

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
GEORGIA GIRLS STATE
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY, VALDOSTA, GEORGIA**

INFORMATION FOR UNITS: Girls State dates June 11 - 16, 2023

WEB: More information is available at www.georgiagirlsstate.org, please refer to it for more information and necessary forms. **2023 Girls State will have on line registration.** Registration will open no later than February 25, 2023.

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION:

Unit members who help with Girls State in the past will receive an email in late January with information for the 2023 session, about the online process. If you do not receive the email, please contact us at the numbers or email addresses below. We will have information about the User names and Passwords.

SPONSORSHIP:

- Girls will be accepted for enrollment when sponsored directly by a unit of the American Legion Auxiliary or approved by a unit for sponsorship by another organization.
- Every unit of the American Legion Auxiliary in Georgia is urged to sponsor one or more citizens.
- It is expected that most of the citizens will be sponsored by units. However, sponsorship of some citizens by civic, fraternal, and patriotic organizations is highly encouraged, provided the citizens are enrolled through a local unit.
- Any organization wishing to sponsor one or more citizens should contact the president or Girls State Chairman of the unit.
- Likewise, units are encouraged to contact community organizations most likely to sponsor a citizen.
- **The fee shall not be paid by citizens, parents or any family member of a citizen.**
- All organizations paying citizens' registration fees will be listed as sponsors, and they will receive recognition for full participation in the program.
- All citizens sponsored by organizations other than units will be selected in the same manner as those sponsored by Auxiliary units.
- Enrollment is limited. Therefore, Auxiliary units and other organizations desiring to sponsor citizens should make plans early to do so, sending fees at the earliest convenient date.

SELECTION OF GIRLS:

- It is recommended that selection of girls be made by a committee, consisting of the high school principal or counselor, unit president and the Girls State chairman, in addition to the head of any other organization sponsoring the citizens.
- Girls State is intended for the most outstanding girls, from the standpoint of leadership, character, and scholarship in the high schools.
- Only those girls who will enthusiastically devote their **FULL TIME** to increasing their knowledge, while at the same time advancing the whole Girls State Program, should be chosen.

REGISTRATION FEES:

- **The registration fee of \$350.00 is to be paid to the Department Secretary by April 20, 2023.**
- **APPLICATIONS, completed on line include MEDICAL History/ Consent form/Parent Waiver and Girls State Pledge** and insurance cards and photos will all be uploaded on line by parents.
- There will be NO refunds on Girls State Registration Fees.
- If you need a substitute (alternate), contact the Director.

INFORMATION PACKETS:

- **Once the girls' applications have been completed online, the girl and her parents will receive an email with a link to an Information Packet.**
- This packet includes Urgent Information, 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. Also included will be information for writing House and Senate Bills. The packets may be downloaded from the Girls State website at <http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/forms.htm>.
- Do Not Delay in getting girls registered online. They must get the school to do their part on line and this has to be done before school is out for summer.
- The Girls may submit a bill for debate. Girls will must need time for preparation of their bill.
- If the girls have not received their Packet by May 15th, at the latest, Please Contact us at the numbers or the Email Addresses listed below.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

- Citizens must report to the campus of Valdosta State University between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 11 and they will depart on Friday, June 16 by 1:00 PM. The Dorm is TBA. Check the website for information about the name of the dorm and other pertinent information including Covid protocols.
- **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 the citizens have eaten before arriving on campus.**
- Inauguration and Graduation is held at the Student Union, For directions Google VSU Oak Street Parking Deck. (You should park there.) The program will be held June 16, 2023 at 8:45 AM. Doors open for guests at 8:15.
- The sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit is responsible for arranging transportation to Girls State and back home. Some units require parents to provide transportation.

ORIENTATION

- Have an orientation or have the girls attend a district or another unit's orientation!

GIRLS STATE STORE:

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

SCHOLARSHIP

- Delegates may apply for the Samsung Scholarship. The link can be found on the Georgia Girls State Website no later than February 15, 2023. The application must be completed by June 11, 2023.

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 William Bolger Center, Potomac, MD, July 22-29, 2023
- All expenses of the two citizens will be paid from the Georgia Girls State Fund.

ADDRESS ALL INQUIRIES AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO:

- The Director, Deedy Harrell, 800 10th Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169, 770-337-7997 (Cell Phone: Call or Text) or email at georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com Or the Assistant Director, Gabriele Barnett At: Cell 706-951-3906 (call or text) or email: barnettgabriele@hotmail.com For Online registration assistance, contact Cynthia Orms (478) 232-4831
- If a girl is unable to attend, notify the Director, Deedy Harrell at the email or cell phone listed above through Sunday, June 11, 2023, 5:00 PM. We notify parents of no shows for safety reasons.