



Delegates from the 2019 ALA Kentucky Girls State gather on the capitol steps.

## Learning by doing

In 1947, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kentucky established the Girls State program to provide young women with the opportunity to learn about government via the first hand experience of establishing a mock government. Based upon Kentucky government, city and state government is studied with the participants developing political parties, conducting elections, and passing legislation.

Each attendee is assigned to a mythical city, a political party, and the Senate or House of Representatives.

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Kentucky Girls State offers 6 days of intellectual stimulation, as well as the opportunity of making new friends, and making memories that will last a lifetime.

### PROGRAM

ALA Kentucky Girls State is designed to give its participants a comprehensive view of the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.

All citizens of Kentucky Girls State are members of a mythical 51st state with the branches and levels of government patterned after Kentucky government. A two party political system using the names “Federalist” and “Nationalist” is used to replicate the workings of the political system, and have no connection to the current political parties within our state or nation.

Participants conduct their own elections to serve in city and state offices, familiarizing themselves with current issues as well as the duties and responsibilities of the individual office. They participate in county government through panels and guest presentations from past and present office holders. A bicameral legislature, with the House of Representatives and Senate, is formed where the participants can write, introduce, debate, and pass their own legislation.

### STAFF

ALA Kentucky Girls State is conducted as a program of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kentucky. It is staffed by volunteers who are members of the American Legion Auxiliary, and by former participants of the Girls State program. All staff members are over 18 years old and subject to regular background checks.

### VIRTUAL REQUIREMENTS

Access to an internet connection and an individual email address is required. A school address is not acceptable for use in the program.

### ELIGIBILITY

Participants in the Girls State Program will have just completed her junior, or third year, of high school. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020, the program will accept Juniors from 2020 and 2021.

Participants must be legal residents of the United States.

Participants must be essentially a leader... leadership, character, honesty, cooperativeness, and participation in service in her school and community are important.

Participants must be interested in government, willing and available for full participation in the ALA Girls State program for the entire session.

Participants in the Governor’s Scholar Program are encouraged to apply; however, due to the dates of GSP, they would not be eligible to attend Girls Nation.

Application deadline is May 15

### SELECTION

Potential ALA Girls State participants are recommended by their schools based upon the characteristics listed above. The final selection of ALA Girls State participants rests with the sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Applicants sent directly from schools or individuals must provide a letter of recommendation from a school official.

### SPONSORSHIP

Attendance at ALA Kentucky Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary through local Units. Other civic organizations, individuals, and businesses help support the program as contributing sponsors. The sponsorship fee for 2021 is \$130.

## TOP 10 REASONS TO PARTICIPATE

10. It's a resume builder – only if you attend for the full week.
9. Be part of a more than year tradition – sponsored by the largest women's patriotic organization – The American Legion Auxiliary.
8. Famous people have attended including former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, former Washington Governor Christine Gregoire, Jane Pawley, Kentucky Lt. Governor Crit Luallen and BG (Ret.) Anne Fields McDonald (USMA graduate from the first class including females) .
7. Opportunity to be chosen as a Girls Nation
6. Develop valuable skills – public speaking, debating, journalism, confidence builder, etc.
5. Speakers are awesome – hear their motivating messages and put them to use.
4. Build a greater understanding of the history and government of Kentucky.
3. Opportunity to run your own city.
2. Making new friends – for the week, for the summer and some for life-long.
1. Be empowered by other enthusiastic, intelligent young women.



# American Legion Auxiliary Kentucky Girls State

Virtual Session

June 6—June 11, 2021

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### Quotes from Former Citizens

"Girls State not only allowed me to gain a greater appreciation of how government works, my rights as a citizen, and a desire to give back to my country, but it also introduced me to lifelong friends."

Kirsten Logan, 2012 Kentucky Girls State Citizen

USCG Graduate

"KY Girls State truly changed my life. Because of the program, I met lifelong friends and discovered what career I'd like to pursue. Girls State gave me the tools and connections to pursue a career in public service."

Danica Moon, 2017 ALA Kentucky Girls State Citizen

2017 Vice President ALA Girls Nation