

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Illinois
American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State

The 78th session of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State will be held on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL from Sunday June 17th to Saturday June 23th, 2018. American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State is a simulation based on Illinois Government to provide citizenship training for girls who have just completed their Junior year in High School. **REMEMBER, THE UNIT SHOULD BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION OF THE CANDIDATES. THIS IS OUR PROGRAM, AND WE ARE THE SPONSORS!** When selecting your candidates, please be sure they are interested in being there and have an interest in government. Do not make your selection based solely on the fact that the girls are American Legion Auxiliary Juniors or that they are a relative of someone in the American Legion family. **APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND THE ENTIRE SESSION!**

Units are expected to make arrangements with their candidates to attend an orientation session. Parents should also be encouraged to attend. Orientations prepare citizens to participate fully at American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State and help them feel comfortable about choosing to come. Each year citizens who have attended orientation report having a better experience than citizens who did not attend orientation. **Orientation for every delegate will be mandatory.** All orientations need to be given by committee members that will have a script so that every delegate receives the same, accurate information. An orientation registry is available to assist Units in determining orientations available in their area. This registry will be published in the March ALA Today newsletter and available on the www.ilgirlsstate.org website. We are looking for Units to host these orientations. You may be as fancy or as simple as you would like to be. We will need dates and contact person so the delegates can register with you for planning. Delegates unable to attend an orientation can take the video orientation that will be on-line. It will be your responsibility to be sure your delegate attends an orientation or reviews the on-line orientation. Girls unable to attend can view online orientations at www.ilgirlsstate.org.

The fee will be \$250 per citizen. Please remit your fee to Department Headquarters now to assure there is a spot for your citizen. I encourage you to reserve 2 spots or more if possible. It is a very exciting week, and we would like to give as many girls as we can the opportunity to participate. You may find another organization, business or family willing to help pay the fee for any citizens you would like to send, but remember, the Auxiliary Unit is the sponsor and must be involved in the selection. If funds are available to send a citizen but you do not have a candidate, please contact other area Units or Department Headquarters as there may be Units who have a candidate but no funds.

Girls wishing to attend American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State will be able to fill out applications on line. The information and Medical Packets will also be available to them on line through a link provided once the Unit sends in the application and payment. If you know of a girl that your Unit will sponsor you can simply direct her to the Illini Girls State website at www.ilgirlsstate.org to fill out an application or give her a copy of the enclosed application. Please make as many copies as you wish of the enclosed application.

We continue to ask Units to send contributions to help defray the cost of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. In order to keep the fees down, we rely on your generosity to contribute anything you can to assist the operation of this program.

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It is our goal to provide a quality program at a reasonable cost to all future citizens. We are creating the future leaders of our State and Nation; help us continue this tradition. They thank you and we will all benefit from it!

UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Remit the \$250 fee now, THEN select the most qualified candidate or candidates.
2. Host an orientation at the Unit, County, or District level. The orientation must be given by a committee member.
3. Please contact your school as soon as possible for candidates.
4. Check into transportation needs.
5. Publicize! Let your community know about your selection and their return.
6. STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CANDIDATE UNTIL SHE ARRIVES AT ALAIGS.
7. Invite your citizen(s) to report when she returns from ALAIGS.
8. Invite her to become a member if she is eligible.

Once the Unit has sent the fee and application to Department Headquarters, the candidate will receive an email link to a packet of information in mid-May. These must be filled out entirely and emailed back to the IGS email address provided by June 1st. Those girls with no email address will be sent the packet through postal mail. We try very hard **NOT** to house citizens from the same school together. Please be sure your candidate knows this in advance.

Skirts, dresses, or dress slacks/capris are required for all sessions and meals. The dress code is easy to follow once your candidate reads the information. All clothing is expected to be modest. Dresses and shirts should cover the cleavage and midriff. Skirts and dresses should be modest and not form fitting. **Rompers are not allowed.** Remind your citizen that she will be walking significant distances on campus daily and will need appropriate shoes. **NO jeans or shorts** may be worn at any time except recreation. A special or semi-formal dress is appropriate for the banquet. Many girls bring their prom or homecoming dress.

Many candidates arrive and do not know this is an American Legion Auxiliary Program. Please make certain your candidate knows who has sponsored them. Keep in contact with them until they arrive at Girls State.

The American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State Alumni Association is still seeking anyone that has been involved with or attended American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. If you know anyone who is interested in joining, please have them contact me for additional information.

The 2018 American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State committee is looking forward to a successful 78th Session. We know we will have a great group of young ladies in attendance thanks to your efforts.

Sarah Wyckoff, 2018 Director
American Legion Auxiliary
Illini Girls State

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