



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

OREGON



“THE WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME”

To: All High School Junior Girls, School Counselors and Advisors

The 78th annual session of ALA Oregon Girls State will be held at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon from June 17 through June 23, 2018.

What is Girls State?

Girls State is a non-partisan, non-secular nationwide program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary designed to increase attendees' awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while learning about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship. ALA Oregon Girls State provides the opportunity for high school juniors from throughout the state to learn through the creation of mock governments at the county and state levels. Experiences may include public speaking while campaigning for various public offices, drafting and presenting bills for passage in the Girls State legislature, serving as a lobbyist to help influence decision-making, participating in mock trials, participating in a hands-on law enforcement camp, a professional journalism program in addition to a wide variety of workshops and presentations by some of Oregon's highest elected officials and other state and nationwide professionals.

Girls State Delegates will come away with a greater appreciation of civic duty, the American flag, and of the sacrifices made by our veterans. While at Girls State, they will make friends with other exemplary girls from around the state and have a fun week that many have described as a life-changing, influential experience.

Scholarship Opportunities

Girls State is an excellent resume builder for college applications and employment opportunities. Attendees may also apply for the American Legion Samsung Scholarship valued at \$1000.00. The Delegate awarded the Samsung Scholarship for Oregon will go on to compete at the national level for an opportunity at **an additional \$19,000 scholarship.**

Application and Selection Process

All eligible junior girls are encouraged to apply online at www.alaoregon.org. The American Legion Auxiliary pays the student's expenses for food, lodging, activities and materials during their attendance at Girls State; applicants are required to submit a \$100 application fee, \$50 of which is refundable once they complete the 2018 Girls State Session. The American Legion Auxiliary will interview applicants and select qualified, interested delegates from your school.

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a female, legal resident of the state of Oregon;
- Have completed her junior year in high school, or; if home schooled, be at least 15 years of age, and have completed the 11th grade year;
- Show respect for and be willing to salute the American Flag;
- Be willing and able to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, including its reference to God.

The appropriate candidate will have an interest in government and possess a desire to develop leadership skills and self-confidence.

What we ask of your school?

PLEASE:

- Post the ALA Oregon Girls State poster in a conspicuous location in your school.
- Hand out brochures to interested students. Student Government and Debate participants are excellent candidates and have a particularly rewarding experience.
- Encourage interested students to review the online information materials at www.alaoregon.org and apply online by **March 31, 2018**.
- Provide applicants with a certified copy of their transcript and GPA standing.

Please contact us if you would like us to present an information session at your school!

Your local American Legion Auxiliary
Oregon Girls State Sponsoring Unit is:

Please contact me with any questions!