

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
GIRLS STATE HISTORY**

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, first presented in the late 1930s, is one of the most respected experiential learning programs in the United States. Guided by the principle “For God and Country,” the program epitomizes the ALA’s mission to honor those who have brought us our freedom by continuing to train young women to be leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism. ALA Girls State participants become extremely knowledge-able about the democratic process and how our republic works at the state and national levels.

About 16,000 young women participate in weeklong ALA Girls State programs across the nation each summer that teach government from the city to state level. Using a nonpartisan curriculum, participants assume the roles of government leaders, campaigning as “Federalists” and “Nationalists” to become elected officials in their mock ALA Girls States. During the immersive learning program, delegates live in “cities” in a dormitory at Bethel University. The knowledge, memories, and friendships they take home last a lifetime.

ALA Girls State has been heralded by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and has been placed on the National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE  
OBJECTIVES**

- ★ To develop leadership and pride as American citizens
- ★ To educate citizens about our system of government
- ★ To instill a greater understanding of Americanism
- ★ To stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes

ALA Minnesota Girls State encourages the citizen’s creativity and fellowship with one another.

**“Thank a Veteran –  
All Gave Some, Some Gave All”**

is the theme for the year 2016 – 2017 for the ALA Department (State) President Carol Kottom.



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Minnesota Girls State Committee**

Peggy Tesdahl . . . . .Girls State Director  
Norma Tramm . . . . .Education Director  
Marsha Bible . . . . .Girls State Chairman  
Jessie Hoppe. . . . . Girls State Committee  
Patti Coleman. . . . . Girls State Committee  
Sandy Wersal . . . .Americanism Chairman  
Carol Kottom . . . . . State ALA President

**71<sup>st</sup> Annual**



***A premier program  
in citizenship for  
young women***

***June 11-17, 2017  
Bethel University***

**71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE**

ALA Minnesota Girls State is a program in government and good citizenship for young women sponsored by the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary (ALA).

**WHAT IS AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE?**

ALA Minnesota Girls state is a diverse group of young women who share a common desire to learn. From small towns to urban areas, the citizens' diverse backgrounds add spirit to the program. The purposes of the ALA Minnesota Girls State program are to provide Americanism and good citizenship training and to inform our participants about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of government as practiced in a democratic society.

Each June, the ALA Minnesota Girls State "Citizens" study the Minnesota city, county, and state governmental processes. Citizens are divided into two political parties gaining knowledge of the operations of a two-party system. They formulate their cities electing the officials and then proceed on to county development and finalize with state government. Elections are held to fill the city, county and state governmental positions. Activities include political party campaigning, caucusing, debating and voting. Parliamentary procedures are also used in the processes.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

ALA Minnesota Girls State offers hands-on experience in how state governments function. Other activities at ALA Girls State foster fellowship & creative expression:

- ✓ *Reporting*
- ✓ *Public Speaking & Debate*
- ✓ *Singing – Talent Shows*
- ✓ *Group Devotions*
- ✓ *Patriotic Ceremonies*
- ✓ *Mock Judicial Court System*
- ✓ *Mock House & Senate Committees*

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has empowered hundreds of thousands of accomplished young women to aspire to great things. Their stellar achievements are grounded in leadership skills enhanced at ALA Girls State. Former ALA Girls State participants include members of Presidential cabinets, Mayors, Governors, State Representatives, U.S. Senators, corporate CEO's, military officers and more.

***WHEN IS GIRLS STATE &  
WHERE IS IT HELD?***

ALA Minnesota Girls State is a week-long session, Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2017. Girls State is held at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN

***HOW DO I GET TO GIRLS STATE?  
WHAT DO I NEED?***

The sponsoring Unit or the girl's family is responsible for transportation to and from St. Paul. A complete list of items to bring will be sent to citizens once registration has been completed.

**ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATIONS**

- ★ She must have completed her junior year of high school in a Minnesota public, charter, home school, parochial or private school or be a resident of Minnesota and have at least one more semester remaining prior to graduation.
- ★ She must be a citizen of the U.S. or have legal residency
- ★ She must have high moral character with strong leadership abilities
- ★ She must have no marital status (National ALA Mandate)
- ★ She must not have attended any other ALA Girls State session
- ★ She must demonstrate an interest in American government and have an above average scholastic rank
- ★ She must be physically healthy and able to live independently
- ★ She must respect the American flag and be willing to pledge allegiance to it

**No citizen should be sent to ALA Minnesota Girls State who has any other obligations during American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State week. NO citizen may arrive late or leave before the close of the final session.**

Final selection of the candidates rests with the local American Legion Auxiliary Units. The Units work with high school principals, counselors or other faculty, community leaders and clergy, who assist in evaluating the qualities of the candidates.