

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
GEORGIA GIRLS STATE
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY, VALDOSTA, GEORGIA**

INFORMATION FOR UNITS: Girls State dates June 8 - 13, 2025

WEBSITE: Visit www.georgiagirlsstate.org, please refer to it for more information and necessary forms.

REGISTRATION: 2025 Girls State will have online registration. The 2025 online application will be available on the website on March 1, 2025. The applications will be entered by the tech staff. The pre-applications will be filled out online so there's no printing and filling out the document. Either the student or the Unit Girls State Representative can fill it out online. This will alleviate many mistakes and eliminate problems with illegible handwriting. Please make sure the information is input correctly. Unit Representatives will receive an update on March 15 and every two weeks after the first update. Keep a copy of your girls' contact information for future correspondence with the girls. Do Not Delay in getting girls to complete the online registration. The school portion needs to be completed online and this has to be done before school is out for the summer.

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION:

Unit members who helped with Girls State in the past will receive an email in late January with information for the 2025 session about the online process. If you do not receive the email, please contact me at the number or email addresses in the last portion of this document.

ORIENTATION: Have an orientation or have the girls attend a district or another unit's orientation.

SPONSORSHIP:

- Girls will be accepted for enrollment when sponsored directly by a unit of the American Legion Auxiliary or approved by a unit for sponsorship by another organization.
- Every unit of the American Legion Auxiliary in Georgia is urged to sponsor one or more citizens.
- It is expected that most of the citizens will be sponsored by units. However, sponsorship of citizens by civic, fraternal organizations is highly encouraged, provided the citizens are enrolled through a local unit.
- Any organization wishing to sponsor one or more citizens should contact the unit.
- Likewise, units are encouraged to contact community organizations most likely to sponsor a citizen.
- **The fee shall not be paid by citizens, parents or any family member of a citizen.**
- All organizations paying citizens' registration fees will be listed as sponsors, and they will receive recognition for full participation in the program.
- All citizens sponsored by organizations other than units will be selected in the same manner as those sponsored by Auxiliary units.
- Enrollment is limited, therefore, Auxiliary units and other organizations desiring to sponsor citizens should make plans early to do so, sending fees at the earliest convenient date.

SELECTION OF GIRLS:

- Selection of girls should be made by committee recommendations consisting of the High School principal, teachers, counselors, the unit president and the Girls State chairman, in addition to the head of any other organization sponsoring the citizens.
- Girls State is intended for the most outstanding girls, from the standpoint of leadership, character, and scholarship in the high schools.
- Only those girls who will enthusiastically devote their **FULL TIME** to increasing their knowledge, while at the same time advancing the whole Girls State Program, should be chosen.

REGISTRATION FEES:

- **The registration fee of \$350.00 is to be paid to the Department Secretary by April 20, 2025.**

- **APPLICATIONS, completed online include MEDICAL History/ Consent form/Parent Waiver, the Girls State Pledge and Photo/Social Media release form for parents/guardians of minors.** Insurance cards and photos will be uploaded online by parents.
- There will be NO refunds on Girls State Registration Fees. If you need a substitute, contact the Director.
- If a girl is unable to attend, notify the Director, Deedy Harrell at the email or cell phone listed above through Sunday, June 8, 2025, 5:00 PM. We notify parents of no shows for safety reasons.

INFORMATION PACKETS:

- **Once the girls' applications have been completed online, the girl and her parents will receive an email with a link to an Information Packet. This is usually sent out to all in late April**
- 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. Also included will be information for writing House and Senate Bills. The packets may be downloaded from the Girls State website at <http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/forms.htm>.
- The Girls may submit a bill for debate. Girls will need time for preparation of their bill.
- If the girls have not received their Packet by May 15th, at the latest, please contact us at the numbers or the Email Addresses listed at the end of this document.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

- Citizens must report to the campus of Valdosta State University between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8 and they will depart on Friday, June 13 by 1:00 PM. The Dorm is Georgia Hall. Check the website for pertinent information.
- **LUNCH will Not** be provided on **Sunday**; arrangements must be made prior to arriving at Girls State. **After going through the Sunday Registration, citizens are not allowed to leave to eat lunch. Make sure the citizens have eaten before arriving on campus.** Our last meal is Friday Breakfast.
- Inauguration and Graduation will be held at the Student Union. June 13, 2025 at 8:45 AM. Doors open for guests at 8:15. You may Google VSU Oak Street Parking Deck. (Guests should park there.)
- The sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit is responsible for arranging transportation to Girls State and back home. Some units require parents to provide transportation.

GIRLS STATE STORE:

- Girls are allowed to shop during free time. We have Girls State items and snacks available for purchase. The girls will need to bring money from home to use in the Girls State Store.

SCHOLARSHIP

- Delegates may apply for the Samsung Scholarship. The link can be found on the Georgia Girls State Website no later than February 15, 2025. The application must be completed by June 8, 2025.

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. Girls Nation expenses will be paid by Georgia Girls State.
- The Girls Nation session will be held at the William Bolger Center, Potomac, MD, July 19-26, 2025

ADDRESS ALL INQUIRIES AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO:

- The Director, Deedy Harrell, 800 10th Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169, 770-337-7997 (Cell Phone: Call or Text) or email at georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com
- The Assistant Director, Gabriele Barnett Cell 706-951-3906 (call or text) or email: barnettgabriele@hotmail.com
- Online registration support, contact Cynthia Orms 478-232-4831 or georgiagirlsstate.tech@gmail.com