

*Delegate/Parent  
Information Booklet*

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Missouri Girls State**

June 25-July 1, 2017

University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Please read the enclosed material prior to filling out  
your Registration Form for Girls State

Web site: [www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org)

**Please read this booklet before completing your Registration Form. Additional information can be obtained on the web site at [www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org) with contact phone numbers for any questions.**

The Girls State program provides young women who have just finished their junior year in high school the opportunity to come together to study city, county and state government. It enforces the understanding that every person is an integral part of the political process and has a responsibility to make tomorrow a better time-- the world a better place regardless of religious or political beliefs. It provides an opportunity to form a local government structure to deal with problems and situations as they arise and to see the political process work effectively.

### **WHAT IS GIRLS STATE AND WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED?**

Missouri Girls State is an intensive week of government study and Americanism training sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Americanism is the study of proper flag etiquette, the respect that the American Flag is due and a greater awareness of its importance and significance in American History.

Upon arrival each delegate is assigned to the Nationalist or Federalist political party--neither of which is affiliated with the Democrat or Republican Party. Party spirit and cheering provides support to those who choose to run for political office. In addition, all delegates are assigned to a city and the delegates of each city are housed together and eat at the Ellis Residence Hall Dining Hall. Each city forms a city government with elected officials who carry out responsibilities and duties as assigned. Three cities form a county, again with duties and responsibilities performed by its elected officials.

Finally, the state government is formed. Each political party holds a state convention complete with platform, resolutions, credentials and regulations committees, candidate speeches and party spirit. The primary ballot narrows the party candidates to the final general election ballot which elects the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, and Auditor. Elected state officials may be invited to return the following session to perform duties as assigned.

The Highway Patrol is formed to provide law enforcement assistance and education to the delegates. The patrol assists as required, serving as the honor guard for the Governor, writing tickets, helping with court trials, and performing any duties assigned.

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of state government and each city elects five (5) Representatives and each county elects four (4) Senators. MGS General Assembly travels by chartered bus to Jefferson City for its second session in the actual respective chambers in the Capitol building. During the week, the General Assembly meets for several sessions to write, debate, and vote on various proposed bills.

Each delegate will select one of seven (7) classes to attend daily. Classes include Legislative Procedure, Law, Law Enforcement, Communication/Media, International Politics, Business School and Executive/Leadership School. An exam will be given on Friday. A passing grade on the exam,

active participation in the week's activities, compliance of rules and regulations and attendance for the entire session [Sunday through Saturday] will enable a delegate to apply for two (2) or three (3) hours of college credit issued by University of Central Missouri.

Normally each day contains two (2) assemblies with guest speakers from political, business, and community service occupations. Delegates may participate in the MGS band or chorus which performs before assemblies and the Friday inauguration of state officials.

MGS provides the opportunity to experience college living, meet new friends and expand awareness of other types of Missouri living, either rural or urban. A MGS store has a wide variety of souvenirs, clothing, and snacks. During free time, all delegates have the opportunity to network and share high school, student council and club ideas and activities.

MGS is a seven-day session which can be physically, mentally and emotionally strenuous. The program is structured as a very intensive learning situation and involves a great deal of walking among campus buildings.

If selected to attend Missouri Girls State, a delegate or alternate must register and complete the on-line application form on the MGS website and submit it to her school for required signature. The application form, pledge form, contributing organization roster and tuition fees must be received by March 1, 2017 deadline or before capacity is reached. The MGS rules and regulations are listed on a screen in the on-line application process and in this booklet. The delegate or alternate must agree to comply with them.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**A delegate must remain at Girls State for the ENTIRE session, June 25-July 1, 2017 to receive credit for the program. The sponsoring organization, unit, and school are informed when a delegate fails to attend MGS or leaves before the program is completed.**

All accepted delegates will download the complete delegate packet which will be available on or about April 1<sup>st</sup> from the website [www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org) which includes more information and forms to be completed and brought to Girls State.

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State reserves the right to accept or reject any delegate nominated to attend Missouri Girls State.

Any delegate of Missouri Girls State found to be violating MGS Rules and Regulations will be subject to immediate dismissal without refund and barred from further participation in the program. The parents will be notified and requested to come pick up their daughter. The American Legion Auxiliary unit, contributing organization, and school will be notified when a delegate fails to complete the course and a request will be made to the school that Missouri Girls State be stricken from the delegate's academic record. A delegate who fails to complete the Missouri Girls State session without just cause, barring illness or death in the family, may be held responsible for reimbursing the delegate fee to her financial sponsor.

## **HARASSMENT AND BULLYING POLICY**

Harassment and Bullying will not be tolerated. For purposes of this policy, they are defined as intimidation or harassment of a delegate or multiple delegates perpetuated by individuals or groups. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft, or damaging property; oral or written taunts, including name-calling, put-downs, extortion, or threats; or threats of retaliation for reporting such acts.

## **HEALTH AND MEDICAL POLICY**

During Missouri Girls State, first aid and/or medical attention, if required, will be available. Every care will be taken to avoid accidents and prevent illness, but American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State will not accept responsibility for either injuries or sickness should they occur. The medical form must be properly filled out with the delegate's insurance and Social Security number. The release for emergency medical treatment must be signed by parent or guardian.

## **DISABILITY POLICY**

All arrangements for a delegate with a physical disability must be submitted in writing to the Director prior to the acceptance of the delegate to Missouri Girls State. If a delegate with a physical disability is selected that needs assistance to participate, the sponsoring organization must furnish a full time female aide of legal age to assist the delegate. All expenses for the aide, including transportation, meals and lodging must be assumed by the sponsoring organization. Missouri Girls State will not be responsible for any expenses or providing any equipment. Also, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State must be assured that proper insurance is provided for the delegate with a disability and her aide, and any additional premiums will be assumed by the sponsoring organization, parent or guardian of the delegate.

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State is an educational exercise in which the majority of the base skills are transmitted to the delegates via verbal and published communications. Missouri Girls State will make every effort to afford qualified individual delegates an opportunity to participate regardless of impairment, but at no additional cost to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State.

## **HEARING IMPAIRED AND/OR VISION IMPAIRED (legally blind)**

The following policy will be applied to the Hearing Impaired and/or Vision Impaired:

1. A delegate with a severe hearing and/or visual impairment must be accompanied, so as to provide her safety at all times, by a qualified female aide or signing person (an interpreter) of legal age that is capable of voice communication and/or sign language.
2. The aide or interpreter must accompany the delegate to all program functions, and must adhere to all delegate rules.

3. The personal aide or interpreter will be subject to the same exact fees as a delegate, but will not be allowed to participate in the actual program without the expressed prior permission of the Girls State Director.
4. The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State, will not be responsible to the personal aide or interpreter in any way, for any remuneration for her efforts on behalf of the hearing impaired and/or vision impaired delegate.
5. If there are varying degrees of vision impairment, or a Seeing Eye dog involved, that may be subject to variation of the above rules, each will be considered on an individual basis by the Girls State Director consulting with the University of Central Missouri.
6. This policy is in addition to the Missouri Girls State Disability Policy.

All arrangements for any delegate with a severe visual or hearing impairment must be submitted in writing and approved by the Director, before the individual's acceptance as a delegate to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Missouri Girls State program.

### **PHOTO/IDENTITY RELEASE POLICY**

Each delegate and her parent/guardian hereby give consent to Missouri Girls State and its designees the right to film and photograph the delegate and use the delegate's name, pictures, and other reproductions of her physical likeness in connection with Missouri Girls State press releases, website, social media pages and all other projects sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and Missouri Girls State, including any photo CDs, videos or films used to publicize and/or advertise Missouri Girls State and further understand that no compensation for such use will be paid to the delegate and/or her parent/guardian.