



The American Legion Auxiliary Georgia Girls State

April 6, 2020

In June 2019, the American Legion Auxiliary Georgia Girls State celebrated their 75th session. We were all looking forward to continuing our program of excellence at our 76th session in June 2020. It is with a great deal of sadness that we must announce that the 2020 session of Georgia Girls State must be canceled due to the COVID19 Pandemic.

This critical decision comes following many conversations with Valerie Debro, President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia, Judy Hendrix Poole, liaison from Georgia Southern University, Gabriele Barnett, Assistant Director, Wendy Riggles, National Girls State Chairman and with the members of the Board of Directors of Georgia Girls State.

We appreciate all the diligent work put in by the Auxiliary Units and the school personnel to get the students prepared for Girls State. We would like to commend the parents and students who were preparing for our session of Girls State. Many thanks to all Girls State staff members, especially those who attended the Girls State Retreat in early March. You left the retreat with so many plans and with such excitement and enthusiasm for the upcoming session. We are so sorry that Girls State 2020 must be canceled, but with the schools closing and Governor Kemp's necessary mandate to close down the state, we have no other alternative. We must put the lives of our staff, volunteers, students, and citizens first.

We wish for everyone to have a safe and healthy spring and summer and hope everyone will return healthy and ready to prepare for Girls State 2021.

Sincerely,

Deedy Harrell

Deedy Harrell, Georgia Girls State Director

Valerie Debro

Valerie Debro, President American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia