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January 30, 2023

For Immediate Release: 2023 Girls State Fact Sheet

To Whom It May Concern,

The committee is pleased to release the official information for the 80th session of ALA Arkansas Girls State, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas. We ask that you closely read the following information and pay special attention to the deadlines for this year's session. All schools and Auxiliary Units must register their point of contact before February 17th to begin the process of registering delegates. Following point of contact registration, the contact from **either** the unit or school should send in the school participation form and tuition fees for the selected delegates.

Should you have any questions about the upcoming session, we ask that you email us at aralagsstate@att.net or visit our website: www.arkansasgirlsstate.com.

Dee Smith, Department President
Charlotte Wilson, Program Director
Naomi Owen, ALA Girls State Chairman
Ali Crane, ALA Girls State Committee Member
Julie Landrum, ALA Girls State Committee Member

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**American Legion Auxiliary
Arkansas Girls State - 80th Session
Sponsored by and a Program of
The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arkansas**



When & Where: May 28- June 2, 2023 at Harding University in Searcy Arkansas.

What is Girls State? Arkansas Girls State is a program of education sponsored by the ALA Department of Arkansas since 1942. It has provided training for over 55,000 Arkansas young women in the fundamental aspects of citizenship and practical government for the past 79 years. The ALA Girls State program in Arkansas is designed to provide citizenship training for young women of high school age; afford them an opportunity to live together in fictional cities and counties as self-governing citizens; inform them about the duties, privileges, and participation in the functioning of their government; and help them grasp the meaning of some of the responsibilities which they must assume when they become adults. The delegates elect their own officials, organize their own legislature, and have official visits with their real life counterparts in the Capitol. Two delegates will be selected to attend American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. as Arkansas Senators where a mock government experience is planned on the national level.

Eligibility: Limited to any young woman in her junior or third year of high school (prior to starting the 12th grade) who is properly selected, meeting all qualifications listed below, and is able to attend the entire session. She must be a legal resident of the United States. The selected young woman must be able to participate for the entirety of the program—delegates will not be allowed to arrive late, leave early, or “check out” for any part of the session. Delegates who cannot attend the entire session should not be selected as delegates.

Qualifications: Arkansas Girls State delegates are to be selected by their schools or an American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Prospective delegates are chosen on the following qualifications: **leadership, character and honesty, scholarship, cooperativeness, community participation and service.** The final approval of young women selected as delegates will occur when the delegate has registered online, provided required documents, and fee has been collected by the ALA Department of Arkansas headquarters.

Fees & Sponsorship: The cost of the one-week on-campus American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Session is \$300 per delegate, must be included with the School Participation List and submitted by the sponsoring ALA Unit or High School. The registration fee is NOT to be paid by the student or their family, but rather this fee should be paid by sponsorship through a local Auxiliary Unit/Post, High School, Community or Civic Organization, or local business. The Auxiliary Unit or school may also help to locate sponsors to support the cost of the registration fee, and organizations may share expenses. **All fees to the ALA Arkansas Girls State Session are non-refundable.** If the delegate must cancel attendance to ALA Arkansas Girls State, they must notify their school AND the American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters as cancellation may allow another student to attend if space is available.

Deadlines to Note: **February 17:** Point of contact registered by both schools and units
March 17: Selected delegates submitted
May 2nd: Submission of School Participation List/Delegate Tuition Fees **AND** All forms signed and submitted by Delegates