

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

## GEORGIA GIRLS STATE

### VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY, VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

#### INFORMATION ABOUT GEORGIA GIRLS STATE June 9 – 14, 2024 Information for Girls and Parents

**WEB:** More information is available at [www.georgiagirlsstate.org](http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org), please refer to it for more information and necessary forms. The Girls State Manual is on the website. You will receive a copy upon arrival.

#### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE?

- It is a National program of the American Legion Auxiliary and is a course of instruction in, as well as, a practical application of, the fundamental principles and procedures of city, county and state government under the American system.
- A session, usually lasting five days, is conducted by each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, with the top-ranking high school girls as citizens.
- Under the guidance of skilled counselors and other staff members who are leading citizens, these girls learn and then practice through self-government, the duties, responsibilities and privileges of American citizenship.
- GEORGIA GIRLS STATE is sponsored, as it has been since 1940, by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia with local Auxiliary units and interested civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations cooperating.
- From the time they arrive, until they leave for home the citizens will get regular “sessions” of instruction in practical application of government and citizenships.
- These instruction sessions, conducted by the Government Instructor and the Girls State staff will include the principles and procedures of city, county and state government.
- Using the know-how gained from these classes, the citizens will organize and operate their own city, county and state governments.
- Emphasis will be placed on letting the girls govern themselves, under the constant guidance of the staff members. Upon arrival in Valdosta, the citizens will be assigned to 10 cities and 4 counties, to form the mythical 51st State of Girls State.
- Early in the week, each city will elect officials, who will operate the city government during the week.
- Later, each county will elect county officials. There will be appointed officials at all levels of government.
- Each girl will be assigned to a party (Nationalist or Federalist) and either to the Girls State House or Senate.
- Prior to Girls State, each citizen is encouraged to write a bill for debate in the House and Senate. If a bill is submitted, girls are required to bring 200 copies of their bill on letter sized paper (8 ½ X 11) to turn in Sunday during registration. Limit your bill to one sheet. If you have questions concerning the bill, please call or text 770-337-7997 or email [georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com).
- A State General Election will take place, in which the Girls State Governor and other State Officials will be elected.
- **This fee of \$350.00 is paid by the Auxiliary Units. The fee shall not be paid by citizens, parents or any family member of a citizen.** The Auxiliary Units raise the fees through donations, fund raisers and various other sources.

#### MEDICAL CARE:

- **The Medical History/Consent/ Parent Waiver form, Georgia Girls State Pledge will be filled out as a part of the online registration and insurance card, must be uploaded if you have health insurance. If you do not have health insurance, you may still attend Girls State and will be covered if necessary. Registration will begin no later than March 1, 2024.**
- Infirmary facilities and medical personnel will be provided throughout the week, to render any needed medical attention to citizens and staff members.

#### INFORMATION PACKETS:

- **Once the girls’ applications have been completed, you and your parents will receive an email with a link to a Information Packet. There is information to tell you what to bring and how to write a bill if you are interested.**
- This packet includes Urgent Information, complete instructions on rules and regulations, general information, what to bring from home and other facts which citizens should know before leaving home for Girls State. Included will be information for writing House and Senate Bills. Sample Bills are on the website. The packets may be

downloaded from the Girls State website at <http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/forms.htm>. (The 200 copies of your bill must be turned in during registration on Sunday if you choose to submit a bill.)

- If you have not received your packet by May 15th, please contact me by call or text at 770-337-7997  
Email me at [georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com). Many things require information from your school so read the information before it's time to pack.

#### **ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:**

- Citizens must report to the campus of Valdosta State University between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 9, and they will depart on Friday, June 14 by 1:00 PM. The Dorm is Georgia Hall. Check the website for information about the name of the dorm and other pertinent information.
- **LUNCH will Not** be provided on **Sunday**; arrangements must be made prior to arriving at Girls State.
- **Once the citizen has registered, they are not allowed to leave to eat lunch. Make sure the citizens have eaten before arriving on campus.**
- Inauguration and Graduation is held at the Student Union, For directions Google VSU Oak Street Parking Deck. (Guests should park there.) The program will be held June 14, 2024 at 8:45 AM. Doors open for guests at 8:15.
- The sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit is responsible for arranging transportation to Girls State and back home. Some units require parents to provide transportation.

#### **HOUSING AND MEALS:**

- All citizens and staff members will be housed in the dormitories on the campus of Valdosta State University, and the meals will be served in the cafeteria. Our first meal is Sunday evening and our last meal is Friday Breakfast.
- Participants of Girls State may not order food to be brought to them by restaurants, family or friends.
- Complete instructions on rules and regulations, general information, what to bring from home and other facts which you should know before leaving home for Girls State **can be found on the Girls State Website:**  
<http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org>

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

- **NO citizen will be permitted to leave the area designated for Girls State on the campus of Valdosta State without the permission of the Girls State Director and only in the case of emergency.**
- **No visitors are allowed during the week. Guests MAY attend the graduation on Friday morning.**
- **Nothing can be delivered to citizens unless through the Girls State office. This includes food deliveries.**
- **All citizens will be required to comply with all rules of conduct and general discipline by the Girls State Staff and Counselors. This includes showing respect to all staff members and fellow citizens.**
- **Only an extreme emergency will be a reason for leaving Girls State before the end of the session.**
- **There are 4 female troopers from the Georgia State Patrol on the staff.**

#### **GIRLS NATION:**

- Two outstanding citizens of the American Legion Auxiliary Georgia Girls State session will be selected by delegates and staff to attend Girls Nation. These two will be selected on Wednesday and Thursday and will be referred to as U.S. Senators.
- The Girls Nation session will be held at the William Bolger Center, Potomac, MD, July 20-27, 2024
- All expenses of the two citizens will be paid from the Georgia Girls State Fund.

#### **ADDRESS ALL INQUIRIES AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

- The Director, Deedy Harrell, 800 E. 10th Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169, 770-337-7997 (call or text) or email [georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com).
- Or the Assistant Director, Gabriele Barnett At: Cell 706-951-3906 (call or text) or email: [barnettgabriele@hotmail.com](mailto:barnettgabriele@hotmail.com)
- Issues about online applications can be addressed by the director or Cynthia Orms at 478-232-4831

**SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP:** Check the website for the link for the application. [www.georgiagirlsstate.org](http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org).  
**This must be completed on line by Sunday June 9, 2024**