

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Florida  
Girls State Program Engagement Plan  
2025-2026  
PASSIONATE ABOUT VETERANS**

**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, 2026. To qualify for an over-quota delegate, unit must be 100% in membership by January 31, 2026.

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

1. Registration fee for 2026 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.

**2026 Girls State Chairperson Guide:**

Please see the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida website [www.alafl.org](http://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.  
include Magnet schools, Charter schools, private schools, and home-schooled students.

**Recognition:**

1. Schedule a time for your 2025 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

<b>First week in November</b>	Registration paperwork emailed to Units.
<b>12/31/25</b>	Completed registration form and registration fee (\$400.00 per delegate) must be received at Dept. Headquarters. Check made out to ALA Dept. of Florida
<b>01/31/26</b>	Deadline to qualify for over-quota delegate.
<b>***Do not interview and/or select delegates until you have numbered applications in your possession. ***</b>	
<b>03/14/26</b>	Delegates and alternates completed applications are due to Department Headquarters
<b>30 days prior to convention</b>	Award narratives due to Department Chairperson
<b>3/28/2026 -5/10/2026 NO EXCEPTIONS</b>	All delegates & alternates attend orientation in their district or anywhere in the State (Check Orientation Schedule for locations)
<b>06/02/2026</b>	Call all delegates to confirm attendance and review travel arrangements. Confirm continued availability of all alternates.
<b>6/02/2026</b>	Arriving Date
<b>06/04/2026</b>	Delegates arrive between 1:00pm - 3:00pm
<b>6/04/2026-6/12/2026</b>	The 80th session of Florida Girls State
<b>6/12/2026</b>	Delegates <b><u>must</u></b> depart NO later than 8AM

## 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 Chairperson:**

Gail A Dupuis  
3041 SW 13<sup>th</sup> Court  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312  
[GirlsState@alafli.org](mailto:GirlsState@alafli.org)  
954-830-8903

### **Committee Members:**

Eileen Wilson – [ebwilson@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ebwilson@tampabay.rr.com)  
Linda Tesley – [clteasley@embarqmail.com](mailto:clteasley@embarqmail.com)

### **Girls State Director:**

Paula Fox  
[Fgsdirector@alafli.org](mailto:Fgsdirector@alafli.org)  
407-747-0725

### **Assistant Girls State Director:**

Sylvania Fiddler  
[Fgsasstdirector@alafli.org](mailto:Fgsasstdirector@alafli.org)  
386-344-4215

# Girls State Checklist

## July - September 2025

- Schedule your 2025 Girls State citizen(s) to visit and share with your unit.
- Check with your President to be sure Girls State expenses are included in the 2025-2026 Unit Budget.

## October - December 2025

- Brainstorm ways to raise funds for your Girls State program.
- Make initial contact with schools
- Leave brochures, dates, and your contact information.
- Registration form and check to Dept. Headquarters by December 29, 2025.

## January 2026

- Check with Unit Treasurer to be sure all quotas have been paid to Department by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2026
- Is your Unit 100%?
- Do you want to request an over-quota delegate?
- Schedule interviews with applicants
- Choose your delegates

## February 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 your unit.

## March 2026

- 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, 2026

## March 28, 2026 & NO LATER THAN MAY 10, 2026 NO EXCEPTIONS

- Attend Girls State Orientation in your area.

## June 2026

- Call delegates and alternates to check their status
- Are delegates still planning on attending?
- Are alternates still available?
  - Even at the last minute?
- 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 04, 2026
- Make some arrangements for girls to share with the unit.
- Offer and Encourage girls to participate in your unit's programs and projects.