



January 2018

Girls State Unit Chairs,

It's time to start thinking about American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State again. This year's session cost will be \$250 per attendee. Should your Unit have trouble covering the cost of attendees, it is appropriate for your Unit to solicit donations from other community organizations (i.e. Elks, Masons, Lions, Rotary Clubs, Booster Clubs, etc.) Please also understand that this year **all applications of girls who are interviewed will be sent to Department.** If your Unit has selected alternates, you need to clearly mark your applications as accepted, alternate, or denied. Should your Unit have alternate delegates, **please number your alternates in order of your preference.**

I, and the Girls State Board, have a few requests of you this year. First, should girls ask questions about our session or the program during the interview, please direct them to the Girls State Board. They can contact either me, or Danielle Many, our Chair. We want to make sure accurate information is disseminated, and we are the best point of contact for them. Additionally, they are also welcome to check our website for helpful information. Second, please inform the girls that should they be accepted to attend session, **they are not allowed to bring any prepared campaign material.** There will be more information about this included in their acceptance packets, but please mention this to them. Finally, **please make clear** that while the girls will not be asked to pay their session tuition, they will be asked to pay a \$100 **refundable** room deposit, and a \$30 fee for their polos, water bottles, and session photograph. If your unit is interested in sponsoring the \$30 fee for your delegates, please include the additional \$30/girl with your tuition check.

Additionally, we have included for your use in this packet, the following information:

- 1) An application form – please copy and distribute it to the schools assigned to your unit and other schools in your area.
- 2) Girls State press release – please copy as needed and submit it to all news outlets in your area for publication. Should you need an electronic copy, please contact our Director.
- 3) An interview form – please use it as a basis for interviewing Girls State program candidates.
 - a. **NOTE:** The girls do not need to write responses to these questions. It is intended as a guide for your conversations in determining who you will choose to represent your Unit at ALAGMGS.
- 4) A copy of the Girls State pledge – please make sure that this pledge is distributed at your orientation session.
 - a. **NOTE:** A copy of the pledge will be included in the registration packet sent to program participants in May 2018, and interviewees do not need to complete the pledge.
- 5) An orientation outline is included to help guide you through the process. Should you desire more information about the program, please contact our Director who will be happy to talk you through the process.
 - a. **NOTE:** The outline provides useful information for the interviewees and for you. I strongly suggest reading through it and sharing the information included with the girls you interview.
- 6) **NOTE:** When selecting your delegates and designating your alternates, please include information for us if a delegate is unable to make it to the entire session (we are willing to review requests for early departures/late arrivals to session, but it is not guaranteed that we can accommodate these requests in order to give sponsorship to delegates who can attend the full session).

These documents, as well as information about the session, will be made available online for applicants and their families at alagmgs.com. We thank you, as always, for your dedication to this program and your continued service to the American Legion Auxiliary. If you have any questions about the enclosed material or holding an orientation, please feel free to contact me.

As a final request, please email me at sarahjbutson@gmail.com and let me know which schools your Unit is responsible for coordinating in the application process. We are working on updating our records and want to ensure that we have the most up to date information as we plan for our future sessions.

Thank you,
Sarah Butson – Director, ALAGMGS
802-782-1176
E-mail – sarahjbutson@gmail.com

REMINDERS:

Please remit all chosen completed applications for chosen delegates and **alternates** (numbered by preference), along with payment, to Department Headquarters no later than 04/06/2018. The address for Department Headquarters is:

American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of VT
PO Box 192
Montpelier VT 05601-0192
802-223-3141

NOTE:

The ALAGMGS session will be held from Saturday, June 16th – Thursday, June 21st 2018 at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, Vermont. Should one of your chosen participants be unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can notify your alternates or find another girl to attend ALAGMGS 2018.



American Legion Auxiliary

Green Mountain Girls State

June 16– June 21, 2018 Vermont Technical College (Randolph Ctr)

Candidate Application for girls completing their Junior year of High School.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY BELOW

Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Home Address: _____
 *Mailing Address: (if different from above): _____
 *Home Phone: _____ *Cell Phone: _____
 *Student e-mail: _____
 High School: _____ Local Newspaper: _____
 Special accommodations or assistance needed (please be specific): _____

Parent/Guardian #1: Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ *Home Phone: _____ *Cell Phone: _____ *Work Phone: _____ *E-mail: _____ This is my emergency contact: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Parent/Guardian #2: Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ *E-mail: _____ This is my emergency contact: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

Plans after graduation:

Military (Branch) _____ Field of interest: _____
 Further Education: _____ Field of interest: _____
 Other: _____ Field of interest: _____

T-shirt size: _____ Scholarship request for t-shirts: _____

List scholastic and honorary awards received and all community extracurricular activities in which you have participated. Be sure to indicate all offices held. (Use reverse side if necessary) _____

Please type/write legibly, a statement to let us know (in 100 words or less) why you would like to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State (ALAGMGS), what you think ALAGMGS is about, how you would participate, and what you feel would be your greatest contribution to ALAGMGS. (Attach statement to this application)

 Student's Signature Date

To be filled out by Unit Chair

Please submit by: _____
 Interview will be held on (date/time/location) _____
 Contributing Organization: _____
 Mail/bring to: Attn: _____
 Address: _____
 Please contact Unit Chair for more information at (phone) _____
 Or via email _____

Attention Unit Chairs – This application (and payment) is DUE TO DEPARTMENT NO LATER THAN 04/02/2018.

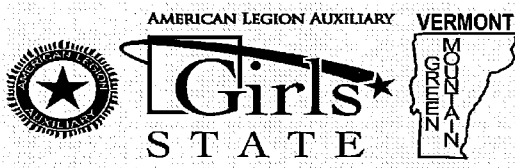
*Denotes a required field



INTERVIEW FORM FOR APPLICANTS

Applicant Name: _____

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Are you interested in Vermont Government? | Yes | No |
| 2. Are you interested in Federal Government? | Yes | No |
| 3. Are you interested in the Vermont and/or Federal Law? | Yes | No |
| a. If yes, in what way? | | |
| 4. Are you interested in learning how to develop civic leadership and pride in American Citizenship? | Yes | No |
| 5. Have you ever attended a Town Meeting? | Yes | No |
| 6. Have you studied parliamentary procedure, the election process or voting in school? | Yes | No |
| What class? _____ | | |
| 7. Are you familiar with the American Legion Auxiliary? | Yes | No |
| 8. Are you a Junior Auxiliary member? (Not required to attend) | Yes | No |
| 9. Did you know the motto of our organization is "For God and Country"? | Yes | No |
| 10. A non-denominational prayer is given periodically throughout the session. Are you willing to respectfully participate in the prayer? | Yes | No |
| 11. Would you be willing to do the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag? | Yes | No |
| 12. What do you know about ALAGMGS? | | |
| 13. Would you be willing to sign the Girls State Pledge? | Yes | No |
| 14. You will be asked to make a formal report (written or oral) to the contributing organization(s) upon your return home, describing your activities and participation in the week's program and the benefits you received. Are you willing to do this? | Yes | No |
| 15. Have you ever been away from home before? | Yes | No |
| 16. Do you have a job? | Yes | No |
| 17. What activities are you involved in at your school, and in your community? | | |
| 18. Would you tell us something about your goals and aspirations? | | |
| 19. Have you had the opportunity to speak to anyone who has attended the American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State? | Yes | No |
| 20. The American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State has a Website, a Twitter account, a Facebook page, and an Instagram. Have you visited any of these sites? | Yes | No |
| 21. Will you be able to attend the complete session? | Yes | No |
| 22. Are you willing to participate in all of the Girls State activities? | Yes | No |
| 23. Are there any parts of the session that you are most looking forward to? | Yes | No |
| a. If yes, what parts? | | |
| 24. Are there any parts of the session that you are not looking forward to? | Yes | No |
| a. If yes, why? | | |
| 25. Is there anything else you would like to tell us at this time? | Yes | No |
| a. If yes, what? | | |



To: Vermont Educator(s)

From: Sarah Butson – Director, American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State

RE: 2018 American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls' State

Greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State Board! ALAGMGS is a non-partisan program of the American Legion Auxiliary that teaches young women responsible citizenship skills, civic engagement, and the traditions that shaped our country's political system. While an affiliate of the American Legion Auxiliary, Girls State is not affiliated with the United States armed forces. Girls State is a premier national leadership conference, and attendees will join other talented and intelligent Vermonters in an intensive week of mock legislation. It is our hope that you will pass this information on to your eligible students and encourage them to apply for the program. It is a truly life changing week and opens students to a network that will follow them for the rest of their lives. We thank you in advance for your help in recruiting the best and brightest of our girls and listed below is information about the program. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us and we look forward to meeting the applicants from your school.

About Girls State High school girls who have completed their junior year of high school are eligible to apply to become an ALAGMGS delegate. ALAGMGS delegates spend an intensive week (6 days) of working together as self-governing citizens learning how to participate in the functioning of Vermont's local and state government. Delegates will spend their time campaigning for local and statewide office or serving as attorneys in the State's judicial system. After learning how to govern their state, the delegates will put what they have learned to use when they attend a mock-government session at the Vermont State House as part of their girls state experience. Delegates will have the opportunity to run for office, draft their own legislation, and act as elected officials or attorneys, and will have access to their elected officials. For your review, we have included the Girls State pledge. Our policies and procedures regarding session, as well as the pledge and schedule, are published online for review by applicants and their parents. Should any questions arise about the session, they can contact me.

When & Where The 2018 session of American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State will be held on the Randolph Center campus of the Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, Vermont from Saturday, June 16th to Thursday, June 21st. Parents and students will need to make their own transportation arrangements to and from Vermont Technical College.

How to Apply & Deadline for Applications Applications are available from local American Legion Auxiliary Units as well as on the ALAGMGS website at www.alagmgs.com **All applications are due to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit associated with your school or Department Headquarters no later than 4/2/2018.**

Applicants will be asked to travel to their local unit for an orientation/interview. The Unit associated with your school will be reaching out to you in the following weeks to help coordinate the process. Should you need further assistance or should a unit not reach out to your school, please feel free to contact me.

Cost and Sponsorship The American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State Board works to make sure that every qualified delegate will be able to attend the session. The cost for each delegate to attend ALAGMGS is \$250 and is at no cost to the delegate. **However, please note:** accepted delegates will be asked to pay a \$30 uniform fee (cost includes: 2 uniform polos, a water bottle, and a group photo at the state house) and a **refundable** \$100 room deposit.

Should a unit not sponsor students from your school, we encourage your school to consider sponsoring students. We will accept as many applicants as we have funding for, and should your students not receive funding, we will let you know as soon as we can.

Post Application Process Upon receipt of an application, each applicant will be contacted by her local American Legion Auxiliary to attend an interview process. Upon completion of the interview process, applicants will be notified if accepted to the program.

For more information about the program, please contact ALAGMGS Director, Sarah Butson, at 802-782-1176 or sarahjbutson@gmail.com, visit us on the web at www.alagmgs.com or visit our Facebook page at American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State for information and pictures from previous sessions and updates on 2018 planning.

Sincerely,

Sarah Butson

Contact:

sarahjbutson@gmail.com

802-782-1176

Director, American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State



MEDIA ALERT

Applications Now Available for the American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State Program through Local American Legion Auxiliary Units

January 2018

Montpelier - American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State is a nonpartisan program that teaches young women responsible citizenship and civic engagement. Nationally, since the inception of the ALA Girls State program in 1937, nearly one million young women have had the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local government works in a simulation of their government.

High school girls, who have completed their junior year, are eligible to apply to become an ALA Girl's State program participant. ALA Girls State participants spend an intensive week of study, working together as self-governing citizens and learning how to participate in the functioning of Vermont's local and state government in preparation for their future roles as responsible adult citizens. Participants spend time campaigning for local and statewide office, writing bills, and passing resolutions. Girls also have other ways to be engaged and fully participating citizens of their independent "Girls State." Then they get to put what they have learned to use when they attend a mock-government session at the Vermont State House as part of their ALA Girls State experience.

ALA Girls State is a nationally recognized and prestigious leadership development program for young women throughout the United States. The ALA Girls State network is still alive and well and the acclaim of having attended ALA Girls State will follow participants for the rest of their lives, as well as instill in them the skills necessary to

thrive and excel in today's competitive job market. Participants will look back on this week with fondness and remember their time spent in the "best State in the land."

Expenses associated with this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit, and/or local businesses, and other community-based organizations.

Check us out on the web at www.alagmgs.com or like us on Facebook. For more information, please contact ALAGMGS Director, Sarah Butson, by phone 802-782-1176 at or via email sarahbutson@gmail.com



Orientation Outline to be used by Unit Chairs - January 2018

Welcome and Introductions

- Introduce yourselves and ask the girls to introduce themselves and give some information about themselves
 - How did they hear about Girls State, what school are they from, why are they interested in Girls State, etc.?

Order of Business Following Introductions

- Thank the girls for their applications
- Give some context about the program
 - Talking points:
 - Girls State is a government simulation. While it varies state to state because of the differences in government structure, attendees will be simulating Vermont government from the town to the State level. We will be asking you to write bills and resolutions during session, which will be used for real mock Congressional debate. Participants will also have the opportunity to participate in a mock trial as attorneys.
 - The Government simulation is the focus of the program and all attendees are encouraged to run for any, or all, available positions. Holding office at one level does not preclude a girl from holding State office.
 - Girls who attend should know that running for office is encouraged at all levels and there are multiple opportunities to try running for office. If they so choose, they can bring campaign materials with them and will be allowed to decorate our State with their campaign materials.
 - REMEMBER: Inform girls of the opportunities that are associated with holding office at Girls State (i.e. being a

leader for our "State," meeting their elected counterpart at the State House, and other duties associated with her office.

- While Girls State is a model government program, it is also a program designed to teach our young women about responsible citizenship including, but not limited to: appropriate care and use of the Flag, respect for our active and retired Service Members, veteran recognition and support, US traditions, etc.
 - REMEMBER: the point of this orientation is to provide information about Girls State before their interviews are held at the conclusion of the orientation. We want to make sure that the girls know about Girls State and the requirements of the program before interviews are conducted.
 - Encourage the girls to ask questions about the program and remind them that no question is a dumb question.

Talk About the Auxiliary

- First and foremost, Girls State is one of the premiere programs sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary;
 - Inform the girls that the American Legion sponsors Boys State, while the ALA sponsors Girls State and both are conducted locally (in VT) and nationally.
 - Tell the girls that there will be multiple opportunities throughout the week to learn about the Auxiliary, what it does, how to get involved, and who is eligible, and how to get involved.
 - Inform the girls that Girls Nation and Boys Nation are premiere programs conducted nationally by the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion.

Girls Nation Senators

- Please take a minute to tell the applicants about Girls Nation and what it entails as they will have an opportunity to apply to be sent to Girls Nation.
 - Girls Nation is similar in its intent and scope of Girls State but instead of simulating Vermont government, you will represent Vermont as one of our two senators. You will be expected to draft a piece of legislation with your co-senator, which will follow the actual course of Federal

legislation as it travels through committee to a floor vote and finally will be signed into action by the Girls Nation President.

- Legislation is not guaranteed to pass out of committee
- Girls Nation is a weeklong simulation that takes place in Chevy Chase, MD and the Capital Complex in Washington, D.C. A highlight of the week is when the President of the United States meets with our Girls Nation Senators.
- All Girls State attendees will receive the information necessary to apply to be a Vermont Girls Nation senator in her acceptance packet and these materials will be due at session arrival.
- Any and all costs associated with the Girls Nation program will be paid by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont.

Please be sure to share the following information:

General Information about the ALAGMGS Program:

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a nonpartisan program that teaches young women responsible citizenship and love for God and Country. Since the inception of the Girls State Program in 1937, nearly 1 million young women have had the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local government works. The Girls State network is still alive and well and carries prestige with it into your college and adult career.

The program has grown from a few hundred participants to nearly 20,000 annually. High school girls who have completed their junior year of high school spend an intensive week of study, working together as self-governing citizens. These young women learn government by actually creating a mythical state through the election of public officials on local, county, and state levels and then by carrying out the duties of these respective offices. Girls State provides an understanding of the basic ideals and principles of American government.

For our week of study at Girls State, we closely follow Vermont's laws and Girls State attendees will have the opportunity to work closely with Vermont's elected officials as they work in committees as legislators to pass bills and debate them on the VT Senate and House chambers.

Girls State attendees will run for the positions of Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, and Attorney General, well as for Senators and Representatives. Once attendees arrive at Girls State, they will be assigned to a mock town, named after past American Legion Auxiliary Dept. (State) Presidents, and into two counties named after past National Presidents. Girls are also assigned to one of two parties, Federalist and Nationalist. These

parties are purely fictional and carry no partisanship. Assignments are completely random.

Counselors assist girls during the week and also are judges for various awards – good citizenship, flag raising etiquette, being on time, program involvement, skit night, hall decorations, etc. Counselors award points for various awards. These points will contribute to the coveted Model Town award, which will be given to the Town who has demonstrated outstanding Girls State citizenship.

Girls State is held at Vermont Technical College starting on Saturday, June 16th and ending on Thursday, June 21st.

If you have been selected to attend this Girls State session, you will be notified about six weeks prior to the session, in early to mid May and will receive a registration packet. Please complete and send in all required forms as soon as possible. These are time sensitive documents. We also ask that between the time you've been notified and the time you arrive at Girls State, that you think about how you'd like to participate. Full and complete participation is requested and failure to participate can lead to dismissal from the program.

Housing on VTC

- We will have an entire dorm to ourselves. In most cases, there will be two (2) girls to a room.
- You will need to bring your own bedding, including towels, blankets, pillows, etc. This information will also be included in your acceptance packet.
- Dorms are to be left in the condition you found them in when you arrived on campus or an additional cleaning fee will be charged.

Food on Campus

- Meals will be served in the college cafeteria and food will be cafeteria-style food. We will need notice of any special dietary needs following your acceptance to the program.
- We will provide snacks throughout the week.

Pledge - distribute sample – pledge is signed by both parents/guardians and applicants

- Hand the girls the pledge, they will be asked about this in their interview.

Picture

- A State picture will be taken while attendees are at the State House on Wednesday and will be available for an additional fee through the photographer.

Cost

- The cost for attending ALAGMGS will be paid by the American Legion Auxiliary or a community partner. Once each Unit of the Auxiliary commits to sponsoring attendees, no refunds are issued, so we ask that you consider your commitment seriously. Costs to citizens are those mentioned here – picture, room key deposit (refundable), uniform polos (scholarships are available to cover this cost if necessary) and spending money for the mini-mart.

Transportation

- Citizens are responsible for getting themselves to and from Vermont Technical College. If a citizen drives herself, her car keys will be collected at registration and kept by Girls State staff until the session ends. Your safety is the responsibility of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Attendance at the Session

- All attendees are required to attend the entire Girls State session. Because of insurance purposes, you will not be able to leave during the Girls State session unless there is an emergency and you are excused.

Session Information

- An opening informational session happens once attendees arrive on Saturday that is attended by the delegates and their parents/guardians where everyone is briefed about college rules, given an orientation to the week and then the parents leave and we go to work. Petitions are signed, campaigns are begun, halls are decorated with streamers and posters, slogans are learned, and those running for office write speeches. We encourage girls to bring items you may think you'll need for these activities from home to work with, but **not** prepared materials.
 - Elections for the various positions are held throughout the week.
 - Tuesday afternoon girls will participate in a discussion with current elected officials to learn more about how government works and how a bill becomes a law in preparation for their visit to the State House on Wednesday.

- Girls State Inauguration is held Tuesday night and parents are encouraged to attend.

Some Requirements

- Flag Raising – we do ask that you pledge the flag during Girls State. We are a military organization and as such believe in saluting the flag. If you cannot agree to participate in this exercise, please do not attend Girls State.
- Prayer – a non-denominational prayer is given periodically throughout the session, our motto is “For God and Country,” please have respect for others and remain silent if you do not wish to participate.

Mini-Mart

- An ALAGMGS store will be available on campus where we will sell clothing, sweats, personal items, etc. Bringing money is a good idea, but we can also accept all major credit cards.

Clothing

- Casual wear most of the time – pants, shorts, shirts. No distressed or ripped jeans, short shorts, mini-skirts, or bare bellies/back sides please. We know it might get warm, but we do require appropriate clothing! We have implemented “uniforms” and the policy is attached for your review.

Samsung Scholarship

- The Samsung Group, an international electronics company, has endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by the American Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State attendees are eligible and an application will be included in your acceptance packet.
- Eligibility – Student must be a high school junior and a direct descendent (i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild or a legally adopted child of a U.S. Veteran who served during a period of war). Student must participate in and complete either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program.
- An application will be given to each participant in the Girls State Program. Each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program selects one application to forward to the American Legion National Headquarters. These applications become national finalists and are reviewed by the National Selection Committee each fall. National winners usually receive

a \$20,000 scholarship. Each national finalist will receive a scholarship if he/she is **not** selected as a national scholarship winner. Vermont has had winners in the past.

In closing, remember your selection as a candidate for the 75th annual session of American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State will be determined based on your application and interview and will be communicated to you in early to Mid May.

Thank you for your interest! Any questions?



GIRLS STATE PLEDGE

As a citizen of the American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary of Vermont, I voluntarily make the following pledge:

I will obey the rules of Girls State.

I will take a serious and conscientious interest in discharging my duties as a citizen.

If elected to an office, I will serve that office to the best of my ability.

I will respect the authority of counselors and shall conform to requests made by them in the line of duty.

I will not form any habits while at Girls State that I do not practice at home.

I will not leave the grounds of Vermont Technical College without permission from the Director unless I am member of an organized party accompanied by a counselor.

I will not appropriate, deface, or destroy the property of Vermont technical College or another citizen. I will leave my dorm in the condition I found it in upon arrival.

I will attend all scheduled meetings.

I will make a formal report (written or oral) to my contributing organization(s) upon my return home, describing my activities and participation in the week's program and the benefits received.

In so far as possible, I will take an active part in the affairs of the Party, County, and Town to which I am assigned.

I will be fair and honest in all my dealings with my fellow citizens.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

GIRLS STATE DELEGATE

BOTH PARENT/GUARDIAN AND GIRLS STATE DELEGATE MUST SIGN THIS FORM.