highly recommended that they complete it prior to arriving at ALA Girls State!** They will not have time to work on it once they arrive. The submitted scholarships are judged on-line by ALA Girls State volunteers. Our department winner will receive a framed award certificate at the closing ceremony. The national results are not announced until mid-October.

GIRLS NATION:

- Two delegates will be selected to represent Michigan as “Senators” to ALA Girls Nation, a similar program based on our federal system of government. Candidates are recommended by the ALA Girls State Government Staff and selected through an interview process. ALA Girls Nation will be held in late July, 2022 at the William Bolger Conference Center in Potomac, Maryland and at various venues in Washington, D.C.