

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE

2017 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 Sponsoring Auxiliary Units

1. Units will identify potential delegates in their area and provide this application packet to the applicant for the completion.
2. Advise applicant to return the completed application packet for consideration to the unit representative **no later than March 1, 2017**.
3. **Be sure we have a valid email address as we will correspond electronically with the accepted delegates going forward.**
4. Unit committee or general membership will review and approve/reject applicant promptly.
5. Once the applicant is approved by the Unit, the Unit will forward the applicant's completed application and signed pledge sheet to the Department Headquarters office, **WITH PAYMENT of \$225**. **No refund of applicant's fee will be made once received in the Department Office.** Alternates will be considered if girl cancels.
6. **UNIT APPROVED APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY APRIL 1, 2017.** Upon receipt, the delegate will be notified via email of acceptance by Girls State Director.
7. The Girls State Director/Committee will send the applicant, via email and/or snail mail, confirmation of acceptance and other pertinent forms needed to complete the application process.

**ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE
2017 SESSION APPLICATION**

Complete and submit to local sponsoring Unit by March 1, 2017, for consideration of acceptance as a Delegate.

Please type or print clearly!

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 of applicant _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT

Sponsoring Unit's Name and Number _____

Girls State Chairman's Name _____

Unit Address _____
Street or PO Box No. City State ZIP

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

If fee to attend the 2017 session is donated from a local Patron, provide name and address for acknowledgement:



**Signature of Unit President or, if authorized by Unit,
Girls State Chairman of Sponsoring Unit for this delegate**
(This form must be mailed to the Dept. Office no later than April 1, 2017)

American Legion Auxiliary Magnolia Girls State

Biographical Form

Applicant's Personal Information

Name _____

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

Birth Date _____

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

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

Is 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 Magnolia 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 ALA Magnolia Girls State, in any capacity in which I may be privileged to serve.
- I will respect the judgment and authority of the staff at ALA Magnolia Girls State.
- I will participate in all flag and patriotic ceremonies, with full proper respect.
- I will be fair, honest, and cooperative in all my dealings with my fellow delegates.
- I will make a report to my sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit regarding my ALA Magnolia Girls State experience and knowledge gained and will help promote the program wherever possible.

I/we have read and understand the above:

Signature by ALA Magnolia 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, with an 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, ALA 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 elected 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, Department 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.

GIRLS STATE FACT SHEET, PAGE 3

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 no more than 24 citizens each.

At ALA Magnolia Girls State, each delegate will share a dorm room with another delegate. 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 ALA Magnolia Girls State have proven to be lifelong and cherished.

The fee for each delegate to attend 2017 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, **ALA Magnolia Girls State is not a recreational camp.**

Citizens will not be allowed to leave the campus area assigned to ALA 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; 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. ###

