

PURPOSE and OBJECTIVE

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State is a simulation patterned after the State of Illinois; it follows Illinois governmental procedure as closely as possible. It is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship which attempts to teach and inculcate in our youth a love of America and a sense of individual obligation to community, state, and nation. It is a powerful, intense learning experience.

Hundreds of girls from various communities throughout the State of Illinois will attend American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State in June. They will learn the way a two-party system works. At IGS we have two fictitious political parties, the Nationalists and the Federalists. They will caucus, have Primary and General elections, and participate in a party Convention.

They will elect city, county, and state officials. They will learn the duties of various public offices – their functions, limitations, and powers. They will have their own legislature where they introduce, debate and pass their own bills. They regulate their own cities, enforce their laws, and prepare county projects.

Each girl has a chance to learn for herself that her government is just what she makes it. She learns the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities as a citizen of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State that will help her fully participate as an American citizen.

As a program of an organization standing for God and Country, we may share nonsectarian prayers and religious observations. If religious accommodations are required please inform Department Headquarters in advance; we will review these requests and determine if they can be met within the structure of our program.

WHAT GIRLS STATE IS NOT!!!

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State is not intended to be a vacation, an opportunity to plan and carry out individual interests, or a flexible schedule.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be in their Junior year of high school.
2. The application certification must be signed by the school principal, guidance counselor or home school administrator certifying the applicant maintains a C average, possesses qualities of leadership, has good character and is a legal resident of the United States.
3. Applicants are expected to attend the entire Girls State session and also attend an American Legion Auxiliary sponsored orientation meeting.
4. **Each applicant must be willing to pledge allegiance to the Flag of our Country and abide by all rules of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State.**
5. Any Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary may sponsor one or more girls. Outside organizations or individuals are welcome to fund Unit sponsored girls, if the quota of girls is not filled by May 1.
6. After the Girls State Session, each girl will be expected to appear before her sponsoring organization to give a report on her experiences at IGS.
7. It is a rule of the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State committee that the selection of the girl must be based on fairness to every eligible girl and the selection should not be limited to Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary or members of Legion or Auxiliary families.

APPLICATION - - WAIVER - - FEE

1. APPLICATION must be submitted to American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, P.O. Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702-1426 **PRIOR TO MAY 1** or until the quota of girls is reached.
2. It is important that you select an ALTERNATE at the time you select your applicant to represent your Unit at Girls State in case your applicant should find it impossible to attend, due to unforeseen circumstances.
3. A qualified alternate will be accepted until opening session, Sunday, June 18th, at 7:00 p.m. **Registration fees WILL NOT be refunded after June 1.**
4. The waiver must be signed by parent or guardian absolving the American Legion Auxiliary of all responsibility in case of accident or injury to the girl while attending American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. **A HIPAA statement must be signed by both the applicant and parent/guardian.**
5. The cost per applicant is \$250 and is to be paid by the sponsoring Unit or contributing organization.
6. Units whose applicant will be riding a bus from Gurnee, St Joseph Park (Joliet), LaGrange, Morton, or Bloomington, **MUST INCLUDE** money for the round trip fare with the application fee.

STAFF

The staff of about 60 women includes experienced teachers of civics and government, a counselor in residence for every city, two staff advisors for each county and others qualified to conduct various programs.

WHAT TO TAKE

1. Dresses, skirts, or dress slacks/capris are required for assemblies and meals. Shorts or jeans are allowed only at recreation. All shirts and dresses should be modest and **MUST** cover midriff and cleavage and not be form fitting. **Rompers are not allowed.** A semi-formal dress is suggested for the banquet.
2. Walking shoes and/or tennis shoes are recommended. (Going barefoot is prohibited.)
3. **MUST BRING** pillows, bed linen (twin sheets and a blanket or sleeping bag is suggested) and personal items for the week, including towels, and an alarm clock.
4. If interested in participating in the talent show, bring instrument or other required items. **Girls State does not assume responsibility for these or any other personal items.**