

## American Legion Auxiliary Georgia Girls State

### Congratulations on being chosen to attend Georgia Girls State!

Report to Georgia Hall on the campus of Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA, between 1:00 and 3:30 on Sunday June 9, 2024. Make arrangements to depart on Friday, June 14, 2024 by 1:00 PM. Please make sure that you have had lunch before you register. Once you have registered, you may not leave the campus. Our first meal is Sunday dinner at 5:30 PM.

**Before Girls State:** The 2024 Girls State Application will be a fully online application. It will be available starting March 1, 2024. You should receive the link to the application on an email.

**ON SUNDAY, DURING REGISTRATION  
YOU MUST BRING 200 copies of your bill on  
8 ½ X 11 paper (if you write a bill)**

Limit your bill to one sheet.

#### **What to bring:**

- Twin bed sheets extra long
- Blanket, pillow and pillow case
- Hand, Bath towels, wash clothes, bath mat
- Personal toilet articles
- Soap, hand soap, shampoo
- Sanitary articles (Be Prepared)
- Coat hangers
- Umbrella
- Sweater or light jacket
- School and Sport clothes
- \$5.00 cash for a Cantina Card
- 1 dressy dress or outfit and appropriate shoes for graduation
- 2 or 3 business (nice) outfits for inspirational and giving speeches during campaigns
- Comfortable shoes
- White gloves (we have some to share)
- Patriotic outfit for Flag Day (Optional)

- Pocket Folder
  - Pen or pencil, markers and highlighter
  - Masking tape
- Trash bags and Bathroom tissue will be provided

Do not bring campaign materials or any means to make them other than pens, pencils and markers. To keep campaigning equal for all delegates, you will not be allowed to bring materials from home. You will only be able to use paper that Girls State provides. Do not bring a laptop computer or expensive jewelry. You may bring a cell phone but cell phones may only be used during free time. The use of phones for talking and/or text messaging during any meeting or assembly will not be tolerated. It can be used for notes.

#### **Talent Show**

Girls State will have a talent show on Thursday evening. If you are interested, please bring equipment, musical instruments, music, etc. You must sign up by Tuesday at Girls State if you plan to try out for participation. Microphone and computer provided on stage. No visitors allowed.

#### **Girls State House and Senate**

Much of your time during the week will be spent in the House and Senate. You will be randomly assigned as a Senator or Representative. You should conduct yourself and present yourself as a young senator or representative. During the sessions, you will debate bills written by you or other Girls State Citizens. You are invited to submit one bill of statewide significance (No federal issues.) In order for your bill to be considered, you **must** bring 200 copies to be turned in to the government staff during registration on June 9. Sample bills and a form upon which to write your bill is enclosed. You can use it as a guide or write you bill on it.

#### **Driving to Girls State**

You may drive to Valdosta, but as soon as you have unpacked your vehicle, you must turn in your keys and receive a parking permit. We will have designated parking for citizens of Girls State. Failure to turn in your keys and receive a parking permit can result in a parking citation.

#### **Scholarship**

**Samsung Scholarship:** As a delegate, you have the opportunity to apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. If you are a direct descendant of a U.S. wartime veteran, you are eligible to apply. The application can be obtained from the American Legion National website. There will be a link on the Georgia Girls State website no later than February 15, 2024.

Applications must be completed on line by June 9, 2024, which is the first day of Georgia Girls State. NO Exceptions!

**Girls Nation:** Two outstanding citizens of Georgia Girls State will be selected to attend Girls Nation July 20-27, 2024

**Graduation and Inauguration will be held at the Student Union. Search VSU Oak Street Parking Deck. Attendees will park there. It begins at 8:45. Doors open for guests at 8:30. Parents and other visitors are invited!**

**Call if more information is needed:**

**Deedy Harrell, Director**

**Cell: 770-337-7997 Call or text**

**Email: [georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.georgiagirlsstate.org](http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org)**

**Gabriele Barnett, Assistant Director**

**706-951-3906 Call or text**

**[barnettgabriele@hotmail.com](mailto:barnettgabriele@hotmail.com)**

**Flag Day is June 14. We will dress in patriotic outfits on Flag Day. (Optional) Since Flag Day is the Graduation Day, we will commemorate Flag Day on Thursday, June 13.**

# WHAT TO TAKE TO GIRLS STATE

- 200 copies of your one bill **if** you are submitting **one**. Limited to 1 page (8 ½ X 11)  
One side only. 1 bill per girl
- Classroom attire (that which is accepted in one's school and by one's school code)  
slacks, jeans and shorts will be permitted, but **no short shorts or sloppy jeans and no midriffs**, Clothes for 5 nights and 6 days.
- Comfortable daytime shoes (sneakers or tennis shoes because we do a lot of walking)
- A pair of white gloves – We have some to share if you can't buy gloves.
- 1 dressy dress or outfit and appropriate shoes for graduation. Semi formal. NO jeans
- 2 or 3 business outfits for inspirational and giving speeches during campaigns
- Raincoat and umbrella
- There are drinking fountains, but you can bring water. It's hot in Valdosta.
- Bed linens for a single long twin bed, a blanket and a pillow
- Towels, hand towels, wash clothes, soap, hand soap, shower supplies, bathmat, sanitary pads/tampons, and toilet articles.
- Trash bags and bathroom tissue will be PROVIDED.
- Equipment for light sports and musical instruments are acceptable.
- Do Not Bring Anything Of Great Value With You -- Especially Expensive Jewelry.
- No citizen is to bring campaign material from home.**
- Notebook, writing instruments, markers and masking tape
- If a girl drives to Girls State, car keys must be turned in upon arrival. When keys are turned in, a parking permit will be issued. **Without the permit the college may issue a parking citation.**
- Bring cash from home to buy spend in the Girls State store.

## How to Write a Bill

So you want to write a bill, huh? Well, the first thing to remember is this: a good idea isn't necessarily a good bill. In other words, just because something would help the State of Georgia doesn't mean that it is a good bill topic for Georgia Girls State delegates.

Seem strange? Well, here's why: Girls State bills need to be ideas that can be debated effectively. That means that a bill about requiring State Prisons to use only recycled paper probably isn't so good because no one will want to argue about it!

And really good arguing can only happen if a few other things happen. We've broken it all down for you. Here's what we think makes a good bill:

- ⌚ **Debatability**-- people are going to want to argue about your bill from both sides of the issue. If you can't think of an argument against your bill, you should probably pick a different one!
- ⌚ **Importance to Georgia Girls State**-- the idea here is that a bill that affects a lot of people or a wide variety of people is better than a bill that only affects a few people or a narrow range of people. If a topic has been in newspapers or on TV, then it may be a good bill topic.
- ⌚ **Feasibility**--your bill idea could actually work the way you want it to in the real world; it's realistic.
- ⌚ **Researchability**--you are going to be able to find facts, statistics, and news articles supporting your idea.

The KEY to a good bill is that it is an idea that you care very much about. The more passionate you feel about your bill, the more you will want to put the work in that will make it successful.

**BILL**  
Georgia Girls State  
General Assembly

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Representative or Senator \_\_\_\_\_ (Your Name) introduced the following bill:  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_ (to be completed at Girls State)  
Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_ (to be completed at Girls State)  
Girls State City \_\_\_\_\_ (to be completed at Girls State)

Referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ committee.

**An Act to [state whatever this bill does in general terms]**

1     **Whereas**, [why does this issue need to be changed or looked into], **and**,

2

3     **Whereas**, [how is this issue right now], **and**

4

5     **Whereas**, [there need to be at least three whereas clauses where you tell me  
6 why you are writing this bill to change something], **and**,

7

8     **Whereas**, [you can have as many of these as you want], **and**,

9

10    **Whereas**, [in the last whereas clause make sure and put the rest of the  
11 formatting that is in this template], **NOW THEREFORE**,

12

13    **Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia**  
14 **Girls State here assembled, that:**

15

16    **Section 1:** This bill shall be known as the “[What you are doing] Act of 2023.”

17

18    **Section 2:** [State what you are changing].

19

20    **Section 3:** [Make sure the sections are complete sentences changing only one  
21 thing]

22

23    **Section 4:** [You can have as many of these as you need. Be specific!]

24

25    **Section 5:** [Make sure your bill is feasible: it cannot obligate the federal  
26 government and ought to consider possible problems, such as funding.]

The bill should be numbered as above so that during debate, the discussed part can be located with ease. You are **encouraged** to present a bill, but it is not required. We spend a great percentage of our time at Girls State in the Senate and House, so please submit one bill if you have something you feel passionate about. Limit your bill to the **front of one page** on 8 1/2 X 11 paper. You may submit **1** bill. The **ONLY** requirement is that you bring, **200** copies with you to Girls State, and ensure your copies are turned in to the government staff on Sunday afternoon during registration.

**BILL**  
Georgia Girls State  
General Assembly

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Representative or Senator) Lucia Morris introduced the following bill:

House Bill \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_

Girls State City \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ committee.

**An Act to Legalize Hemp**

1     **Whereas**, hemp is an agricultural product derived from the cannabis plant used  
2     as fiber to make food, paper, cardboard, fuel, plastics, paint, carpets, clothes,  
3     and rope, it is a crucial element of the economy,  
4

5     **Whereas**, it is illegal to cultivate hemp,  
6

7     **Whereas**, for this reason hemp must be imported from foreign nations even  
8     when it is easy to grow here,  
9

10    **Whereas**, hemp cannot be used in any way as a psychoactive drug in the way  
11    that other cannabis products can be,  
12

13    **Whereas**, the legalization of hemp would lead to a job-creating industry  
14    surrounding the cash crop, with major potential for economic growth, **NOW**  
15    **THEREFORE**,

16  
17    **Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia**  
18    **Girls State here assembled, that:**

19  
20    **Section 1:** This bill shall be known as the "Agricultural Hemp Act of 2024."  
21

22    **Section 2:** Hemp will be legalized as an agricultural commodity, making it legal  
23    for farmers in the state of Girls State to grow hemp.  
24

25    **Section 3:** Remove hemp from the list of Controlled Substances.  
26

27    **Section 4:** Provide necessary supporting legislation to assist in the state in  
28    moving the forefront of industrial hemp production, development, and  
29    commercialization to the greatest extent plausible.  
20

31    **Section 5:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage by the state of  
32    Georgia Girls State, the welfare of the students requiring it.

**BILL**  
Georgia Girls State  
General Assembly

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Representative or Senator) Mallory Plunkett introduced the following bill:

House Bill \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_

Girls State City \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ committee.

**An Act to Decrease Waste From Disposable Bags**

1     **Whereas**, each year in the United States over 30 million tons of disposable bags  
2     are used, requiring at least fourteen million barrels of oil to produce,

3

4     **Whereas**, The environmental impacts of both the oil required to create the bags  
5     and the waste created when they are not recycled are detrimental and must be  
6     stopped, **NOW THEREFORE**,

7

8     **Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia**  
9     **Girls State here assembled, that:**

10

11     **Section 1:** This bill shall be known as the "Plastic Bag Act of 2024."

12

13     **Section 2:** A tax of 5 cents shall be enacted on the consumer for every  
14     disposable bag used in retail stores.

15

16     **Section 3:** The proceeds of this tax will be allocated to the Environmental  
17     Protection Division of Georgia Girls State.

18

19     **Section 4:** This Bill shall take effect immediately upon passage by the state of  
20     Georgia Girls State, the welfare of the people requiring it.

21

22     **Section 5:** Every business that sells food, alcohol, or clothes will be required to  
23     follow this bill to reduce consumer waste and protect the natural environment.

**BILL**  
Georgia Girls State  
General Assembly

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Senators Angela Howard and Gianna Gambella introduced the following bill:

House Bill \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_

Girls State City \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ committee.

**An Act to Increase Career Opportunities by Training a Skilled Workforce**

1     **Whereas**, approximately one third of all Americans do not go on to obtain any  
2     college degree, relying purely on elementary, middle, and high school  
educations

3     to prepare them for careers, **and**,

4     **Whereas**, the reintroduction of career and technical education (CTE) programs  
5     during high school would be an improvement in the opportunities presented  
6     to those students desiring a career path but not having the means or desire to  
7     attend college, **and**,

8     **Whereas**, students in high school career and technical education (CTE)  
9     programs learn valuable trades preparing them to enter profitable, competitive  
10    markets such as woodworking or manufacturing, **NOW THEREFORE**,

11

12    **Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the  
Georgia**

13    **Girls State here assembled, that:**

14

15    **Section One:**

16    The state will increase funding given to CTE programs within public high schools  
17    and to vocational schools developed fully around CTE, adding to the funding  
18    provided by the federal Perkins Act.

19

20    **Section Two:**

21    The State Board of Education will encourage high schools to incorporate CTE  
22    classes into their regular offerings and will establish guidelines for the inclusion  
23    of CTE courses among Fine Arts credit options.

24    **Section Three:**

25    This Bill will take effect immediately upon its passage by the state of Georgia

26 Girls State. The State Board of Education will have one school year to  
27 develop and propose a plan both to promote CTE and to incorporate CTE into  
28 Fine Arts Credits.



**BILL**  
Georgia Girls State  
General Assembly

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill:  
Representative or Senator (Your Name)

(To be completed by the Girls State office:) House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_

Girls State City \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ committee.

Be it enacted by the Senate and/or House of Representatives of the Georgia Girls State here assembled, that:

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The bill should be numbered as above so that during debate, the part being discussed can be located with ease by the Senators and Representatives at Georgia Girls State.

You are **encouraged** to present a bill, but it is not required of all participants. We spend a great percentage of our time at Girls State in the Senate and House, so please submit one bill if you have something that you feel passionate about. Limit your bill to one page on 8 ½ X 11 paper. You may submit 1 bill. The **ONLY** requirement is that you bring, **200** copies with you to Girls State, and make sure your copies are turned in to the government staff on Sunday afternoon during registration.