



*Delegate/Parent  
Information Booklet*

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Missouri Girls State**

June 2022

*\*Final date and location to be announced no later than the end of January 2022\**

Please read the enclosed material prior to attending ALA Missouri Girls State.

Website: [www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org)

**Please read this booklet upon completion of your Application Form. Additional information may be obtained on the website at [www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org), where you will find contact phone numbers for any questions not answered on the website.**

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Missouri Girls State (MGS) program provides young women who have just finished their junior year in high school the opportunity to come together to study city, county, and state government. ALA MGS enforces the understanding that every person is an integral part of the political process and has a responsibility to make tomorrow a better time, and the world a better place regardless of religious or political beliefs. It provides an opportunity to form a government structure to deal with problems and situations as they arise and to see the political process work effectively.

## **WHAT IS GIRLS STATE AND WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED?**

American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State is an intensive week of government study and Americanism training sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Americanism is defined as an allegiance to the United States, including our country's traditions and ideals. At ALA MGS, we will focus on educating all participants the ideals of our democratic society while also teaching flag etiquette.

Upon arrival each delegate is assigned to the Nationalist or Federalist political party, neither of which is affiliated with the Democrat or Republican Party. Party spirit provides support to those who choose to run for political office. In addition, all delegates are assigned to a city, and the delegates of each city are housed together and eat together at a campus dining facility. Each city forms a city government with elected officials who carry out responsibilities and duties as assigned. Three cities form a county, again with duties and responsibilities performed by its elected officials.

Finally, the state government is formed. Each political party holds a state convention complete with platform, resolutions, credentials, and regulations committees; candidate speeches; and party spirit. The primary ballot narrows the party candidates to the final general election ballot which elects the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, and Auditor. Elected state officials may be invited to return the following session to perform duties as assigned.

Also part of the state government is the General Assembly and the Supreme Court. The General Assembly is the legislative branch of state government and each city elects five (5) Representatives, and each county elects four (4) Senators. The ALA MGS General Assembly travels by chartered bus to Jefferson City for its second session in the actual respective chambers in the Capitol building. It is our intent to provide this opportunity in 2022, but this will not be finalized until closer to the 2022 session date. During the week, the General Assembly meets for several sessions to write, debate, and vote on various proposed bills. Members of the Supreme Court are appointed by the governor following a non-partisan selection process, and those delegates appointed to serve on the Supreme Court will preside over appeals from criminal and civil trials held during the week.

There will be other opportunities to participate in Missouri Girls State without running for elected office. Each day includes assemblies with guest speakers, including elected officials, business leaders, and public servants. Delegates may participate in the ALA MGS band or chorus, both of which perform before assemblies and the Friday inauguration of state officials. There are also opportunities to be selected by their fellow city citizens to serve as members of the press, either as staffers of the program's broadcast program or the newspaper, and to serve on the Highway Patrol, which provides law enforcement assistance and education to the delegates. The patrol assists as required, serving as the honor guard for the Governor, writing tickets, helping with trials, and performing any duties assigned.

Each delegate will select one of eight (8) classes to attend daily. At this time, classes planned for the 2022 session include Legislative Procedure, Law, Law Enforcement, Communication/Media, International Politics, Public Policy/Administration, Business School, and Education School. An exam will be given on Friday. A passing grade on the exam, active participation in the week's activities, compliance of rules and regulations, and attendance for the entire session will enable a delegate to apply for college credit. More information on the college credit will be available prior to the session's start date.

ALA MGS provides the opportunity to experience college living, meet new friends, and expand awareness of other types of Missouri living, either rural or urban. During free time, all delegates have the opportunity to network and share high school, student council, and club ideas and activities and the ALA MGS Shoppe has a wide variety of souvenirs, clothing, and snacks.

ALA MGS is a seven-day session which can be physically, mentally, and emotionally strenuous. The program is structured as a very intensive learning situation and involves a great deal of walking among campus buildings.

If selected to attend ALA MGS, a delegate or alternate must register and complete the online application form on the ALA MGS website and submit it to her school for required signatures. The application form, pledge form, contributing organization roster, and tuition fees must be received by March 1, 2022, or before session capacity is reached (whichever occurs first). The ALA MGS Code of Conduct is available on the online application process to acknowledge and is also available in this booklet. The delegate or alternate, and her parent(s)/guardian(s) must agree to comply with the Code of Conduct.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**A delegate must remain at ALA MGS for the ENTIRE session to receive credit for the program. The sponsoring organization, ALA Unit, and school are informed when a delegate fails to attend MGS or leaves before the program is completed.** The list of citizens who completed the full program is provided to the host institution for part of the dual credit eligibility process and is provided to other colleges and universities for scholarship eligibility.

All accepted delegates must download the complete delegate information packet which will be available on or about April 15, 2022, from the ALA MGS website ([www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org)); the website includes more information and forms to be completed and brought to ALA MGS.

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State reserves the right to accept or reject any delegate nominated to attend ALA MGS.

Any delegate of ALA MGS found to be violating ALA MGS Code of Conduct will be subject to immediate dismissal without refund and barred from further participation in the program. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified and required to come pick up their daughter. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit, contributing organization, and school will be notified when a delegate fails to complete the course and a request will be made to the school that ALA MGS be stricken from the delegate's academic record. A delegate who fails to complete the ALA MGS session without just cause, barring illness or death in the family, may be held responsible for reimbursing the delegate fee to her financial sponsor.

## **HARASSMENT AND BULLYING POLICY**

Harassment and bullying at ALA MGS will not be tolerated. For purposes of this policy, those terms are defined as intimidation or harassment of a delegate or multiple delegates perpetuated by individuals or groups. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft, or damaging property; oral or written taunts, including name-calling, put-downs, extortion, or threats; or threats of retaliation for reporting such acts.

## **HEALTH AND MEDICAL POLICY**

During ALA MGS, first aid and/or medical attention, if required, will be available. Every care will be taken to avoid accidents and prevent illness, but American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State will not accept responsibility for either injuries or sickness should they occur.

The medical form must be properly filled out with the delegate's insurance information. The release for emergency medical treatment must be signed by the delegate's parent or guardian. **Each delegate should obtain a doctor's signature on the health form in order to receive even minimal medical care such as over-the-counter medications (e.g., Tylenol, Tums, Claritin) by ALA MGS nursing staff. Over the counter medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, Aleve, lozenges, antihistamines, hydrocortisone cream and antacids are available at the nurse's station. If there is no physician's signature, your daughter WILL NOT be given any over-the-counter medications.**

All medical and dietary restrictions and/or limitations must be provided to ALA MGS by June 3, 2022, by contacting [health@missourigirlsstate.org](mailto:health@missourigirlsstate.org). This allows proper communication between the ALA MGS program and the host institution.

## **DISABILITY POLICY**

All arrangements for a delegate with a physical disability **must** be submitted in writing to the Director prior to the acceptance of the delegate to ALA MGS. If a delegate with a physical disability is selected who needs assistance to participate, the sponsoring organization must furnish a full-time female aide of legal age to assist the delegate. All expenses for the aide, including transportation, meals and lodging must be assumed by the sponsoring organization. ALA MGS will not be responsible for any expenses or providing any equipment. Also, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State must be assured that proper insurance is provided for the delegate with a disability and her aide, and any additional premiums will be assumed by the sponsoring organization, parent or guardian of the delegate.

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State is an educational exercise in which the majority of the base skills are transmitted to the delegates via verbal and published communications. ALA MGS will make every effort to afford qualified individual delegates an opportunity to participate regardless of impairment, but at no additional cost to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State.

## **HEARING IMPAIRED AND/OR VISION IMPAIRED (legally blind)**

The following policy will be applied to the Hearing Impaired and/or Vision Impaired:

1. A delegate with a severe hearing and/or visual impairment must be accompanied, so as to provide her safety at all times, by a qualified female aide or signing person (an interpreter) of legal age who is capable of voice communication and/or sign language.
2. The aide or interpreter must accompany the delegate to all program functions, and must adhere to all delegate rules.
3. The personal aide or interpreter will be subject to the same exact fees as a delegate but will not be allowed to participate in the actual program without the expressed prior permission of the ALA MGS Director.
4. The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State, will not be responsible to the personal aide or interpreter in any way, for any remuneration for her efforts on behalf of the hearing impaired and/or vision impaired delegate.
5. If there are varying degrees of vision impairment, or a Seeing Eye dog involved, that may be subject to variation of the above rules, each will be considered on an individual basis by the ALA MGS Director, consulting with the host institution.
6. This policy is in addition to the ALA MGS Disability Policy.

All arrangements for any delegate with a severe visual or hearing impairment must be submitted in writing and approved by the ALA Missouri Girls State Director, before the individual's acceptance as a delegate to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State program.

## **PHOTO/IDENTITY RELEASE POLICY**

Each delegate and her parent/guardian hereby give consent to ALA Missouri Girls State and its designees the right to film and photograph the delegate and use the delegate's name, pictures, and other reproductions of her physical likeness in connection with Missouri Girls State press releases, website, social media pages and all other projects sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and ALA Missouri Girls State, including any digital photo links, videos or films used to publicize and/or advertise ALA Missouri Girls State and further understand that no compensation for such use will be paid to the delegate and/or her parent/guardian. The ALA Missouri Girls State program has permission to distribute the following identifying information to Universities and Colleges for scholarship information: name, high school, physical address, and e-mail address from the online application.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information related to the 2022 session of American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State will be released in the Delegate Information Packet on the ALA MGS Website ([www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org)) by April 15, 2022. This packet will contain any amended information from this packet.

In the spring, you will begin receiving regular e-mail communication from [director@missourigirlsstate.org](mailto:director@missourigirlsstate.org). It is important to watch out for these e-mails as you will be responsible for understanding any updates provided in them. It will be announced on our social media when these e-mails have started so you can know to watch for them (even in your junk or spam folder).