

**What if I have more questions about ALA Girls State?**

If you have more questions about ALA SD Girls State, you can visit the ALA SD Girls State website at [www.alasdgirlsstate.org](http://www.alasdgirlsstate.org) or contact:

Cheryl M. Hovorka, Director  
ALA SD Girls State  
816 Park Street  
Yankton, SD 57078  
605-665-5635 (H) 605-677-5702 (W)  
605-677-8808 (F) [gstate@usd.edu](mailto:gstate@usd.edu)

**Dates to Remember**

**March 1**—Journalism City applications to Irene Hovorka (see address below) (online registration process will be emailed to applicant)

**April 1**—Applicant contact information, valid email address and fees due—(online registration process will be emailed to applicant)

Send to: Irene Hovorka, ALA SD Girls State Registrar  
816 Park St., Yankton, SD 57078

**May 27**—Girls arrive on the University of South Dakota campus between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

**June 1**—American Legion Auxiliary, ALA South Dakota Girls State ends at noon.



Dear 2019 ALA Girls State Citizens,

I'd like to start off by saying congratulations to you for beginning this epic adventure that is ALA Girls State! It takes a lot of determination and character to be considered for such an opportunity. I'm sure you have many questions about what ALA Girls State is; at Girls State, you will not only learn about local, county, and state government and your important duties as a leader, but you will also meet unique people who will truly open your mind to new perspectives.

In my personal experience, seizing an opportunity like this and getting the most out of ALA Girls State involves having an open mind and heart when you show up; be open to new experiences, people, and ideas, and don't be afraid to explore. Delegates who are approachable often find the most impactful experiences at ALA Girls State. Lastly, I want to encourage you to have conversations and make meaningful connections by telling your story. The delegates at ALA Girls State represent stellar women from different backgrounds, and learning about each other is what ALA Girls State is about. I encourage all of you to keep these things in mind as you're taking these steps, and I look forward to sharing this fantastic experience with all of you! If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Calico Ducheneaux  
2018 ALA South Dakota Girls State Governor

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
SOUTH DAKOTA GIRLS STATE

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- Laurel Stringer ..... Hartford  
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73RD ANNUAL  
AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
GIRLS STATE

A Citizenship Program  
for Young Women



University of South Dakota  
Vermillion, South Dakota  
May 27 – June 1, 2019

# 73<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SOUTH DAKOTA GIRLS STATE

## A Citizenship Program for Young Women

*You probably have questions about what American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is all about. This brochure should answer your questions and stimulate your interest in finding out more about this unique opportunity!*

### What is ALA South Dakota Girls State?

ALA Girls State brings together the best girls from all over the state of South Dakota to experience a week of intensive training in citizenship and government. In essence, ALA Girls State is a laboratory of political science. Each participant takes an active part in the week's activities and learns that her government is just what she makes it. As future voters and office holders, ALA Girls Staters gain a thorough understanding of the workings of government.

### How long does ALA SD Girls State last?

This year's session runs from Mon., May 27, to Sat., June 1, 2019. Participants check in from 1–4 p.m. on Monday and are finished at noon on Saturday.

### Who is eligible to attend ALA Girls State?

- Finishing her junior year of high school and one semester of high school remaining;
- High moral character with strong leadership abilities and above average scholastic standing;
- Demonstrate DEFINITE INTEREST IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT;
- Attend the FULL session of ALA Girls State. **NO PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED TO ATTEND OTHER ACTIVITIES** during the session. To receive awards, the FULL session must be attended.

Final selection of the delegates rests with the local Auxiliary units. If a Unit selects a girl who requires special needs assistance, then the unit must furnish a full-time aide (over 21 years of age) to assist that delegate, with expenses for the aide assumed by the unit.

### What activities are involved in ALA Girls State?

Girls experience government at the city, county and state levels. Delegates are assigned a mythical city, county and political party. Each girl has the opportunity to run for office, campaign (for herself or others), vote and listen to a variety of speakers. At the end of the week, girls attend state political conventions and wrap up the week with the inauguration of the ALA Girls State Governor.

### Can I run for office?

Of course! We encourage all girls to run for at least one office. What better way to learn about campaigning than to experience it for yourself. We suggest, however, that you wait until you arrive at ALA Girls State before you decide which office(s) to run for. Pre-made signs and other campaign materials are not allowed. You will have time to make signs during the week.

### What else is there to do?

ALA Girls State is mainly a time to learn to actively participate in government, but there are other opportunities to experience. In addition to making new friends, you have the opportunity to join the chorus, participate in recreational activities, share your special talents during the Talent Show on Wednesday night and earn college credit.

### Is attendance required at all events?

Yes. If you accept the honor of attending ALA Girls State, you are expected to attend all events during the entire session. Each day at ALA Girls State builds upon the previous day, and if you miss one part of the week, you would not leave with the full knowledge the other girls have gained.

If you are elected to an office, you must be available to carry out the duties of that office throughout the week.

### What clothes should I bring?

You will need a variety of clothes for your week at ALA Girls State. You should expect to look nice for all meetings and assemblies; during your free time you can wear casual clothes. There may be several occasions when you want to wear a dressy outfit—if you are running for an office, if you are selected for a special talent presentation, or if you are selected to sit on stage during a General Assembly for a prayer or citizens' panel. Remember to pack for a variety of weather conditions: hot, rainy or cool. Maybe even all in the same week!

A few particular items to remember when packing:

- one outfit for red, white and blue day (Friday)
- a dress or formal for inauguration (Friday night)

- comfortable shoes
- dressy clothes suitable for daily wear, such as slacks, knee-length shorts, dresses, skirts and blouses. You will be expected to maintain a neat and well-groomed appearance each day
- sport clothes for recreation only

### What else should I bring?

Remember, you will be gone from home for a week, so pack accordingly! A short reminder list:

- personal items (shampoo, deodorant, razor, etc.)
- towels
- two sheets for a twin bed (bring flat sheets—the beds are long), blankets and pillow or sleeping bag
- notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, other art supplies for posters, etc.
- alarm clock
- rain coat/umbrella
- spending money for pop, stamps, etc.  
Girls State t-shirts are provided.
- any talent items/accessories you may need

### Will I need a physical before I come to ALA Girls State?

Each ALA Girls State delegate needs to submit a medical waiver form provided in the ALA Girls State application packet.

### How will I know where I will be staying?

Upon arrival on campus (between 1 and 4 p.m. on Monday), the girls check in at the registration desk in the Muenster University Center lounge area. Room keys are issued at the time of registration. If you lose your key, it will cost you \$45.

### How do I get to ALA Girls State?

The girl's family and/or sponsoring organization is responsible for transportation to and from Vermillion.

### What if I'm interested in Journalism City?

Eighteen girls having the same qualifications as delegates to ALA Girls State are selected as members of Journalism City. The Registrar must receive applications by **March 1**. Journalists will not count against the number of regular delegates allotted for each school. Information concerning Journalism City is sent to all Units and schools in December.

### When do I register?

The registration deadline is April 1—the \$125 fee is paid by the sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit. **If the delegate chooses not to attend and there is no alternate, the delegate is responsible for reimbursing the Unit for the registration fee.**