



THE WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME

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

The 79th annual session of Oregon Girls State will be held at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon from June 16 through June 22, 2019.

What is Girls State?

Girls State is a 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. 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 and a wide variety of workshops and presentations by some of Oregon's highest elected officials and other inspirational speakers.

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.

College Credit and Scholarship Opportunities

Girls State is an excellent resume builder for college applications and employment opportunities, and attendees may also obtain reduced-cost transferable college credits for their attendance (more information is available at www.leadershipcredit.org/info). 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. The American Legion Auxiliary pays the delegates' 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 2019 Girls State Session. The American Legion Auxiliary will interview applicants and select qualified, interested delegates from your school.

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a legal female 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?:

- Announce when and where Girls State applications may be obtained
- Distribute applications to all interested girls—you are welcome to make additional copies as needed
- Designate a date and location at your school for collection of completed applications
- Have completed applications and fees either mailed or available for pick-up by: May 1, 2019
- Ensure that all applications are signed by a parent or guardian and the school principal or authorized representative

American Legion Auxiliary
Girls State Unit Chairman

Please contact me with any questions!