



*American Legion Auxiliary
Minnesota Girls State
Jean Walker ~ Chairman*

American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State is an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship and leadership. Girls State citizens are immersed in learning about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and actively running a mock government. The week is filled with many learning opportunities with time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships.

The 74th Annual Session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be held **June 14-20, 2020** at Bethel University in Arden Hills, MN.

American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State is a non-political, non-partisan, non-sectarian program sponsored completely by the American Legion Auxiliary. The staff for the week is women who voluntarily give a week of their time to work with the citizens who attend this event. Girls from all over the state participate in this interactive program to learn about and live the Minnesota state government with elections starting with the city, moving on to the county, and then on to the state level. This diverse group of young women learn about themselves and what they are capable of while learning about the American Legion Auxiliary.

Units are asked to make every effort to sponsor eligible young women to participate in the Girls State program. Units may sponsor more than one participant provided they live in Minnesota or attend a public, private, parochial, or home school in Minnesota. The local high school partnership and recommendations are valued so please contact them early. Please remember that it is the Unit's responsibility to choose the participant(s), not the local high school. Remember they do not have to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary or be eligible to be a member, all Junior High School girls who have completed 11th grade who are interested in politics and government may apply.

The registration fee for American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State remains at \$300. The Unit selects and sponsors the participant although Units may seek financial support from outside the Auxiliary such as The American Legion, SAL, Lions, Rotary, businesses, or also charitable gambling funds can be accepted for ALA Girls State. **Reservations are due in the Department Office by March 31, 2020.** The name(s) of your participants and their alternate(s) are due to the Department Office no later than May 1, 2020. **No refunds will be issued** after reservations have been received. Reservation forms and qualification brochures will be included in a Unit Mailing and will be posted on the department website at mnala.org.

Many young women throughout the State of Minnesota would love to attend Girls State and are looking for sponsorship from an Auxiliary Unit. Please consider sponsoring a participant not from your own community. Send in a reservation and indicate that you would like that reservation to be filled by one of those individuals. Our ALA MN Girls State Committee will assist in finding a participant and inform your Unit of who was selected.

American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State can only be successful with the many volunteers who dedicate a week of their time to serve as counselors and support staff. If this opportunity to work with young women interests you, please contact one the Girls State committee members. We would love to have you!

American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State is on Facebook. Please follow and “like” our page. Watch for us on Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat also! Spread the word about this great program to your families and communities.

Our National organization has asked units and departments to aid in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program in the following ways:

1. Instill an awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission in all ALA Girls State citizens.
2. Actively encourage all eligible ALA Girls State citizens (past and present) to join the American Legion Auxiliary.
3. Increase participation by highlighting college scholarship/funding possibilities for ALA Girls State participants. Promote the Samsung Scholarship to the ALA MN Girls State citizens who are a direct descendant of a veteran.
4. Utilize the internet, social networking sites, and written media to increase awareness and visibility of ALA Girls State.
5. Stay up to date on the latest ALA Girls State program news and best practices.

Please pay close attention, and abide by, the due dates on all the ALA MN Girls State documents that must be returned to the Department Office for registering and enrollment. These dates are very important as we prepare for the 2020 session. We will have updates in your unit mailings for all information concerning ALA MN Girls State to keep you updated on the dates and deadlines. **Looking forward to a great week at ALA MN Girls State.**

Contact Information:

Jean Walker, Chairman
218-686-1829
jmwalker1992@hotmail.com

Peggy Tesdahl, Director
612-715-4489
ranpegt0814@hotmail.com

Amelia Tesdahl, Educ. Dir.
612-834-1540
ametes2014@hotmail.com

Lesley Christoffer, Committee
507-370-1055
Lesleychristoffer50@gmail.com

Kelli Frederickson, Committee
651-462-2633
ksfred98@gmail.com

Joanne Joachim, Amer. Chm.
612-834-1540
joannetdmf@frontiernet.net



Girls State Committee (l-r): Lesley Christoffer, Jean Walker, Peggy Tesdahl, Amelia Tesdahl, Joanne Joachim and Kelli Frederickson