

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida
Girls State Program Engagement Plan
2024-2025
#Secureourfoundation
#BuildingTheHouse**

Purpose:

To provide a unique and coveted educational opportunity for young women to receive citizenship training through a weeklong hands-on program involving a mock city and state government.

Qualifications for Florida Girls State Citizens:

Applicants should have a strong interest in the study of government. Leadership, trust, honesty and good academic standings are important and desired. Applicants must be in their junior year of high school and returning to their high school for their senior year. They must be a resident of the state of Florida and be willing to take an oath of office on the bible and salute the American flag.

Financial Info:

All quotas - rehabilitation, education, Girls State and sock - **must** be paid to Department by January 31, 2025. To qualify for an over -quota delegate, unit must be 100% in membership by January 31, 2025.

Include **the following** expenses in your Unit budget*

1. Registration fee for 2025 is \$400.00 per delegate (this fee includes two (2) polo shirts per delegate)
2. Transportation expenses are determined by the District Chairman.
3. Spending money is determined by the Unit.

2025 Girls State Chairman's Guide:

Please see the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida website www.alafl.org under Girls State to access the Chairman Guide.

Special Focus for Unit Girls State Chairman:

Recruiting:

1. Inform school district and local schools about the Girls State program including the benefits of the program and eligibility requirements. Distribute information and applications to schools. Check the Department Girls State website for resources.
2. Enlist the help of former Girls State citizens to recruit candidates from their high schools.
3. Reach out to schools that have no active units in their communities.
include Magnet schools, Charter schools, private schools, and home-schooled students.

Recognition:

1. Schedule a time for your 2024 Girls State citizens to visit the Unit to report on their experiences. Invite those who helped finance your program, school officials who recommend candidates to attend and community leaders.
2. Contact your local media to report about the Girls State citizens' experiences.

Important Dates

First week in November	Registration paperwork emailed to Units.
12/28/24	Completed registration form and registration fee (\$400.00 per delegate) must be received at Dept. Headquarters. Check made out to ALA Dept. of Florida
01/31/25	Deadline to qualify for over-quota delegate.
***Do not interview and/or select delegates until you have numbered applications in your possession. ***	
03/14/25	Delegates and alternates completed applications are due to Department Headquarters
30 days prior to convention	Award narratives due to Department Chairman
April&May2025	All delegates & alternates attend orientation in their district or anywhere in State (Check Orientation Schedule for locations)
06/02/25	Call all delegates to confirm attendance and review travel arrangements. Confirm continued availability of all alternates.
6/16/25- 6/27/25	Staff Dates
06/19/25	Delegates arrive between 1:00pm - 3:00pm
6/19/25- 6/27/25	The 79th session of Florida Girls State
6/27/25	Delegates <u>must</u> depart NO later than 9AM

Girls State Awards

➤ **Theresa Mathews Briggs Trophy**

To the Unit whose Girls State citizen(s) participates the most, in the unit's overall programming, upon returning from Girls State. All entries must be typed, using double space. See Unit Guide for complete rules. All entries must be sent to the Department chairman **30 days** prior to convention.

Reports

Unit Year-End – to District GS by April 1st

District Year- End -to Department GS by April 15th

Department Chairman:

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352-650-6224

Committee Members:

Gail Dupuis – gaildupuis5662@comcast.net
Treva “TK” Kay Wildrick – tkwildrick612@gmail.com

Girls State Director:

Paula Fox
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407-747-0725

Assistant Girls State Director:

Sylvania Fiddler
Fgsasstdirector@alaf.org
386-344-4215

Girls State Checklist

July - September 2024

- Schedule your 2024 Girls State citizen(s) to visit and share with your unit.
- Check with your President to be sure GirlsState expenses are included in the 2024-2025 Unit Budget.

October - December 2024

- Brainstorm ways to raise funds for your GirlsState program.
- Make initial contact with schools
- Leave brochures, dates, and your contact information.
- Registration form and check to Dept. Headquarters by December 29, 2024.

January 2025

- Check with Unit Treasurer to be sure all quotas have been paid to department by January 31st.
- Is your Unit 100%?
- Do you want to request an over-quota delegate?
- Set up interviews with applicants
- Choose delegates

February 2025

- Over-quota request form MUST be submitted with a separate check.
- Check will be returned to Unit if over-quota delegates are not awarded to your unit.

March 2025

- Follow up with school officials to get their recommendations
- Wait to receive your numbered applications
- Fill out paperwork
- Applications done online to Department Headquarters by March 15, 2025

April & May 2025

- Attend Girls State Orientation in your area.

June 2025

- Call delegates and alternates to check their status
- Are delegates still planning on attending?
- Are alternates still available?
 - Even at last minute?
- Provide each delegate with a stamped self-addressed envelope so they can contact you during session to let you know what position they hold.
- See Girls off on the bus and wish them well- June 19, 2025
- Make arrangements for girls to share with the unit.
- Offer and Encourage girls to participate in your unit's programs and projects.

ALA Department of Florida Girls State

Unit Year-End Report 2025

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Unit# ____ District# ____

UnitName: _____

Chairman _____

Address: _____

Phone# _____ Email _____

1. How many girls are you sending to Girls State 2025 Session? _____

2. If none, then write none and go on further. Send report to your District Girls State Chairmanso she can have 100% units reporting.

3. How did your unit raise funds for The Girls State Program? (Bingo, Picnic, Bake Sales, etc.) ^^

4. How did your unit select Girls State Delegates? ^^

5. Total number of volunteers spent on 2024-2025
Girls State Session? _____

Total number of hours? _____

6. Number of volunteers that will be attending the 2025 Girls State Session? _____

***This is for preparation of Girls State 2026 Session.

7. Did you invite 2024 Girls State Delegate(s) to Unit to share her experience? ^^

8. Did you invite 2024 Girls State Delegate(s) to participate in Unit activities or programs? ^

{^^ SuccessStoriesandpicturesareencouraged,pleaseincludepicturesofyour
GirlsState

Delegates.Pleaseuseadditionalpaperifnecessary.}

➤ Year-End Report due to District