



2026

Delegate Manual

Revised March 2026

2026 FLORIDA GIRLS STATE DELEGATE MANUAL

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Dear Girls State Citizen,

Congratulations!

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida, welcomes you to the 2026 Florida Girls State session. We are a volunteer group supporting veterans, military members, their families, youth, and local communities. A key value is fostering respect for the United States, its flag, and those who are serving or have served our country. You were selected because of your impressive academic achievements and strong leadership qualities. As you begin this program, we hope you will learn more about yourself and recognize the possibilities ahead of you.

You will engage in a comprehensive, seven-day government-in-action program focused on Civics and the American Government. This interactive experience is designed to develop essential skills through activities such as campaigning, debating, voting, and forming simulated local and state governments. By electing local and state leaders, you will gain a deeper understanding of the significance of elections and the responsibility that comes with this civic duty.

This program is rigorous and demands significant effort; however, it also offers valuable opportunities for inspiration and personal growth. You will have the chance to form lasting friendships.

We are glad you are here! Keep in mind that your results will reflect the effort you invest.

Work hard, but have fun doing it!

“Forward Forever, Backward Never, Within Ourselves, Our Future Lies”

Linda Knoblach-Harkness

Linda Knoblach-Harkness
President 2026-2027
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida

GIRLS STATE MOTTO

*"FORWARD FOREVER, BACKWARD NEVER,
WITHIN OURSELVES, OUR FUTURE LIES"*

For God and Country, as a citizen of Girls State, I promise:

To give unselfish and constructive cooperation; To share with others the benefits of my experience at Girls State; To participate in the government of my community, state and nation upon reaching my majority; and above all, to constantly exemplify the highest type of Americanism.

GIRLS STATE AND GIRLS NATION

When the idea of Girls State was unfolded before the American Legion Auxiliary, it was as if we saw a vision clear and dear to our hearts. This vision brought the picture of a new form of training in government processes for young American women, for those girls who will compose a large percentage of our citizenry tomorrow.

Girls State was organized as a National Americanism activity of the American Legion Auxiliary in 1937. The first Girls State in Florida was held in June 1947. You are attending the 79th session. You are a part of approximately 20,000 outstanding high school girls attending Girls State this summer.

Girls State was organized to inspire and develop interest in the study of government, foster civic leadership, but most of all, to stimulate a desire to protect the privileges and responsibilities of our democratic form of government.

Girls Nation is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and is held in Washington, DC. It is a week of studying federal government, meeting national government officials, and visiting places of historical interest in our nation's capitol.

Each of the citizens of Girls State share in the selection of Florida's two Senators to Girls Nation. One girl will be nominated by the citizens and city advisor from each city - the final selection will be made by the staff.

We are glad you are here and share with you the pride you have in having been selected. Our efforts at Girls State are directed toward making this a week the practical application of Americanism and good citizenship. The entire program is a non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-political attempt to teach and inculcate in the youth of America a love of God and country.

CREED FOR YOUTH

"I am an American youth. As such I realize that I enjoy greater freedom, greater privileges and greater advantages than any other youth in the world."

"If I am to continue to enjoy these things, I must do my best to maintain them."

"I know, therefore, that I must obey laws and uphold the principles upon which the Nation was founded."

"As I am but one of millions, I must respect the rights of others. As I am not perfect, I must be tolerant of others. As I am young, I must accept the good counsel from my elders."

"Knowing that tomorrow I will be one who will help to guide the destinies of my country, I shall bear in mind that I must be fitted to assume the duties of citizenship, and that I, the same as others before me, must consider that there are others to follow me, who, as they are to enjoy the kind of world that I am enjoying, must have that kind of world waiting for them. Thus, anything I do today to destroy the rights, privileges, and liberties of others is unfair and selfish."

"These things I do not wish to do. Therefore, I will try to be considerate, honest, and decent, so that others may live as freely as I am living today and in the future."

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which the American patriots sacrificed their own lives and fortunes.

GIRLS STATE SONGS

FLORIDA GIRLS STATE SONG

OH, WHEN A GIRL STATER SAYS HELLO
YOU'LL SAY NOW THERE'S A GIRL I'D LIKE TO KNOW,
SHE'S GOT THE SPIRIT, PEP AND LOYALTY
AND SHE'S PROUD TO BE A GIRLS STATE NOMINEE
AND WHEN SHE GRADUATES SHE'LL N'ER FORGET,
OF ALL THE FUN SHE'S HAD AND FRIENDS SHE'S MET.
AND DEEP WITHIN HER HEART SHE'LL
ALWAYS BE,
ALWAYS BE,
A GIRL STATER YOU'LL SEEEEEEEEEEE.
GIRLS STATE (CLAP THREE TIMES)
GIRLS STATE (CLAP THREE TIMES)
GIRLS STATE (CLAP THREE TIMES)

GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRREAT!!!!

NATIONAL GIRLS STATE SONG

Raise your voices, raise the, high
Sing to Girls State, and here's why:
Look to Girls State and you'll find
Tomorrow's leaders of mankind.

Chorus: We are the future builders,
Builders in a band
And we come from Girls State,
the best state in the land.
We are up and coming,
Progressive, kind and strong
And to our own Girls State,
We proudly sing our song.

AMERICA, AMERICA (ROUND)

AMERICA, AMERICA
SHALL WE TELL YOU HOW WE FEEL?
YOU HAVE GIVEN US YOUR RICHES
WE LOVE YOU SOOOOOOO.

GIRLS STATE, GIRLS STATE
LET US TELL YOU HOW WE FEEL
YOU HAVE GIVEN US YOUR KINDNESS
WE LOVE YOU SOOOOOOOO.

YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG

YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG, YOU'RE A HIGH-FLYING FLAG
AND FOREVER IN PEACE MAY YOU WAVE;
YOU'RE THE EMBLEM OF THE LAND I LOVE
THE HOME OF THE FREE AND THE BRAVE

EVERY HEART BEATS TRUE TO THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE
WHERE THERE'S NEVER A BOAST OR BRAG;
SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE GRAND OLD FLAG

MAKE NEW FRIENDS (SING AS A ROUND)

MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND KEEP THE OLD
ONE IS SILVER AND THE OTHER FOLD
(SINGE THREE TIMES)

FLORIDA GIRLS STATE ELECTIONS

Only approved campaign material can be used. No pre-made material. Campaign material is to be hung on the string provided in each city. Nothing can be taped to any surface. Staff reserve the right to remove any material not in the proper location or deemed inappropriate. All material must be removed following each election. No campaign material is allowed at the election site. City Advisors will review rules prior to campaigning.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTIONS:

1. All candidates running for an office must qualify. **See your City Advisor for full information.**
2. Whenever there are two or more candidates for an office, a plurality will elect.
3. There will be one election for 30 city officials. Elected officials will serve the entire session of Florida Girls State.
 - City elections will be conducted by the City Advisor and “Heads down, Hands up” method of voting will be used.
 - A person elected to city office may also be elected to a party office and state office without resigning from the city office.
 - a. Exception: Supervisor of Elections. The Supervisor of Elections participates in the Town Hall Meeting. The Supervisors prepare and ask questions of the candidates for Governor, Lt Governor, Cabinet, and Justice. If a Supervisor becomes her party’s candidate for one of these offices, she is ineligible to participate in the Town Hall Meeting as a Supervisor of Elections.
 - b. You may run for and become Supervisor of Elections and run for Governor, Lt Governor, Cabinet, or Justice. If you become your party’s nominee, you just cannot participate in the Town Hall Meeting as Supervisor of Elections.

PARTY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS:

1. **There will be a candidate elected by each party for the following officials:** Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, Commissioner of Agriculture, and seven (7) Justices of the Supreme Court. In the general election, the Chief Justice will be the Justice receiving the highest number of votes.
2. The candidate for Governor for party elections shall select her running mate for Lt Governor within her party. The Governor and Lt Governor shall therefore be from the same party.
3. The party chairman, party whip, timekeeper, and party secretary, may run for a seat in the Senate or the House of Representatives - but **may not serve as or run for the offices of:** Governor, Lt Governor, Cabinet member, Supreme Court Justice, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore, or Speaker Pro Tempore.
4. Ten (10) Senators, twenty-six (26) Representatives, four (4) Lobbyists, and two (2) County Attorneys will be elected from each county.
5. All candidates for Attorney General, Justice of the Supreme Court, and County Attorney must have passed the Seminole Bar Exam to qualify for these positions.

Duties of City Officials

Upon arrival to the dorm, you will be assigned to a city in the mock State of Seminole. The first election held in your city will determine who will hold each of these positions. Please review the duties of each position so that you can be prepared to campaign.

Mayor: Chairs a nightly City Council Meeting. Responsible for seeing that the duties of City Officials are completed. Collects citizens' bills and co-chairs the Bill Review Committee session with sister city's mayor.

Commissioner (6): Encourages city spirit by planning city songs and cheers, designing and creating city banner, and overseeing decoration of city based on city's assigned word.

Councilman (7): Ensures that all rooms in city are kept clean. Room doors are to be kept open while in the dorm and closed when citizens are out of the dorm. Assists in taking down campaign signs. Explains upcoming events at City Council meetings: City Pictures, Amelia Reese Award, Outstanding Citizen Award, etc.

Municipal Judge: Monitors sign-in sheet for citizens coming and going, sees that they are on time to scheduled activities and City Council meetings. Collects shirts from city for delivery to laundry and distributes clean shirts to citizens everyday.

Secretary/Treasurer: Picks up food for city when necessary. Acts as recording secretary at the Bill Review Committee meeting. Confirms vegetarians, vegans, food allergies. Provides a list of citizens to Director.

Reporter: Works on the Girls State newspaper as assigned. Attends all press meetings. Participates in assigned assembly by presenting WFGS News at the direction of the Press Advisor of the Seminole Legend. (Interest in journalism or writing, knowledge of sentence structure and grammar, typing/computer skills required.) **Note:** If elected a reporter, you are not eligible for any other office or appointment.

Chief of Police: Ensures that lights are out and citizens are in bed at the specified time each night. Secures all citizen room doors prior to leaving the dorm each day and opens the room doors upon return to the dorm.

Assistant Chief of Police: Assists the Chief of Police with her duties.

Fire Chief: Gets citizens up in the morning. Develops a fire escape plan for the city, instructs citizens on the proper route and outside meeting place if exiting the building in an emergency. Makes a formal report to the City Council.

Assistant Fire Chief: Assists the Fire Chief with her duties.

City Attorney: Sees that citizens wear their name tags and have their Delegate Manual, Legislative Organization and Procedure Handbook, and paper/pen with them. Takes care of personal relations.

Assistant City Attorney: Assists the City Attorney with her duties.

Post Mistress: Collects a card or letter from each citizen to sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit by designated day and turns in a 100% report to the City Advisor. Makes a formal report to the City Council.

Director of Safety: Locates safety equipment (fire extinguisher, alarm buttons, nearest exit, etc.). Makes citizens aware of the location of Sick Bay and the need to report any illness or injury immediately to City Advisor or other Florida Girls State Staff member. Locates exits and instructs city as to which exits are to be used when leaving the dorm. Makes a formal report to the City Council. Assures safety of her city's citizens to and from meals and other activities.

Director of Public Works: Keeps hall clean and neat. Insures that citizens remove old campaign materials. Sees that recyclable materials are placed in proper containers.

Assistant Director of Public Works: Assists the Director of Public Works with her duties.

City Clerk: Acts as Sergeant-at-Arms in lining up citizens for elections and in Bill Review Committee Meeting. Completes city election forms legibly, posts one copy in city, other copies to the City Advisor. Makes formal report to the City Council.

City Manager: Opens City Council meeting with the Pledge to the Flag and a brief thought for the day and patriotic song. Closes the meeting with a two-minute inspirational thought.

Supervisor of Elections: Lines citizens up in alphabetical order for state elections and assists in verifying voter registration. Assists Staff members in organizing Town Hall Meetings.

Election and Duties of County Officials

County Elections:

10 Senators, 26 Representatives, 4 Lobbyists and 2 County Attorneys will be elected from each county.

Sign-up sheets for Senators and Representatives will be posted in each county seat until the day/time instructed. A ballot will then be made. If a primary election or general election candidate does NOT win, she MAY be allowed to enter her name on the ballot as a write-in. Specific instructions will be given by party advisors.

Sign-up sheets for Lobbyists and County Attorneys will be posted in each county seat until the day/time instructed. A ballot will then be made. If a candidate does NOT win, she MAY be allowed to enter her name at a later day/time. Specific instructions will be given by party advisors.

After the general elections for State positions, County officials will be elected. The following are the duties of each office:

Senators/Representatives:

Assigned to one of the six committees to draft and review bills. Meets in Senate and House Chambers at the Capitol to debate and act on bills presented to the legislators.

Lobbyists:

Attends committee meetings in the House and Senate sessions to lobby for or against a pending bill.

County Attorneys:

Participates in and assists with mock trial at the Supreme Court.

Duties of Officials of the State of Seminole

POSITIONS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

THE CABINET:

Cabinet members are elected by registered voters in the State of Seminole. The Cabinet works together on mock disasters. They collaborate on legislation passed by the House and Senate, with final determination by the Governor.

GOVERNOR

The Governor of the State of Seminole is the highest elected official in the state. She serves as chair of the cabinet and chief executive of the state government. The Governor assumes the role of commander-in-chief of all state military services. Primary responsibilities include: enforcing state laws, requesting interpretations from the Supreme Court on constitutional subjects, approving or vetoing bills passed by the state legislature, drafting a balanced budget to submit to the legislature, granting pardons, and convening legislature.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The Lieutenant Governor becomes Governor should that office become vacant. She is elected on the same ticket as Governor and is chosen by the governor candidate as her running mate. Duties of the office are left to the discretion of the Governor and legislature.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General is an elected cabinet official in the State of Seminole. She serves as the chief legal officer of the state and is head of the State Department of Legal Affairs.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for investing general and trust funds for the State of Seminole. She is the cash manager for the state and oversees the state insurance commission in charge of regulating insurance rates. As Fire Marshall, she investigates fires and suppresses arson.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

The Commissioner of Agriculture oversees work with farmers to ensure compliance with food safety regulations and battles with plant and animal pests and diseases. She is responsible for ensuring that foresters manage woodlands and extinguish out-of-control fires. As Commissioner of Agriculture, she is responsible for consumer complaints filed at the state level.

POSITIONS AND DUTIES OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES:

Justices will go to the Supreme Court, robe out in the Justices robes, and be presented to the Citizens of Girls State. The Supreme Court will preside over the mock trial. They could possibly be asked by the Governor to rule on the legality of the context of a bill. Candidates must pass the bar exam.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Chief Justice is the candidate who receives the most votes in the general election. The Chief Justice will preside over the Supreme Court and have the deciding vote.

JUDICIAL BRANCH APPOINTMENTS:

Clerk of Court	Communications Director
Marshal	

POSITIONS AND DUTIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES:

All Senators and Representatives will be assigned to one of the six standing committees to review bills prior to going to the Capitol. They will meet in Senate and House Chambers at the Capitol to debate and act on bills presented to them.

LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

The following positions will start in the appointment room immediately following the election of Senators, Representatives, Lobbyists, and County Attorneys. They will travel to the respective houses to be elected by the members of House and Senate.

Secretary of Senate	House Chief Clerk
Assistant Secretary of Senate	House Deputy Clerk
Senate Sgt. At Arms	House Sgt. At Arms

The following positions are by appointment only and will be assigned following the above elections.

Senate Chaplain	House Chaplain
2 Senate Reading Secretaries	2 House Reading Clerks
2 Senate Bill Messengers	2 Bill Messengers
2 Senate Bill Clerks	2 Bill Clerks
Senate Communications Director	House Communications Director
Senate Chairman of Pages	House Chairman of Pages
Senate Assistant Chairman of Pages	House Assistant Chairman of Pages
Senate Pages (number will vary)	House Pages (number will vary)

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FLORIDA GIRLS STATE OF "SEMINOLE"

WE, THE CITIZENS OF THE GIRLS STATE, SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, IN ORDER TO FOSTER BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE THROUGH LEARNING BY PARTICIPATION, HOW TO "GOVERN BY CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED," DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, GIRLS STATE OF "SEMINOLE."

ARTICLE I

NAME AND BOUNDARIES: THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION SHALL BE GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE. THE BOUNDARIES OF THIS STATE SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: THE COUNTIES OF APALACHICOLA, HOMOSASSA, KISSIMMEE, ST. JOHNS, AND SUWANNEE AS ESTABLISHED AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE FLORIDA STATE CAPITOL.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE: THE PURPOSE OF GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE SHALL BE TO PROVIDE CITIZENSHIP TRAINING FOR GIRLS COMPLETING THEIR JUNIOR YEAR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA; TO AFFORD THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE TOGETHER AS SELF-GOVERNING CITIZENS; AND TO INFORM THEM OF THE DUTIES, PRIVILEGES, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY UNDERSTAND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THEIR GOVERNMENT.

ARTICLE III

ELIGIBILITY AND CITIZENSHIP: ANY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL HAVING COMPLETED HER JUNIOR YEAR WHO RESIDES IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND ONE SESSION OF GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE, PROVIDED SHE IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO AGREES TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN ALL PATRIOTIC PROGRAMS, INCLUDING FLAG CEREMONIES, AND IS SPONSORED BY AN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS: GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE SHALL BE HELD ANNUALLY AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND AT SUCH TIME AS SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA.

ARTICLE V

THE PEOPLE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE TOGETHER TO CONSULT FOR THE COMMON GOOD, TO INSTRUCT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO PETITION THE LEGISLATURE FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

ARTICLE VI

DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS: THE POWERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE SHALL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE S; LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL, AND NO PERSON PROPERLY BELONGING TO ONE OF THE BRANCHES SHALL EXERCISE ANY POWERS PERTAINING TO EITHER OF THE OTHERS, EXCEPT IN CASES EXPRESSLY PROVIDED FOR BY THIS CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE VII

OFFICIALS OF GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE, BEFORE ENTERING UPON THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES, SHALL SUBSCRIBE TO THE FOLLOWING OATH OR AFFIRMATION, PLACING THEIR RIGHT HAND ON THE HOLY BIBLE AND RAISING THEIR LEFT HAND: "I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE AND WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF _____ AT GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY."

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS: THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF BOTH HOUSES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA.

ARTICLE IX

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH: THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THIS STATE SHALL BE VESTED IN A BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE CONSISTING OF A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND A SENATE. THE STATE LEGISLATURE OF SEMINOLE SHALL CONVENE DURING THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE FLORIDA GIRLS STATE. THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL BE ELECTED BY COUNTY. A MAJORITY OF EACH HOUSE SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM. ANY BILL MAY ORIGINATE IN EITHER HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

TO BECOME A LAW FOR THE CURRENT MEETING OF GIRLS STATE, A BILL MUST PASS BOTH HOUSES BY A MAJORITY VOTE, AND BE SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS. THE GOVERNOR MAY SEND THE BILL BACK TO THE HOUSE IN WHICH IT ORIGINATED WITH HER OBJECTION, BUT IF EACH HOUSE PASSES THE BILL BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE AFTER THE GOVERNOR'S VETO, THE BILL BECOMES A LAW. IT WILL ALSO BECOME A LAW IF THE GOVERNOR NEITHER SIGNS IT NOR VETOES IT WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS.

THE SENATE SHALL HAVE A SECRETARY AND THE HOUSE, A CHIEF CLERK WHO SHALL KEEP THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE RESPECTIVE HOUSES. THE LEGISLATURE MAY NOT PASS LAWS ON ANY SUBJECT RELATIVE TO GIRLS STATE, ESPECIALLY IN THE REALM OF ACTIVITIES ALREADY PRESCRIBED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA. HOWEVER, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE MAY BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION.

WHENEVER THE LEGISLATURE MEETS IN JOINT SESSION, IT SHALL BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. EACH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE COMPRISES A **NEW STATE** AND IS **NOT** BOUND BY LAWS MADE BY PREVIOUS SESSIONS.

ARTICLE X

EXECUTIVE BRANCH: THE EXECUTIVE POWER OF THE STATE OF SEMINOLE SHALL BE VESTED IN THE GOVERNOR WHO IS ELECTED FOR ONE YEAR AND IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION. THE GOVERNOR SHALL BE CHOSEN BY THE ELECTORATE OF GIRLS STATE WHICH INCLUDES ALL CITIZENS OF THE STATE.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE GOVERNOR ARE AS FOLLOWS: LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE, ATTORNEY GENERAL, COMPTROLLER, TREASURER, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AND COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

THE GOVERNOR SHALL, AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF EACH ANNUAL SESSION, GIVE TO THE LEGISLATURE BY MESSAGE, INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CONDITION OF THE STATE OF SEMINOLE, AND RECOMMEND SUCH MEASURES AS SHE MAY DEEM EXPEDIENT.

ARTICLE XI

JUDICIAL BRANCH: THE JUDICIAL POWER OF THE STATE SHALL BE VESTED IN THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE STATE SUPREME COURT. THE POWER OF THE JUDICIARY TO PUNISH SHALL NOT EXTEND BEYOND AN ANNUAL SESSION OF THE FLORIDA GIRLS STATE OF SEMINOLE, AND JUDGEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA.

ARTICLE XII

NOMINATIONS AT PARTY CONVENTIONS: ALL STATE ELECTIVE OFFICERS SHALL BE ELECTED ON A PARTISAN TICKET. THEIR NAMES SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOLLOWING THEIR NOMINATION IN PARTY CONVENTIONS HELD SOMETIME DURING THE TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS PRECEDING THE ELECTION.

THE HISTORY OF GIRLS STATE AND GIRLS NATION

Girls State, culminated by Girls Nation, is the youth citizenship training program conducted annually by the American Legion Auxiliary to allow high school juniors practical experience in the processes of government and thus a clear understanding of their approaching citizenship responsibility. During the Depression of the 1930's, The American Legion grew concerned over public statements that democracy was "on the skids." It wondered how America could train its young people in the processes of self-government as effectively as Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany seemed to be training their youth in totalitarianism. The American Legion decided that the best way to learn something was to practice it. In 1935, the American Legionnaires began to gather teenage representatives of high schools together for a few days each summer in a citizenship training program on the processes of city and state government and called it "Boys State."

The Founding of Girls State: As this program succeeded and spread throughout the United States, the American Legion Auxiliary began a similar program for girls. Thus "Girls State" was founded. The first Girls States were conducted in 1938 and since 1948 have been a regular part of the Auxiliary's better citizenship program. Girls State sessions are now being held in all of the 50 states as well as in the District of Columbia.

Florida Girls State was founded in 1947 with 176 girls attending and in 2025 Girls State citizens will attend the 79th annual session. Three hundred girls from all over the state will participate. Florida Girls State is staffed by American Legion Auxiliary members who volunteer their time and efforts to this enterprise. Its administrative costs are paid through the Department of Florida. Registration, transportation, lodging, and meals are paid for by the members of the local Auxiliary Units who sponsor the girls.

Florida Girls State is held annually in Tallahassee on the Florida State University campus and is limited to 300 girls. Each year girls attend from every part of our State. They come from private, parochial, and public schools with many race, religion, and ethnic backgrounds represented. Delegates to Girls State are selected on the basis of their interest in government, potential leadership qualities, community service interest, and scholastic standing. The girls must be citizens of the United States and residents of the State of Florida. Girls State is modeled after real government. The girls must be between their junior and senior years in high school to qualify, regardless of whether that year ends in June or February. Girls must be interested, willing, and available for full participation in the Girls State program. While at Florida Girls State, citizens are organized into political parties, the "Nationalists" and the "Federalists." They elect city officials and conduct party elections for state offices.

Citizens elect a Governor and Lt Governor, all the Cabinet officers, and seven Supreme Court Justices. A formal inauguration ceremony is conducted. The elected Senators and Representatives conduct legislative sessions with debate on bills in our State Capitol. During their week in Tallahassee, the girls publish the Girls State newspaper. While in Tallahassee, the girls are also given the opportunity to tour the FSU campus and visit the Supreme Court.

American Legion Samsung Scholarship: Offered in 1996 for the first time, the nominee from Florida Girls State was awarded a National level scholarship valued at \$20,000.

Girls Nation: From Florida Girls State, two senators are selected to represent their constituents at Girls Nation, sponsored in Washington, DC at the Nation's Capitol in late July by the National organization of the American Legion Auxiliary.

In 1980, Florida's Girls State Senator to Girls Nation, Miss Rosemary Walker of Pensacola, was elected the "Most Outstanding Senator" at Girls Nation. In 1981, Florida Girls State Senator to Girls Nation, Miss Crystal Hayling of Lauderhill, was elected Vice-President of Girls Nation. Nicole Corvette, one Senator from 1993 Florida Girls State served at Girls Nation as President of the Senate. In 1994, Laura Fernandez from Tampa served as President of Girls Nation. She attended the National Convention of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary and spoke to the Convention. Through these programs each summer, Girls State and Girls Nation, it is estimated that the American Legion Auxiliary trains 19,000 girls in the processes of government. Since its beginning, over a million girls have participated in the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State and Girls Nation programs.

Program Honors: The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the Advisory List of National Contests and Activities. A brief outline of this program is also included in Wikipedia and other online sources. On Washington's birthday (February 22) in 1964, the American Legion Auxiliary received one of four top Americana Awards from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge honoring its 1963 Girls Nation program. Other Girls Nation programs have helped to win similar George Washington Honor Medals, including the ones in 1971 and 1972. In 1977, the Joint Bicentennial Session of Boys and Girls Nation won its Distinguished Service Award. In 1979, the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State was awarded a Freedoms Foundation "Valley Forge Honor Certificate" for the 1978 session of Florida Girls State and has received it annually since then.

Former Participants: Lawton Chiles', former Governor of the State of Florida, interest in government began while attending Boys State. He often addressed the citizens of both Boys State and Girls State. Beverly Burnsed, former Assistant Secretary of State for Florida and former Vice President at FSU, attended Girls State. Lari White, Country songwriter, vocalist, and actress was the 1982 Governor of Florida Girls State. Both Marjorie Turnbull and Debbie James Horan were Florida House of Representative members and former Florida Girls State citizens. Abigail Spencer, TV star in All My Children, Mad Men, and Suits, attended Florida Girls State. Ericka Dunlap attended Florida Girls State and was the first African American to be crowned Miss Florida. She went on to reign as Miss America in 2004.

American Legion Auxiliary members are very proud of the Florida Girls State program, and of the girls and their accomplishments, present and future. They truly make a difference in the world, in part to their experiences at Girls State!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CITIZENSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

As a citizen of Florida Girls State, you will gain full benefit by actively participating. When you are elected or appointed to an office, city or state, do your best, learn about the duties of the office, and attend to those duties to the best of your ability. If your elected office requires that you take an oath of office, you will be taking that oath on a Bible or a book of your faith (must be furnished by delegate). When the flag of our country is advanced, follow the lead of those on the podium, salute - right hand over your heart - until it is posted. Salute when all recite the Pledge of Allegiance and also when the National Anthem is sung.

YOUR BEHAVIOR

Courtesy to others is of primary importance. Be kind and tolerant - we are from all over the State of Florida and have different religions, social, and economic backgrounds. During assembly, we request your attention be directed to the person at the podium. You may be up there next and will want the same courtesy extended.

DRESS CODE

There is a strict dress code policy while on campus (outside the dorm) and at the Capitol. Please refer to the dress code presented in orientation and included on the website and in the packing list.

ORDER OF THE DAY

We have a rotating order for meals, voting, taking buses to the Capitol, tours of the Capitol and Supreme Court, picture taking, etc. Your City Advisor will tell your city the order each day. You may be directed to walk as a city group and sit as a city group. Phone times will be noted in the daily schedule that is posted and discussed by your City Advisor. Phone times will vary each day.

SECURITY STAFF

The female Florida Highway Patrol Troopers attend to our safety. Your full cooperation is essential. You are to follow their directions at all times. Walk to and from meetings and meals by our approved routes, stay in your city group when directed to do so. Outside time is supervised by this security staff. They will direct you as to what area you are to use.

WHAT IS ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE DORM?

Administrative Staff, Director's Office, Sick Bay, Press Room, Lost and Found

The American Legion Auxiliary

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

Purposes

In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self

Values

Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:

- Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty
- Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families
- Tradition of patriotism and citizenship
- Personal integrity and family values
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual members
- Truthful open communication in dealing with the public and our member adherence to the adopted policies and rules

Would you like to join the Florida Girls State Staff?

APPLYING TO FLORIDA GIRLS STATE STAFF

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida, would like to extend an invitation to you to become part of the Girls State Staff.

Once you are 18 years old and have graduated from high school, you can apply to be on staff for future sessions of Girls State. If you are interested in joining the staff, the application can be found on the Florida Girls State website.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

If you are interested in joining the American Legion Auxiliary, the application with eligibility requirements can be found at <https://alaf1.org/join/become-a-member/>. You can also contact the American Legion Auxiliary Unit that sponsored you to Girls State or contact the Department Headquarters at (407) 293-7411.

Remember. . . Girls State is GREAT!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Florida Girls State

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR REPORT TO SPONSORING UNIT

1. Florida State University campus, including housing
2. Opening session with oath of citizenship
3. Speakers and most meaningful information shared
4. City, county, and state elections, including elected/appointed positions you held
5. Your party - campaigning, platform, motto, mascot, pep rally
6. Bills debated and passed
7. Award presentations and other highlights from the week

Explain what you learned that will enable you to become an active participating citizen of your community, state, and of the United States.

Mention special events and places, such as, the flag ceremony, the Inauguration, Capitol, and Supreme Court. Talk about the bills debated and passed into law, legislative procedures, and what the subject of your bill was.

Express appreciation for being selected as the Unit's delegate to attend American Legion Auxiliary Florida Girls State and offer to talk to the potential applicants for next year's session.