

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida
Girls State Program Engagement Plan
2026-2027
Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes**

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 or the book of their faith and salute the American flag.

Financial Info:

All quotas – rehabilitation, education, Girls State and sock – must be paid to Department by January 31, 2027. To qualify for an over-quota delegate, unit must be 100% in membership by January 31, 2027.

Include the following expenses in your Unit budget

1. Registration fee for 2027 is \$400.00 per delegate (this fee includes two (2) polo shirts per delegate)
2. Transportation expenses are determined by the District Chairperson
3. Spending money is determined by the Unit.

2027 Girls State Chairperson Guide:

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

Special Focus for Unit Girls State Chairperson:

Recruiting:

1. Inform the 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, including magnet schools, charters schools, private schools, and home-schooled students.
4. Delivery Girls State brochures to the schools and ask to speak in a classroom or at a school event.

Recognition:

1. Schedule a time for your 2026 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.

**Unit Girls State Scholarship
Cindy Burroughs Girls State Scholarship**

The Cindy Burroughs Girls State Scholarship fund was established in 2009 in memory of Cindy Burroughs. The scholarship allows a unit to send a delegate to Girls State, without the financial means necessary. To apply for the scholarship application is online at www.alafl.org under Girls State forms.

Girls State Awards

1. Theresa Mathews Briggs Trophy:

To the Unit that best utilizes their Girls State Citizen in their overall programming during the year following their attendance at Girls State. All entries must be typed, using double-space, one-inch margins, on 8 ½ "x 11" paper. See Unit Guide for complete rules. All entries must be sent to the Department chairperson 30 days prior to department convention.

2. Gabby the Gavel Award (Girls State Chairperson award):

To the Unit who utilizes Gabby the Gavel in the most unique way throughout the 2026-2027 year. All entries must be sent to the Department chairperson 30 days prior to department convention.

Reports

Unit Year-End Report due to District Chairperson by April 15th
District Year-End Report due to Department Chairperson by May 1st

Department Chairperson:

Patricia Halliday
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Committee Members:

Linda Teasley – clteasley@embargmail.com
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Girls State Director:

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Assistant Girls State Director:

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Girls State Checklist

July-September 2026

- Schedule your 2026 Girls State citizen(s) to visit and share with your unit.
- Check with the Unit President to be sure Girls State expenses are included in the 2026-2027 Unit Budget.

October-December 2026

- Brainstorm to raise funds for your Girls State program.
- Make initial contact with schools
- Leave brochures, dates and your contact information with the schools
- Ask to speak at the school with the juniors about Girls State
- Registration form and check to Department Headquarters by December 29, 2026

January 2027

- Check with Unit Treasurer to be sure all quotas have been paid to Department by January 31, 2026
- Over-quota request form MUST be submitted with a separate Unit check.
- Check will be returned to Unit if over-quota delegates are not awarded to unit.
- Schedule interviews with applicants once you receive your delegate/alternate registration numbers
- Choose your delegates and alternates

February 2027

- Delegates and alternates complete paperwork

March 2027

- Delegates and alternates complete paperwork
- Applicable paperwork deadline to Department Headquarters March 19, 2027
- Call delegates and alternates to check their status

March 20, 2027 & No later than May 9, 2027 No Exceptions

- Attend Girls State Orientation

June 2027

- Are delegates still planning on attending?
- Are alternates still available?
- Provide each delegate with a stamped self-addressed envelope so they can contact you during the session to let you know what position they hold
- See Girls off on the bus and wish them well – June 2027
- Make arrangements for girls to share with the unit.