

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



JUNE 16-22, 2019

“The Week That Shapes a Lifetime”

General Information

Eligibility Criteria:

- Be a female and a legal resident of the State of Oregon
- Show respect for and be willing to salute the American Flag
- Have completed the junior year in high school with at least one semester of high school remaining, or; if home schooled, be at least 15 years of age and have completed the 11th grade year

Girls State Delegate selection is also based on leadership, scholarship, character, and interest in community service and government.

When and Where:

ALA Oregon Girls State will be held at Willamette University, located across from the Oregon State Capitol in Salem. Delegates must be able to attend the entire session from 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 16th through 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 22nd, 2019.

Program Description:

Oregon Girls State is a leadership program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary that is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while educating attendees about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Delegates come away with a greater appreciation for civic duty, the American Flag, and of the sacrifices made by our veterans. Girls State delegates make life-long connections with other exceptional girls from around the state and have a fantastic week that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Girls State establishes a mock government based on the laws of the state of Oregon. Each Girls State “Citizen” is assigned to a housing unit representing a “County.” Elections are held to fill a variety of city and county positions as well as state Senators

and Representatives that will serve in the Girls State Legislature. At the state level Citizens may also run for Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Labor Commissioner, Supreme Court Justice (7) or Girls Nation Senator (2). Officers elected in 2019 return to attend the 2020 Oregon Girls State session to serve in the office to which they were elected.

The two Citizens who are elected Girls Nation Senators attend ALA Girls Nation the following month in our nation's capital--Washington DC--where they participate in a federal mock government program. During the 2014 session, one of Oregon's Girls Nation Senators was elected to the high office of President of Girls Nation.

In addition to the election process, other opportunities include: attending a variety of workshops; preparing for and participating in a mock trial; serving as a journalist or lobbyist, participating in law enforcement training with the Marion County Sheriff's office and; experiencing a wide range of other activities. General assemblies include presentations from some of Oregon's top elected officials as well as other inspirational speakers. Delegates may apply for the American Legion Samsung Scholarship valued at \$1000.00 at the Oregon Level. The Delegate awarded the Samsung Scholarship for Oregon goes on to compete at the national level for an opportunity at an additional \$19,000.00 scholarship.

Girls State Fees:

The total cost for a week at ALA Oregon Girls State is \$300.00. **The American Legion Auxiliary Unit in your area sponsors delegates by paying \$200 of those expenses.** The Delegate must remit a \$100 Registration Fee, \$50 of which is refunded at the end of the week upon her completion of the 2018 Girls State session. A Delegate forfeits the entire \$100 Registration fee if they fail to attend or complete the entire 2019 Girls State session.

Application Procedure:

Interested junior girls should complete the online application at: www.alaoregon.org

If selected as a delegate, girls will be notified and provided with further information about the 2019 session.

Prior to the 2019 Girls State session, delegate orientations are held throughout the state and online. Delegates will be notified of the orientation being held in their area.

Interested parties are encouraged to email questions to Oregon Girls State Director Erin Walters at aux@erinwalters.com. Further information is also available on our website, www.alaoregon.org

There is a companion program for junior boys--Oregon Boys State--sponsored by The American Legion.