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American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State

Jan/Feb 2021

The 74th session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be held virtually Sunday, June 13 – Thursday, June 17, 2021. We are excited about the changes to the program that are being made to accommodate a virtual session. We will begin on Sunday evening and we plan to end early afternoon on Thursday. As always, we would love to have an increase in participation. Since we will be virtual, we have room for more.

The school mailing is scheduled to be sent out in the next week. The schools will be made aware that units will be contacting them to set up an appointment to meet with potential candidates from the Junior class to attend the 2021 ALA MN Girls State session.

If your Unit selected a citizen last year and they are available, they are welcome to participate this year. We are making this exception for this year, 2021, since we did not have a Girls State session in 2020. However, Seniors participating this year are not eligible to participate in Girls Nation per the ALA National Standing Rules. They are also not able to apply for the Samsung Scholarship per The American Legion National Headquarters.

Please read all the information we have provided so that you are aware of the eligibility and qualifications required. There is no limit to the number of girls a Unit may sponsor to ALA Minnesota Girls State. **The reservation cost for this virtual session will be \$100 per citizen.** If there are no high schools in your community, please consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring a girl(s) from the Junior class in a neighboring community.

What can your Unit do to raise funds to send a girl to Minnesota Girls State? Here are a few suggestions:

- ✓ Units may hold different types of fundraising events
- ✓ **Charitable Gambling funds** may be used for the reservation fee only. If used, please make checks payable to: The American Legion Foundation, Fund 83.
- ✓ Donations can be received from local businesses and/or community organizations. Their checks need to be made out to your Unit and then your Unit sends a check to the Department office for the reservation fee.
- ✓ Ask your American Legion Post or Sons of The American Legion Squadron to sponsor a girl or girls by writing a check to the American Legion Auxiliary.

A resolution, passed at the 2011 Department Convention, states that monies sent to the Department Office for reservations not used to sponsor a girl to ALA Minnesota Girls State would be placed into a Girls State Reservation Fee Fund. This fund is available

for any unit to use **one time every 3 years on a first come-first serve basis**. If your Unit has a girl who is interested in attending and you do not have enough funds to reserve a place for her, consider applying to the Department Office in writing to request these funds.

Units who sent funds last year and did not request a refund, your credit is available to use for this year only. Any unused credits will be refunded to the units who paid in 2020 after all registration is closed. Just mark use Girls State credit on your reservation form.

All reservations are due by **March 31st** accompanied by your check. Once your Unit has submitted your reservation and payment of \$100.00 per girl, you will be sent a Registration Packet. This packet will be sent to the name listed on the Reservation Form. The paperwork included in this packet has due dates listed which must be followed. It is important that you read the Registration Packet thoroughly before you share it with your citizen. **THERE WILL BE CHANGES IN THE PROCESSES this year-** watch for them. Please note that every citizen must be available to participate virtually during the scheduled times.

The name(s) and email address of your girl(s) are due to the Department office by **May 1, 2021**. It is important that this date be followed so that we can prepare documents and send them to our citizens in advance of the program.

There are plans to have a Package Deal of Girls State items from the Shirt Shack at Girls State. These will be mailed to the citizens once they have completed the session. These items will be available for pre-order by Auxiliary members as well. We are currently finalizing this and will have the information in the March/April unit mailing.

The ALA Minnesota Girls State Committee has been working diligently to ensure that our citizens have a truly memorable experience participating in ALA Minnesota Girls State. We look forward to welcoming young women representing your unit and community.

Please refer to the Auxiliary web page at mnala.org for forms and other information about Girls State.

If you have questions, feel free to contact any of the members of the Department Girls State Committee. We are here to assist you!

Jean Walker Girls State Chairman
Peggy Tesdahl, Girls State Director
Amelia Tesdahl, Girls State Education Director
Kelli Frederickson, Girls State Committee Member
Lesley Christoffer, Girls State Committee Member
Joanne Joachim, Americanism Chairman