



THE WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME

To: All High School Junior Girls, School Counselors and Advisors

The 80th annual session of Oregon Girls State will be held at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon from June 14 through June 20, 2020.

What is Girls State?

Girls State is a nationwide program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary designed to increase attendees' awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while learning about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Oregon Girls State provides the opportunity for high school juniors from throughout the state to learn through the creation of mock governments at the county and state levels. Experiences may include public speaking while campaigning for various public offices, drafting and presenting bills for passage in the Girls State legislature, serving as a lobbyist to help influence decision-making, participating in mock trials and a wide variety of workshops and presentations by some of Oregon's highest elected officials and other inspirational speakers.

Girls State Delegates will come away with a greater appreciation of civic duty, the American flag, and of the sacrifices made by our veterans. While at Girls State, they will make friends with other exemplary girls from around the state and have a fun week that many have described as a life-changing, influential experience.

Scholarship Opportunities

Girls State is an excellent resume builder for college applications and employment opportunities. Attendees may also apply for the American Legion Samsung Scholarship valued at \$1250.00. The Delegate awarded the Samsung Scholarship for Oregon will go on to compete at the national level for an opportunity at **an additional \$10,000 scholarship**.

Application and Selection Process

All eligible junior girls are encouraged to apply. The American Legion Auxiliary pays the delegates' expenses for food, lodging, activities and materials during their attendance at Girls State. The American Legion Auxiliary will interview applicants and select qualified, interested delegates from your school.

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a legal female US Citizen
- Have completed her junior year in high school, or; if home schooled, be at least 15 years of age, and have completed the 11th grade year
- Show respect for and be willing to salute the American Flag
- Be willing and able to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, including its reference to God.
- The appropriate candidate will have an interest in government and possess a desire to develop leadership skills and self-confidence.

What we ask of your school?:

- Announce when and where Girls State applications may be obtained
- Distribute applications to all interested girls—you are welcome to make additional copies as needed
- Designate a date and location at your school for collection of completed applications
- Have completed applications and fees either mailed or available for pick-up by: May 15, 2020
- Ensure that all applications are signed by a parent or guardian and the school principal or authorized representative. Transcripts also need to be submitted with application.
- Information and applications may also be obtained on our website:
www.alaoregon.org

American Legion Auxiliary
Girls State Unit Chairman

If you do not have contact with an American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Legion Post

Contact: Cindy Hillyard

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Please contact me with any questions!