

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE

APPLICATION PACKET

69TH ANNUAL SESSION

June 4-9, 2017 at The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg



Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. With a membership at nearly 800,000, local American Legion Auxiliary units have a strong presence in more than 9,000 communities nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary's mission is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.



**2017 ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE
APPLICATION PROCESS**

For Parent, School and/or Patron-Sponsored Applicants

1. Applicant to return the completed application and signed pledge for consideration by the Girls State Committee to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi Headquarters **no later than March 1, 2017.**
2. **Be sure you provide a valid email address as we will correspond with you via email.**
3. The Girls State Committee will review and advise of acceptance **by April 1, 2017**, if not sooner, via email. Payment of \$225 will be due upon notification of acceptance and should be mailed to the Department Headquarters, annotating the delegate's name that is being supported. Full payment due **no later than May 1, 2017.**
4. **No refund of applicant's fee will be made once confirmation of acceptance is sent to the applicant.** An alternate may be submitted for consideration, no later than May 15, 2017.
5. The Girls State Director/Committee will send the applicant, via email, confirmation of acceptance and other pertinent forms needed to complete the application process.

**ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE
2017 SESSION APPLICATION**

Complete and submit to ALA Dept. Headquarters by March 1, 2017, for consideration of acceptance as a Delegate.

Name _____
Last First MI

Home Address _____
Street or PO Box Number City State ZIP

Telephone Number (____) _____ (home)

Cell phone Number (____) _____ (parent/guardian)

Email Address _____
(Required)

Parent/s Email Address _____

Adult T-shirt size _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT'S PARENT/GUARDIAN

Parents' Names _____

Check One:

_____ As parent (s)/guardian of applicant, I/we will pay the \$225 registration fee by May 1, 2017.

_____ Fee to attend will be donated from a local Patron (business, school, someone other than parents/guardian) and remitted to the ALA Dept. Office by May 1, 2017; provide name and address of Patron for acknowledgement below:

No refund of applicant's fee will be made once confirmation of acceptance is sent to applicant.



Signature of Parent/Guardian
(This form and Girls State Pledge must be mailed to the Dept. Office no later than March 1, 2017)

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

Biographical Form

Personal Information

Name _____

Parent(s) or guardian(s) Name(s) _____

Birth Date _____

*Are you a descendent of a veteran? _____ Yes _____ No

*Is parent(s) or guardian(s), or someone in your immediate family, a member of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, indicate which (or both) organization _____

*Do you have any active duty or deployed family member(s)? _____ Yes _____ No

*(*Note: not required for consideration of acceptance into this program)*

Please list your top two (2) talents/hobbies (ex. Singing, writing, photography, etc.)

1. _____

2. _____

High School Information

Grade last completed _____ G.P.A _____

High School Name _____

Counselor's Name _____

Street address of high school _____

City/State/Zip of high school _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Please type or print clearly.

List top three (3) high school activities (ex. teams, clubs, student government, organizations)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Honors/Awards/Achievements

List top three (3) honors/awards (scholastic, athletics, arts, personal, student government offices held, etc.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Have you ever overcome any significant obstacle in your life? If so, briefly share your story, if you wish:

Community Involvement

List two (2) organizations you have served/volunteered and in what capacity:

1. _____

2. _____

In essay format, tell us about your understanding of the democratic form of government and how you can be a productive citizen of the United States. (You may attach an additional page, if necessary.)



GIRLS STATE PLEDGE

To complete my delegate application, I voluntarily make the following pledge:

As a citizen of Magnolia Girls State of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Mississippi,

I voluntarily make the following pledge:

- I pledge to cooperate and participate in the activities of ALA Girls State and will abide by its rules.
- I will obey the code of conduct of the facility.
- I will take an active part in the activities of the program and will take a serious and conscientious interest in fulfilling my responsibilities as a delegate at Girls State, in any capacity in which I may be privileged to serve.
- I will respect the judgment and authority of the staff at Girls State.
- I will participate in all flag and patriotic ceremonies.
- I will be fair, honest, and cooperative in all my dealings with my fellow delegates.
- I will write and send a thank you note to my Patron, who financially supported my attendance to ALA Magnolia Girls State, and share my ALA Magnolia Girls State experiences and knowledge gained.
- I will help promote the ALA Magnolia Girls State program wherever possible.

I/we have read and understand the above:

Signature by Girls State applicant

Date

Signature by parent/guardian

Date

WWW.MISSALA.COM/GIRLSSTATE



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI GIRLS STATE FACT SHEET

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State: "I Was Blown Away by the Experience!"

Description: The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program changes lives by bringing together dynamic young women for an intense week of leadership, patriotism and community enlightenment. The Girls State program is a proven leadership laboratory.

For the fictional self-governing state of Magnolia, delegates/citizens will elect their own leaders, write bills for debate and run a legislative session. In the process, these leaders—class presidents, top varsity athletes, artists, debate champions—dynamically engage with state representatives and senators. Two participants from each of the 49 states who hold a yearly session are selected to attend the elite American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington DC in July, where they have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the President of the United States.

Girls State is where the seeds of patriotism are cultivated in our nation's finest high school girls, by women who care deeply about the future of America and take its leadership seriously. It is where future leaders realize their true potential!

"Girls State impacted my life and gave me newfound confidence to help my community and society," said one former Girls State Citizen. "It influenced my career choices and my educational choices. The experience changed me dramatically."

Objective: American Legion Auxiliary Girls State provides an opportunity for superior high school women who have completed their junior year to experience the "nitty gritty" of state government processes—the chance to live outside the text book. This program not only instills in its attendees a sense of pride and loyalty in America, but also prepares these women for a career in politics, public service, and excellence along their career path. It is the chance to plunge head-first into democracy, develop sharp leadership skills, and create the foundation for informed and responsible world citizenship.

"[After attending Girls State], I felt more empowered," said one former Girls State Citizen. "I had the freedom to make choices for myself."

GIRLS STATE FACT SHEET, PAGE 2

History: Since 1937, more than one million politically savvy young women have attended American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. Girls State has produced more successful women than any other girls' citizenship training program in the country.

Activities: Mock caucusing and debating of bills educate young women in the real state legislative processes. Each program is state-run and thus unique to the state in which it is held. Cutting-edge political topics ensure that the debates are relevant, lively and passionate. Fierce political campaigns are held to elect a Girls State governor, party officials, and pass legislation. Girls also have the opportunity to meet with some of their own state representatives and senators, who are genuinely interested in the fresh ideas of these future leaders.

"I still believe Girls State is the best program for young women," said a former Girls State Citizen. "It can change their lives as well as teach them about politics and their country."

In addition, Magnolia Girls State offers these participation opportunities:

- Glee Club and *Alagista* staff (a "yearbook" of the delegates and events of the week)
- City project to be judged at the end of the week
- College Day with representatives from state universities and colleges
- Skit Night (each city will present a skit for competition) or Talent Show or other such activity

Scholarships: Girls State delegates may apply **online (only)** for the prestigious Samsung Scholarship, if she is a descendant of a United States wartime veteran. To apply, a copy of the veteran's DD-214 (or discharge papers) is required. One ALA Magnolia Girls State citizen is chosen from delegates who properly apply online as Mississippi's recipient (actual state scholarship award amount varies from year to year). Her application is then forwarded online to the National Headquarters of The American Legion to compete with 98 other students from across the country for one of seven \$20,000 scholarships.

Other scholarships will be available. These scholarships are provided by American Legion Auxiliary Units and American Legion Posts across the state.

As our host site, The University of Southern Mississippi will also offer each 2017 delegate a \$1,000 scholarship. However, this scholarship is only for those who plan to attend Southern Miss upon High School graduation and who are duly accepted according to the university admissions standards.

Staff and Guest Speakers: Local and state officials will be our guests during the week Magnolia Girls State to draw on their expertise to give the delegates a realistic view of government.

The program staff is made up of dedicated members/volunteers of the American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Mississippi. Senior and junior counselors reside with the delegates, one senior and two/three junior counselors per city, and supervise the delegates' activities throughout the week.

Other Information: Three meals are provided daily at the university's dining facility. The 2017 session will be housed in Century Park North, a gated dormitory complex at Southern Miss. Each floor of the dorm will constitute two cities, with a population of 24 citizens each.

At Girls State, each delegate will share a dorm room with another delegate in one of the residence hall at Southern Miss. Assignments are random, and care is taken that no delegate from the same local school is assigned in the same city, if possible. It is our desire that our delegates have the opportunity to meet others from different areas of the state. Friendships made at Magnolia Girls State have proven to be lifelong and cherished.

The fee for each delegate to attend ALA Magnolia Girls State is \$225 and includes tuition, room/board, two city t-shirts and one set of pictures (one city/one large group). **No refund of applicant's fee will be made once received in the Department Office.** The delegate must notify her sponsoring Unit and/or the Department Headquarters at 601.353.3681 immediately, if she cannot attend, and an alternate may be submitted in her place for consideration.

An information packet will be emailed to the delegate once her application acceptance has been received at the Department Headquarters. Although time for recreation is planned, **Girls State is not a recreational camp.**

Citizens will not be allowed to leave the campus area assigned to Magnolia Girls State. No visitors are allowed. Smoking, alcohol consumption and illegal drug use is strictly prohibited. Citizens driving cars to Southern Miss must turn in their car keys to their Senior Counselor at check-in.

For further information, see your school counselor, contact your local sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit or contact the Department Headquarters at the address below:

For more information, visit: www.boysandgirlsstate.org/girls.html; www.legion-aux.org.

Local Mississippi contact: Angela Kilcrease, Director, angelakilcrease@bellsouth.net;

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi Headquarters, PO Box 1382, Jackson, MS 39215; phone 601.353.3681; www.missala.com; alamshq@att.net

The Organization: Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership of nearly 850,000, local American Legion Auxiliary units have a strong presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary's mission to serve veterans, their families and their communities is carried out through its hundreds of outreach programs delivered by its members, volunteers and National Headquarters. ###

