

TO: All Upper Peninsula American Legion Posts, American Legion Auxiliary Units and S.A.L Squadrons

FROM: John M. Mella, Past American Legion State Commander, Post 50, Iron Mountain

SUBJECT: Transportation for 2026 Girls State Attendees ONLY

I have again contracted a motor coach to transport the Upper Peninsula students who are attending the 2026 Girls State program. This will be a 56-passenger motor coach from Jag Motorcoach Company, Gladwin, Michigan. I am currently employed by this company as a motor coach operator. To keep costs down, I am volunteering my time to transport the students to and from Michigan Girls State. My wife, Diana, is volunteering her time to assist me during the trip to Girls State.

The dates of the 2026 Michigan Girls State program are **June 14th - 20th, 2026**. The transportation cost per student is **\$150.00**.

Please make **checks payable** to: **Jag Motorcoach** and mail them by June 5, 2026 to: John M. Mella, 1571 W. Ridge Road, Gladwin, MI 48624. **Be sure to include, with your payment, the name(s) and phone number(s) of the student(s) you are paying for. Also, indicate the location where they will be picked up, so I can make a roster of who is to be picked up at each scheduled stop.**

Post/Unit/Squadron: It is your responsibility to see that each Michigan Girls State attendees receive a copy of this schedule!

Please note that all times are approximate, but we hope to stay very close to the following schedule.

BUS SCHEDULE TO PICK UP STUDENTS FOR MICHIGAN GIRLS STATE

All times are EASTERN STANDARD TIME

June 13, 2026 ~ SATURDAY

11:00 am Bus arrives at Island Casino, Harris, MI. Will be in casino rear parking lot.

11:30 am Bus leaves the casino parking lot

12:00 pm (noon) Bus arrives at Circle K gas station, corner of US-2 and US-41, Rapid River

12:15 pm Bus leaves Circle K parking lot

1:00 pm Bus arrives at the BP gas station, 1038 W Lakeshore Dr, Manistique

1:15 pm Bus leaves the parking lot

2:00 pm Bus arrives at the MI Carpool Lot, at the junction of M-117 and US-2, (south of Engadine)

2:15 pm Bus leaves the carpool lot

3:15 pm Bus arrives at the McDonald's Restaurant parking lot, 928 US-2, St. Ignace

3:30 pm Bus leaves the parking lot

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm Bus arrives at Michigan State University, Snyder/Philips Hall, 361 Physics Road,
East Lansing

7:15 pm Drive back to bus terminal, Gladwin

**MICHIGAN BOYS STATE WILL BE HELD AT HILLSDALE COLLEGE FROM JUNE 21st – 27th, 2026.
TRANSPORTATION PLANS FOR MI BOYS STATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.**

BUS SCHEDULE TO RETURN STUDENTS FROM GIRLS STATE

All times are EASTERN STANDARD TIME

NOTE: Students will be dropped off at the same locations where they were picked up, unless other arrangements are made in advance with the return trip driver, Darren Haines (989-302-2161).

June 20, 2026 ~ Saturday

4:30 pm Pick up the girls at MSU, Snyder/Philips, 361 Physics Rd, East Lansing
8:45 pm Arrive at the McDonald's Restaurant parking lot, located at 928 US-2, St Ignace
9:00 pm Bus leaves the parking lot
10:00 pm Arrive at the MI Carpool Lot, at the junction of M-117 and US-2, south of Engadine
10:15 pm Bus leaves the parking lot
11:00 pm Arrive at the BP gas station, located at 1038 W Lakeshore Dr, Manistique
11:15 pm Bus leaves the parking lot

It is now June 21, 2026 ~ Sunday

12:01 am **(One minute after MIDNIGHT, late Saturday night into early Sunday!)**
Bus arrives at the Circle K gas station, corner of US-2 and US-41, Rapid River
12:15 am Bus leaves the parking lot
12:45 am Bus arrives at Island Casino, Harris, MI

*******PLEASE NOTE*******

Because all times are approximate, please plan to arrive at each pick up location at least 15 minutes early. The same applies for parents who are picking up the students on the return trip. That way, if we are running early, we will have the option to continue without waiting. Also, we will leave each location **exactly** on time. ***If you are not at your scheduled pick-up location by the scheduled leave time, we will continue to the next location.*** If you arrive too late to be picked up at your scheduled location, you can travel on to the next pick-up location. Anyone who misses their scheduled pick-up is responsible for their own transportation to Boys/Girls State.

All fees paid for transportation are non-refundable.

CONTACTS:

John M. Mella (Organizer and driver) 906-774-0538

Diana Mella (Assistant/Chaperone) 989-640-0109

Beryl Robbins (Chairman, Michigan Girls State Program) 313-318-6845

ADDITIONAL STOPS AVAILABLE ALONG LOWER MICHIGAN ROUTE WITH ADVANCE NOTICE

If you would like to be picked up or dropped off in Lower Michigan along the route, you must make prior arrangements with the driver, John M. Mella. The cost to ride the bus will be determined at that time.

The route downstate from the Upper Peninsula is I-75 south, to 127 south, to MSU.
The return route is from MSU, to 127 north, to I-75 north to US-2 in the Upper Peninsula.