

American Legion Auxiliary Georgia Girls State

Congratulations on being chosen to attend Georgia Girls State!

Report to Georgia Hall on the campus of Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA, between 1:00 and 3:30 on Sunday June 11, 2023. Make arrangements to depart on Friday, June 16, 2023 by 1:00 PM. Please make sure that you have had lunch before you register. Once you have registered, you may not leave the campus. Our first meal is Sunday dinner at 5:30 PM.

Before Girls State: The 2023 Girls State Application will be a fully online application. It will be available starting February 25, 2023. You should receive the link to the application on an email.

**ON SUNDAY, DURING REGISTRATION
YOU MUST BRING 275 copies of your bill on
8 ½ X 11 paper (if you write a bill)
Limit your bill to one sheet.**

What to bring:

- Twin bed sheets extra long
- Blanket, pillow and pillow case
- Hand, Bath towels, wash clothes, bath mat
- Personal toilet articles
- Soap, hand soap, shampoo
- Sanitary articles (Be Prepared)
- Coat hangers
- Umbrella
- Sweater or light jacket
- School and Sport clothes
- \$5.00 cash for a Cantina Card
- 1 dressy dress or outfit and appropriate shoes for graduation
- 2 or 3 business (nice) outfits for inspirational and giving speeches during campaigns
- Comfortable shoes

- White gloves (we have some to share)
 - Patriotic outfit for Flag Day (Optional)
 - Pocket Folder
 - Pen or pencil, markers and highlighter
 - Masking tape
- Trash bags and Bathroom tissue will be provided

Do not bring campaign materials or any means to make them other than pens, pencils and markers. To keep campaigning equal for all delegates, you will not be allowed to bring materials from home. You will only be able to use paper that Girls State provides. Do not bring a laptop computer or expensive jewelry. You may bring a cell phone but cell phones may only be used during free time. The use of phones for talking and/or text messaging during any meeting or assembly will not be tolerated. It can be used for notes.

Talent Show

Girls State will have a talent show on Thursday evening. If you are interested, please bring equipment, musical instruments, music, etc. You must sign up by Tuesday at Girls State if you plan to try out for participation. Microphone and computer provided on stage

Girls State House and Senate

Much of your time during the week will be spent in the House and Senate. You will be randomly assigned as a Senator or Representative. You should conduct yourself and present yourself as a young senator or representative. During the sessions, you will debate bills written by you or other Girls State Citizens. You are invited to submit one bill of statewide significance (No federal issues.) In order for your bill to be considered, you **must** bring 275 copies to be turned in to the government staff during registration on June 11. Sample bills and a form upon

which to write your bill is enclosed. You can use it as a guide or write you bill on it.

Driving to Girls State

You may drive to Valdosta, but as soon as you have unpacked your vehicle, you must turn in your keys and receive a parking permit. We will have designated parking for citizens of Girls State. Failure to turn in your keys and receive a parking permit can result in a parking citation.

Scholarship

Samsung Scholarship: As a delegate, you have the opportunity to apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. If you are a direct descendant of a U.S. wartime veteran, you are eligible to apply. The application can be obtained from the American Legion National website. There will be a link on the Georgia Girls State website no later than February 15, 2023.

Applications must be completed on line by June 11, 2023, which is the first day of Georgia Girls State. NO Exceptions!

Participants may be required to wear masks. We will follow CDC guidelines and Valdosta State University requirements. More information later concerning Covid-19.

Graduation and Inauguration will be held at the Student Union. Search VSU Oak Street Parking Deck. Attendees will park there. It begins at 8:45. Doors open for guests at 8:30.

Call if more information is needed:

Deedy Harrell, Director

Cell: 770-337-7997 Call or text

Email: georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com

Website: www.georgiagirlsstate.org

Gabriele Barnett, Assistant Director

706-951-3906 Call or text

barnettgabriele@hotmail.com

Flag Day is June 14. We will dress in patriotic outfits on Flag Day. (Optional)

WHAT TO TAKE TO GIRLS STATE

- 350 copies of your one bill **if** you are submitting **one**. Limited to 1 page (8 ½ X 11)
One side only. 1 bill per girl
- A good attitude and willingness to learn
- Classroom attire (that which is accepted in one's school and by one's school code)
slacks, jeans and shorts will be permitted, but **no short shorts or sloppy jeans and no midriffs, except in dormitories or at recreation periods**. Clothes for 5 nights and 6 days.
- Comfortable daytime shoes (sneakers or tennis shoes because we do a lot of walking)
- A pair of white gloves – We have some to share if you can't buy gloves.
- 1 dressy dress or outfit and appropriate shoes for graduation
- 2 or 3 business outfits for inspirational and giving speeches during campaigns
- Raincoat and umbrella
- There are drinking fountains, but you can bring water. It's hot in Valdosta.
- Bed linens for a single long twin bed, a blanket and a pillow
- Towels, hand towels, wash clothes, soap, hand soap, shower supplies, bathmat, sanitary pads/tampons, and toilet articles.
- Trash bags and bathroom tissue will be PROVIDED.
- Equipment for light sports and musical instruments are acceptable.
- Do Not Bring Anything Of Great Value With You -- Especially Expensive Jewelry.
- No citizen is to bring campaign material from home.**
- Notebook, writing instruments, markers and masking tape
- If a girl drives to Girls State, car keys must be turned in upon arrival. When keys are turned in, a parking permit will be issued. **Without the permit the college may issue a parking citation.**
- Bring cash from home to buy spend in the Girls State store.

How to Write a Bill

So you want to write a bill, huh? Well, the first thing to remember is this: a good idea isn't necessarily a good bill. In other words, just because something would help the State of Georgia doesn't mean that it is a good bill topic for Georgia Girls State delegates.

Seem strange? Well, here's why: Girls State bills need to be ideas that can be debated effectively. That means that a bill about requiring State Prisons to use only recycled paper probably isn't so good because no one will want to argue about it!

And really good arguing can only happen if a few other things happen. We've broken it all down for you. Here's what we think makes a good bill:

- □ **Debatability**-- people are going to want to argue about your bill from both sides of the issue. If you can't think of an argument against your bill, you should probably pick a different one!
- □ **Importance to Georgia Girls State**-- the idea here is that a bill that affects a lot of people or a wide variety of people is better than a bill that only affects a few people or a narrow range of people. If a topic has been in newspapers or on TV, then it may be a good bill topic.
- □ **Feasibility**--your bill idea could actually work the way you want it to in the real world; it's realistic.
- □ **Researchability**--you are going to be able to find facts, statistics, and news articles supporting your idea.

The KEY to a good bill is that it is an idea that you care very much about. The more passionate you feel about your bill, the more you will want to put the work in that will make it successful.

BILL
Georgia Girls State
General Assembly

Date _____

Representative or Senator ____ (Your Name) introduced the following bill:
House Bill _____ (to be completed at Girls State)
Senate Bill _____ (to be completed at Girls State)
Girls State City _____ (to be completed at Girls State)
Referred to the _____ committee.

An Act to [state whatever this bill does in general terms]

1 **Whereas**, [why does this issue need to be changed or looked into], **and**,

2

3 **Whereas**, [how is this issue right now], **and**

4

5 **Whereas**, [there need to be at least three whereas clauses where you tell me
6 why you are writing this bill to change something], **and**,

7

8 **Whereas**, [you can have as many of these as you want], **and**,

9

10 **Whereas**, [in the last whereas clause make sure and put the rest of the
11 formatting that is in this template], **NOW THEREFORE**,

12

13 **Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia**
14 **Girls State here assembled, that:**

15

16 **Section 1:** This bill shall be known as the “[What you are doing] Act of 2022.”

17

18 **Section 2:** [State what you are changing].

19

20 **Section 3:** [Make sure the sections are complete sentences changing only one
21 thing]

22

23 **Section 4:** [You can have as many of these as you need. Be specific!]

24

25 **Section 5:** [Make sure your bill is feasible: it cannot obligate the federal
26 government and ought to consider possible problems, such as funding.]

The bill should be numbered as above so that during debate, the discussed part can be located with ease. You are **encouraged** to present a bill, but it is not required. We spend a great percentage of our time at Girls State in the Senate and House, so please submit one bill if you have something you feel passionate about. Limit your bill to the **front of one page** on 8 1/2 X 11 paper. You may submit **1** bill. The **ONLY** requirement is that you bring, **350** copies with you to Girls State, and ensure your copies are turned in to the government staff on Sunday afternoon during registration.

BILL
Georgia Girls State
General Assembly

Date _____

(Representative or Senator) Lucia Morris introduced the following bill:

House Bill _____

Senate Bill _____

Girls State City _____

Referred to the _____ committee.

An Act to Legalize Hemp

1 **Whereas**, hemp is an agricultural product derived from the cannabis plant used
2 as fiber to make food, paper, cardboard, fuel, plastics, paint, carpets, clothes,
3 and rope, it is a crucial element of the economy,
4

5 **Whereas**, it is illegal to cultivate hemp,
6

7 **Whereas**, for this reason hemp must be imported from foreign nations even
8 when it is easy to grow here,
9

10 **Whereas**, hemp cannot be used in any way as a psychoactive drug in the way
11 that other cannabis products can be,
12

13 **Whereas**, the legalization of hemp would lead to a job-creating industry
14 surrounding the cash crop, with major potential for economic growth, **NOW**

15 **THEREFORE,**
16

17 **Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia**
18 **Girls State here assembled, that:**
19

20 **Section 1:** This bill shall be known as the "Agricultural Hemp Act of 2018."
21

22 **Section 2:** Hemp will be legalized as an agricultural commodity, making it legal
23 for farmers in the state of Girls State to grow hemp.
24

25 **Section 3:** Remove hemp from the list of Controlled Substances.
26

27 **Section 4:** Provide necessary supporting legislation to assist in the state in
28 moving the forefront of industrial hemp production, development, and
29 commercialization to the greatest extent plausible.
30

31 **Section 5:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage by the state of
32 Georgia Girls State, the welfare of the students requiring it.

BILL
Georgia Girls State
General Assembly

Date _____

(Representative or Senator) Mallory Plunkett introduced the following bill:

House Bill _____

Senate Bill _____

Girls State City _____

Referred to the _____ committee.

An Act to Decrease Waste From Disposable Bags

1 **Whereas**, each year in the United States over 30 million tons of disposable bags
2 are used, requiring at least fourteen million barrels of oil to produce,

3

4 **Whereas**, The environmental impacts of both the oil required to create the bags
5 and the waste created when they are not recycled are detrimental and must be
6 stopped, **NOW THEREFORE**,

7

8 **Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia**
9 **Girls State here assembled, that:**

10

11 **Section 1:** This bill shall be known as the "Plastic Bag Act of 2022."

12

13 **Section 2:** A tax of 5 cents shall be enacted on the consumer for every
14 disposable bag used in retail stores.

15

16 **Section 3:** The proceeds of this tax will be allocated to the Environmental
17 Protection Division of Georgia Girls State.

18

19 **Section 4:** This Bill shall take effect immediately upon passage by the state of
20 Georgia Girls State, the welfare of the people requiring it.

21

22 **Section 5:** Every business that sells food, alcohol, or clothes will be required to
23 follow this bill to reduce consumer waste and protect the natural environment.

BILL
Georgia Girls State
General Assembly

Date _____

Senators Angela Howard and Gianna Gambella introduced the following bill:

House Bill _____

Senate Bill _____

Girls State City _____

Referred to the _____ committee.

An Act to Increase Career Opportunities by Training a Skilled Workforce

1 **Whereas**, approximately one third of all Americans do not go on to obtain any
2 college degree, relying purely on elementary, middle, and high school educations
3 to prepare them for careers, **and**,

4 **Whereas**, the reintroduction of career and technical education (CTE) programs
5 during high school would be an improvement in the opportunities presented
6 to those students desiring a career path but not having the means or desire to
7 attend college, **and**,

8 **Whereas**, students in high school career and technical education (CTE)
9 programs learn valuable trades preparing them to enter profitable, competitive
10 markets such as woodworking or manufacturing, **NOW THEREFORE**,

11
12 **Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia**
13 **Girls State here assembled, that:**

14
15 **Section One:**

16 The state will increase funding given to CTE programs within public high schools
17 and to vocational schools developed fully around CTE, adding to the funding
18 provided by the federal Perkins Act.

19

20 **Section Two:**

21 The State Board of Education will encourage high schools to incorporate CTE
22 classes into their regular offerings and will establish guidelines for the inclusion
23 of CTE courses among Fine Arts credit options.

24 **Section Three:**

25 This Bill will take effect immediately upon its passage by the state of Georgia
26 Girls State. The State Board of Education will have one school year to
27 develop and propose a plan both to promote CTE and to incorporate CTE into
28 Fine Arts Credits.

BILL
Georgia Girls State
General Assembly

Date _____

_____ introduced the following bill:
Representative or Senator (Your Name)

(To be completed by the Girls State office:) House Bill _____
Senate Bill _____

Girls State City _____

Referred to the _____ committee.

Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia Girls State here assembled, that:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18

The bill should be numbered as above so that during debate, the part being discussed can be located with ease by the Senators and Representatives at Georgia Girls State.

You are **encouraged** to present a bill, but it is not required of all participants. We spend a great percentage of our time at Girls State in the Senate and House, so please submit one bill if you have something that you feel passionate about. Limit your bill to one page on 8 ½ X 11 paper. You may submit 1 bill. The **ONLY** requirement is that you bring, **350** copies with you to Girls State, and make sure your copies are turned in to the government staff on Sunday afternoon during registration.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**

GEORGIA GIRLS STATE PLEDGE

As a citizen of Girls State of the American Legion Auxiliary, I **VOLUNTARILY** make the following statement:

- I will obey the rules of Girls State which includes no visitors and no outside food deliveries.
- I will obey all the rules of Valdosta State University.
- I will be present for every portion of the Girls State session and I will remain for the FULL WEEK of Georgia Girls State.
- I will obey the **NO SMOKING, NO ALCOHOL, NO DRUG** policies of Georgia Girls State and Valdosta State University.
- I will take serious and conscientious interest in discharging my duties as a citizen of Georgia Girls State.
- I understand that this is an Americanism program of the American Legion Auxiliary and that it is a study of city, county and state government as well as good citizenship.
- I will salute the American Flag.
- If elected to an office, I will serve to the best of my ability.
- I will abide by the judgment of the Georgia Girls State Director, Georgia Girls State Board members and Staff who are those responsible for this Americanism program.
- I will make a formal report (written or oral) to my sponsors, and to my high school - of my experience at Georgia Girls State.
- I will live in residence as a citizen of Girls State.
- I will return to high school for at least one semester of my senior year.
- In so far as possible, I will take an active part in the affairs of the party in the city and county to which I am assigned.
- I will be fair, honest and respectful in all my dealings with my fellow citizens and members of the Girls State Staff.
- I am not a member of, and do not subscribe to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government.

After Georgia Girls State has closed, it will be my duty constantly to endeavor to put into practice the principles of good citizenship and patriotism, which I have experienced.

Date Girls State Citizen's name (print) Signature

Witness _____ Date _____
(Parent or Guardian)