

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
GIRLS STATE HISTORY**

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, first presented in the late 1930s, is one of the most respected experiential learning programs in the United States. Guided by the principle "For God and Country," the program epitomizes the ALA's mission to honor those who have brought us our freedom by continuing to train young women to be leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism. ALA Minnesota Girls State participants become extremely knowledgeable about the democratic process and how our republic works at the state and national levels.

About 16,000 young women participate in ALA Girls State programs across the nation each summer that teach government from the city to state level. Using a nonpartisan curriculum, participants learn about the roles of government leaders while interacting with public officials from throughout the state of Minnesota in their mock ALA Girls States. The knowledge, memories, and friendships they gain last a lifetime.

ALA Girls State has been heralded by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and has been placed on the National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE  
OBJECTIVES**

- ★ To develop leadership and pride as American citizens
- ★ To educate citizens about our system of government
- ★ To instill a greater understanding of Americanism
- ★ To stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes

ALA Minnesota Girls State encourages the citizen's creativity and fellowship with one another.

**"REMEMBER, HONOR, SERVE"**

is the theme for the years 2019 - 2021 for the ALA Department (State) President Mary Hendrickson.



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Minnesota Girls State Committee**

Peggy Tesdahl . . . . .Girls State Director  
Amelia Tesdahl . . . . .Education Director  
Jean Walker. . . . .Girls State Chairman  
Lesley Christoffer. . . Girls State Committee  
Kelli Frederickson . . Girls State Committee  
Joanne Joachim . . . .Americanism Chairman  
Mary Hendrickson . . . State ALA President

**74th Annual**



***A premier program  
in citizenship for  
young women***

***June 13-17, 2021  
Virtual Program***

**74th ANNUAL  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE**

ALA Minnesota Girls State is a program in government and good citizenship for young women sponsored by the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary (ALA).

**WHAT IS AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE?**

ALA Minnesota Girls state is a diverse group of young women who share a common desire to learn. From small towns to urban areas, the citizens' diverse backgrounds add spirit to the program. The purposes of the ALA Minnesota Girls State program are to provide Americanism and good citizenship training and to inform our participants about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of government as practiced in a democratic society.

Each June, the ALA Minnesota Girls State "Citizens" study the Minnesota city, county, and state governmental processes. Citizens gain knowledge of the operations of a two-party system. They formulate their cities and elect the Parliamentary procedures are also used in the processes. They will also interact with speakers, debate bills, and have lively discussions with fellow citizens.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

ALA Minnesota Girls State offers hands-on experience in how state governments function. Other activities at ALA Girls State foster fellowship & creative expression:

- ✓ *Reporting*
- ✓ *Singing*
- ✓ *Patriotic Ceremonies*

American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State has empowered hundreds of thousands of accomplished young women to aspire to great things. Their stellar achievements are grounded in leadership skills enhanced at ALA MN Girls State. Former ALA MN Girls State participants include members of Presidential cabinets, Mayors, Governors, State Representatives, U.S. Senators, corporate CEO's, military officers and more, including Minnesota's current Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Lori Gildea.

**WHEN IS GIRLS STATE &  
WHERE IS IT HELD?**

ALA Minnesota Girls State will be held Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This year it will be a virtual session.

**WHAT DO I NEED TO PARTICIPATE?**

A complete list of items to have ready will be sent to citizens once registration has been completed. Every participant will need to have an IPAD/tablet, computer or smart phone and reliable internet access available for them to use. This should not prevent anyone from participating.

**ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATIONS**

- ★ She must have completed her junior year of high school in a Minnesota public, charter, home school, parochial or private school or be a resident of Minnesota and have at least one more semester remaining prior to graduation.
- ★ She must be a citizen of the U.S. or have legal residency
- ★ She must have high moral character with strong leadership abilities
- ★ She must have no marital status (National ALA Mandate)
- ★ She must not have attended any other ALA Girls State session
- ★ She must demonstrate an interest in American government and have an above average scholastic rank
- ★ She must respect the American flag and be willing to pledge allegiance to it

**No citizen may participate in ALA Minnesota Girls State who has any other obligations during the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State sessions.**

Final selection of the candidates rests with the local American Legion Auxiliary Units. The Units work with high school principals, counselors or other faculty, community leaders and clergy, who assist in evaluating the qualities of the candidates.