

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



A Typical Day at ALA Oregon Girls State

Your day begins with **County Time**—Each day the Citizens and staff of each County spend time together engaging in such activities as elections, team building, getting to know one another, planning for Follies, practicing for flag ceremony, and/or making County banners.

After county time, is the **Flag Ceremony**—all Citizens attend the morning and evening flag ceremony. Every County will have a turn to either raise the American flag in the morning or retire the flag in the evening. After morning Flag Ceremony, citizens go to **Breakfast**.

After breakfast the citizens attend **General Assembly**—Each day the Girls State Citizens gather to hear speakers from a wide variety of educational and experienced backgrounds including Oregon’s current elected officials and other inspirational leaders. Speakers often address issues surrounding governmental processes and procedures. Early in the week, the focus is on learning about government and by the end of the week, citizens are running the Oregon Girls State government. (See below for program specifics)

Citizens have **Lunch** following General Assembly. (We are very well-fed at Girls State!)

After lunch, citizens have the opportunity for educational and informative activities such as the **Capitol Tour** (an opportunity for all Citizens to tour our State Capitol and see the Oregon Legislature in action)

Additional opportunities at Girls State include:

Serving as “county” Senators or Representatives; participating in law enforcement training with the Marion County Sheriff’s office; a comprehensive Mock Trial program mentored by students and graduates of the Willamette University College of Law; touring facilities such as the County Clerk’s Office, or the Statesmen Journal newspaper (especially for those interested in participating as a journalist at Girls State); training with Oregon lobbyists, and; engaging with military veterans for a snapshot of women in the military.

Your afternoons will be filled with one of several breakout sessions, depending on your interests. These sessions include:

- **Legislative Sessions**—Most of the days include legislative sessions for the Citizens who have been elected Senators and Representatives. During House and Senate proceedings, the Girls State Legislators have the opportunity to introduce and debate bills. Citizens may choose to serve as **Lobbyists** in the legislature.
- **Workshops**—Workshops are provided for those Citizens not serving in the Legislature. Workshops include topics such as Leadership Styles, Choosing a College, an overview of Law School, and a primer for applying for student aid/loans/grants.
- **Mock Trial**—Many Citizens not serving in the Legislature take part in a 3-day Mock Trial which is facilitated by graduates of the Willamette College of Law.
- **Journalism**—Citizens may apply to serve as journalists and/or photographers; 2-3 issues of the *Girls State Journal* are published each year during the week-long Girls State session.
- **County Clerks**—citizens may run for election as their county clerk, who is responsible for monitoring and overseeing elections and tallying ballots. County Clerks report to the Secretary of State elected in last year's session.
- **State Police**—citizens interested in serving as Oregon Girls State Police officers learn their trade throughout the week by participating in workshops with Marion County Sheriff Deputies and will issue "citations" to Girls State citizens who break the rules. Supreme Court Justices elected at last year's Girls State session hear the cases of those who receive citations, issue a decision on the case, and sentence guilty offenders to various (harmless) punishments.

Late afternoon may include additional speakers, field trips, county time, candidate speeches and/or meetings of the various governmental factions within ALA Oregon Girls State.

A **Flag Retirement Ceremony** is at 5:45 each day, followed by **Dinner** is at 6:00 p.m.

After dinner, no two days are alike! You may be giving or attending speeches for that evening's election, practicing for the end-of-week Follies (see below), enjoying the American Legion Auxiliary Reception where your sponsors and members of the American Legion Auxiliary can meet and mingle with their delegates, blow off some steam at the Girls State Party, or enjoy the magic and reverie of the Candle Lighting Ceremony (see below).

County Meetings, each evening, are set aside for taking care of County business, which includes elections, making posters/writing speeches for the following days' election, Follies planning and practice, and team building.

Elections are an integral cornerstone of the Girls State experience. There are many positions for which Citizens may run, ranging from various County and State offices to Oregon Girls State Governor or Girls Nation Senator. The election process includes such elements as, primary elections, campaign rallies, Girls Nation debates, Whistle Stops and voting at all levels.

Reflection Time—At the end of the day, each County meets to spend some time reflecting on the day. This time is used to discuss what they learned, how it impacted them, and to build relationships that often last a lifetime.

Your week at Girls State concludes with the Saturday morning inauguration of the citizens elected to high office and the award of First Citizen and the Samsung Scholarship. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend and tour your “counties” afterward as you pack up and leave the wonderful new friends you made during your week at Girls State.

Special Activities:

Candle Lighting Ceremony—After the Friday night Ice Cream Party, the Candle Lighting Ceremony is focused on honoring our Veterans and absent loved ones and reflecting on and giving thanks for the week.

Follies—On Thursday night, we have the Follies; a “cabaret show,” of sorts. Each County has stage time to do skits, dance, or whatever they please!

Girls State Party—Thursday night, the Girls State Party kicks off with the Follies and continues until county time with music, dancing, games and (yep!) lots of junk food.

Inauguration—The Saturday morning “closing ceremony” for the week at which all state elected officers are sworn into office, and the two Girls Nation Senators and the Samsung Scholarship recipient is announced. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend!!!

ALA OREGON GIRLS STATE: *The Week That Shapes a Lifetime!*

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