

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
GEORGIA GIRLS STATE
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, STATESBORO, GEORGIA**

INFORMATION FOR GIRLS: June 12 – 17, 2011

WEB: More information is available at www.georgiagirlsstate.org, please refer to it for more information and necessary forms.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE?

- It is a National program of the American Legion Auxiliary and is a course of instruction in, as well as, a practical application of, the fundamental principles and procedures of city, county and state government under the American system.
- A session, usually lasting five days, is conducted by each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, with the top-ranking high school girls as citizens.
- Under the guidance of skilled counselors and other staff members who are leading citizens, these girls learn and then practice through self-government, the duties, responsibilities and privileges of American citizenship.
- GEORGIA GIRLS STATE is sponsored, as it has been since 1940, by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia with local Auxiliary units and interested civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations cooperating.
- From the time they arrive, until they leave for home the citizens will get regular “sessions” of instruction in practical application of government and citizenships.
- These instruction sessions, conducted by the Government Instructor and the Girls State staff will include the principles and procedures of city, county and state government.
- Using the know-how gained from these classes, the citizens will organize and operate their own city, county and state governments.
- Emphasis will be placed on letting the girls govern themselves, under the constant guidance of the staff members. Upon arrival in Statesboro, the citizens will be assigned to 12 cities and 4 counties, to form the mythical 51st State of Girls State.
- Early in the week, each of the cities will elect officials, who will operate the city government during the week.
- Later, each county will elect county officials. There will be appointed officials at all levels of government.
- Each girl will be assigned to a party (Nationalist or Federalist) and either to the Girls State House or Senate.
- Prior to Girls State, each citizen is encouraged to write a bill for debate in the House and Senate.
- A State General Election will take place, in which the Girls State Governor and other State Officials will be elected.

- **This fee of \$200.00 is paid by the Auxiliary Units.** The fee shall not be paid by citizens, parents or any family member of a citizen.
- **The Auxiliary Units raise the fees through donations, fund raisers and various other sources.**

MEDICAL CARE:

- Infirmary facilities and medical personnel will be provided throughout the week, to render any needed medical attention to citizens and staff members.
- Prior to reporting to Girls State, every citizen will receive a medical exam form which must be signed by a physician, determining whether or not this citizen is physically qualified to participate fully in the Program.

INFORMATION PACKETS:

- **Once the girls’ applications have been received, an information packet will be mailed to each girl and a confirmation email will be sent to each girl who submits an email address.**
- This Packet Includes Very Urgent Information, forms, complete instructions on rules and regulations, general information, what to bring from home and other facts which citizens should know before leaving home for Girls State. The packet includes Forms for Medical Examination, Parents Waiver, Key Agreement, Scholarship Information and the Girls State Pledge. The packets may be downloaded from the Girls State

website at <http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/forms.htm>. (These Must Be Turned In During Registration On Sunday.)

- The forms (**especially the medical forms**) must be filled out in a timely manner.
- If you Have Not Received your Packet By May 23rd, Please Contact Us At The Numbers Or The Email Addresses Listed Below.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

- Citizens must report to Kennedy Hall on the campus of Georgia Southern University between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 12 and they will depart on Friday, June 17 at 1:00 PM.
- **LUNCH will Not** be provided on **Sunday**; arrangements must be made prior to arriving at Girls State.
- **Once the citizen has registered, they are not allowed to leave to eat lunch. Make sure you have eaten lunch before arriving on campus.**
- Inauguration and Graduation will be June 17, 2011 at 8:45 AM. Doors open for guests at 8:15.
- The Unit sponsoring you is responsible for providing transportation to Girls State and back home.

HOUSING AND MEALS:

- All citizens and staff members will be housed in the dormitories on the campus of Georgia Southern University, and the meals will be served in the cafeteria.
- Complete instructions on rules and regulations, general information, what to bring from home and other facts which you should know before leaving home for Girls State **Will Be Sent Via US Mail and Email To Each Citizen As Soon As The Application Is Received From The Sponsoring Unit.**

OTHER INFORMATION

- **NO citizen will be permitted to leave the area designated for Girls State on the campus of Georgia Southern University without the permission of the Girls State Director and only in the case of extreme emergency.**
- **No visitors are allowed during the week. Guests MAY attend the graduation on Friday morning.**
- **All citizens will be required to comply with all rules of conduct and general discipline by the Girls State Staff and Counselors.**
- **This includes showing respect to all staff members and fellow citizens.**
- **Only an extreme emergency will be accepted as a reason for leaving Girls State before the end of the session.**

GIRLS STATE STORE:

- Girls are allowed to shop during free time. We have Girls State items available for purchase. You will want to bring money from home to buy Girls State items and snacks.

ADDRESS ALL INQUIRIES AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO:

- The Director, Deedy Harrell, 800 10th Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169, 770-337-7997 or gagirlst@bellsouth.net.
- Or the Assistant Director, Nini Lynch at ninifrog@comcast.net, Home 770-479-0354, or Cell 770-366-6730.

GIRLS NATION:

- Two outstanding citizens of the American Legion Auxiliary Georgia Girls State session will be selected by delegates and staff to attend Girls Nation.
- The Girls Nation session will be held at the National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, MD, July 23 - 30, 2011.
- All expenses of the two citizens will be paid from the Girls State Fund.