

## WHAT TO BRING

- ★ Clothes (Dress code is business casual - see website for more information)
- ★ Comfortable shoes
- ★ Jacket/light layers
- ★ Toiletry items (Soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, makeup, etc.)
- ★ Towel
- ★ Camera
- ★ Water bottle
- ★ Money
- ★ Pens/pencils
- ★ Notebook
- ★ Handbag/tote bag/backpack
- ★ Medications
- ★ Sunglasses and/or glasses
- ★ Clothes hangers
- ★ Snacks (Optional - meals are provided)
- ★ Blanket/pillow (Optional - pillow and basic bedding provided)
- ★ SIGNED PLEDGE SHEET!

See website for more details.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & COLLEGE CREDIT

The American Legion Auxiliary offers scholarship opportunities. The Samsung scholarship offers descendants of veterans a chance to compete for a nationwide scholarship. One winner is selected from the applicants of the ALA Evergreen Girls State Samsung scholarship pool and she will then be entered into the nationwide scholarship competition among winners from the other ALA Girls State programs. The Samsung scholarship application is due prior to arrival on campus. Other scholarship opportunities will be available during ALA Evergreen Girls State.

As a participant of ALA Evergreen Girls State you have the opportunity to earn 6 college credits. Additional information is available on the Evergreen Girls State website and will be distributed to all attendees during the session.



## MUSIC AND TALENT

Girls are invited to perform at ALA Evergreen Girls State. All performances are coordinated through an informal audition process conducted during registration at Girls State. Bring your instrument, sheet music, costume, or any other item you might need for your performance (besides a piano which will be provided). See the website for more details.

## GRADUATION

Girls who actively participate and complete the full course of instruction will earn a certificate of achievement which will be presented during the formal graduation ceremony. Parents, relatives, friends and sponsoring units are invited to attend the ALA Evergreen Girls State graduation ceremony which takes place Friday evening. However, if citizens' families attend graduation, the citizens are still expected to remain on campus until Saturday morning when the ALA Evergreen Girls State program concludes.

Girls who do not participate fully or who, in the opinion of the staff, do not complete the training or violate the rules, will not be allowed to graduate. Sponsoring ALA units, parents, and schools will be notified of girls failing to successfully complete the program.

All citizens will be expected to report to their schools and their sponsoring organizations about their ALA Evergreen Girls State experience.

## ADMINISTRATION

This program is developed by the American Legion Auxiliary through the Evergreen Girls State Committee.

The staff of Evergreen Girls State is comprised of American Legion Auxiliary members and former Girls State citizens who supervise, guide and assist the citizens through the session. These women, along with other American Legion Auxiliary women throughout the state, volunteer their time and talents all year long for the purpose of educating young women in the workings of our government and the importance of being an informed and patriotic American citizen.

A registered nurse is in attendance throughout the session. Medical assistance is provided for those who may become ill or injured during the course of the session.



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Washington  
P.O. Box 5867  
Lacey, WA 98509  
P: (360) 456-5995  
[www.EvergreenGirlsState.com](http://www.EvergreenGirlsState.com)  
[info@EvergreenGirlsState.com](mailto:info@EvergreenGirlsState.com)



© American Legion Auxiliary Department of Washington  
All rights reserved. 07/2019



# American Legion Auxiliary

Inspirational, Educational,  
Life-Changing and Fun

Evergreen Girls State



In the Spirit of Service Not Self  
for Veterans, God and Country

## WHAT IS ALA EVERGREEN GIRLS STATE?

The American Legion Auxiliary's (ALA) marquee Girls State program, first presented in 1937, is one of the most respected and coveted experiential learning programs presented in the United States. The program epitomizes the ALA's mission to honor veterans through our enduring commitment to develop young women as future leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism. The young women become knowledgeable in the democratic process and how our republic form of government works at the local, state and national levels.

Each summer, approximately 20,000 young women participate in weeklong ALA Girls State programs across the nation. Every ALA Girls State program operates with the same patriotic values through a nonpartisan curriculum where students assume the roles of government leaders.



## PROGRAM PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

ALA Evergreen Girls State allows girls a unique opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens and informs them about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. Through hands-on participation, citizens will better understand the function of their government and how to be informed and patriotic citizens.

The ALA Evergreen Girls State program:

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

## ALA GIRLS NATION

Since 1947, more than 6,000 politically astute young women have attended ALA Girls Nation in Washington D.C., gaining a firsthand glimpse of the inner workings of federal government and a chance to experience civics and American government outside the textbook. Every year, two girls are selected from each ALA Girls State program to attend ALA Girls Nation, an additional weeklong learning experience in federal governance, leadership development and American heritage. As Girls Nation "senators" they campaign for political office, craft and debate the passage of legislation and meet with their real-life counterparts on Capitol Hill.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

There are nine cities, three counties, and two political parties that make up ALA Evergreen Girls State. Each girl is assigned to a city and to a political party prior to arrival. ALA Evergreen Girls State teaches the two-party political system using mock parties: the Nationalist and Federalist party. Citizens organize their political parties and develop their own party platforms to decide what their parties stand for. Political parties are organized at the city precinct level and continue through county and state conventions.

Every citizen has a part in the operation of her city. The citizens of each city elect their officials and set up their government. Each city is also tasked with solving their assigned city problem. The mayor or city manager of each city will present the solution to the city problem to the Governor's cabinet at the end of the week.

Two girls will be elected United States Senators to represent Evergreen Girls State at Girls Nation in Washington D.C. in July. These U.S. Senators and the Girls State Governor will have additional responsibilities following the end of the session.

The ALA Evergreen Girls State Legislature is organized upon the principles of Washington State Legislature. Bills are introduced and, by legislative process, defeated or enacted into law. Procedures are conducted according to Reed's parliamentary rules and laws of the State of Washington. Throughout the week, real-life city, county and state officials come to Girls State to share their knowledge about government.

The flag is raised each morning, presented at all assemblies, and lowered each evening. The girls will be taught how to show proper respect for the American Flag. Grace will be given before each meal and invocation before each assembly.

Upon arrival, citizens receive Guidebooks listing time and location of each activity and other information pertinent to the program. Each girl will be shown to her assigned city's dormitory to meet her Counselor and Junior Counselor.

Girls State girls will participate in:

- ★ Elections
- ★ City, county, and state mock sessions
- ★ Mock trials
- ★ Legislative proceedings
- ★ Americanism activities (Flag raising/lowering, POW/MIA ceremony, Blue Star Banners, etc.)
- ★ City competitions (fast song, city problems)
- ★ Guest speakers

Complete instructions will be mailed to the girls prior to leaving home for ALA Evergreen Girls State and will be made available on the website. These materials will help them prepare for a successful week. The information will include program rules, study aids, and a list of what to bring.



## ELIGIBILITY

High school female students eligible to participate must:

- ★ Have completed their junior year in high school
- ★ Be keenly interested in government and current events
- ★ Have high moral character
- ★ Show strong leadership abilities
- ★ Be above average in scholastic achievement

Any girl selected cannot be obligated to any other organization or have any other plans during the dates ALA Evergreen Girls State is being held. The girls selected must plan to stay in Ellensburg from 2:00 p.m. on Sunday to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

ALA Evergreen Girls State is a strenuous and exhausting program - physically and emotionally. Please consider this if you are recovering from a serious illness or injury. If a citizen is selected that has any special needs or medical conditions, please visit the website or contact us for more information on making arrangements.

## ALA GIRLS STATE SELECTION PROCESS

Girls State citizens are a diverse group of young women who share a common desire to learn and lead. From small towns to big cities, the citizens' diverse backgrounds set the stage for a great week.

Delegates to an ALA Girls State program are selected by American Legion Auxiliary units, which work with local high school educators to select young women demonstrating leadership qualities.

ALA Girls State programs are funded by the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion, with additional support from various civic and nonprofit organizations. Typically, each ALA Unit sponsors each girl through selecting the citizen and paying her reservation fee. Each citizen is then responsible for the registration fee that is paid upon arrival on campus. Financial assistance may be available if any girl is unable to pay the registration fee required to attend. Contact your local ALA Unit or see the ALA Evergreen Girls State website for more details.