

This packet includes important information for your week at American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State (ALA IGS). Please Read this information carefully and save it for future reference. The second packet includes information that must be signed and returned.

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WELCOME TO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ILLINI GIRLS STATE

83rd SESSION

Congratulations! We have received your application to American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State on the Campus of Eastern Illinois University. A very exciting week has been planned for you. This informational packet has been prepared for you and your family to answer any questions you may have. Your local American Legion Auxiliary Units should also have information on an orientation session you must attend. These meetings will allow you to learn what to expect at American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State, ask questions about the program and meet other young women who have been selected to attend. Please visit our website for orientations dates and times near you. You may also use the on-line orientation if you are unable to attend. Go to <https://www.alaigs.org/>

Scholarship Opportunities:

Samsung Scholarship – If you are a direct descendant, i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, stepchild of a US wartime veteran, and participate in the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State program, you are eligible. The application may be found on The American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State website by following these instructions:

1. Go to <https://www.alaigs.org/>
2. Under Scholarships – click for more information

The application must be completed online by 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 16, 2024. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Eastern Illinois Girls State-- Available to incoming freshmen, male and female, who participated in the "Boy's/Girl's" State Program at EIU during the summer season.

The winning recipients must be planning to attend EIU during their freshman year in the fall term. The award amount is \$1,500 per scholarship.

Visit for further information and to apply: <https://eiu.academicworks.com/opportunities/1858>

Due to Department Office by June 1

1. **Completed and signed medical information packet (required). Upload completed paperwork into the Registration Site.**
2. **Your picture, if it was not included with your original application (it will not be returned)**

At American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State you will have the opportunity to be elected one of two US Senators to Girls Nation. This is the state program on a National level held in Washington DC in July. This process involves writing a bill or resolution concerning an issue at the national level. These bills and/or resolutions will be discussed during the election process. Please be thinking about what you would like to present if you are interested in this part of our program. Your counselors and staff advisors will have information concerning this process upon your arrival.

If you know anyone who is a former citizen of this program, please send the name, address, and phone number of this woman to the Department address listed in this letter or bring to Charleston with you. We have an alumni organization and all of you will be a part of that at the completion of your week with us.

The American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State staff and Eastern Illinois University look forward to your arrival on Sunday June 16, 2024.

Sarah Wyckoff

2024 American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State Director

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Summer 2024

Dear American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Citizen, Congratulations on your selection to attend American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls State. Attending ALA Girls State is an opportunity afforded to you because of your accomplishments at school and in your community. You are representing your school and community. You were selected because of your leadership ability and character. You join more than one million women who have experienced ALA Girls State since 1937. Many are now leaders in their communities. ALA Girls State presents not only a learning experience, but a chance to meet other students with the same high expectations for their future.

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is a fast-paced immersion into experiencing government. Since this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, we encourage you to embrace this experience to learn and grow. Now is the time to participate, get involved, run for office, make friends, write a bill, help on someone's campaign, and step out of your comfort zone. You will gain so much from your efforts, and you will have so much more fun being involved. ALA Girls State has the possibility to open doors for scholarships and entrance into military academies and colleges across the country.

America's veterans, and those serving currently in the military, are our true heroes; the sacrifices they and their families have given continue to allow us to live free. The American Legion Auxiliary is an organization of volunteers serving veterans and their families. The American Legion Auxiliary is proud to be the sponsor of this educational program, and we are excited to have you participate.

Your sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Units have worked to send you to this program, and they will be excited to hear about your week. After your ALA Girls State session, please take the time to share your experiences with your family, friends and school, plus make a special point to thank the onsite volunteers and the American Legion Auxiliary members that sponsored your attendance.

Have a wonderful week! Remember to take pride in our country and its form of government and in yourself. Make the most of the week, and embrace the opportunities. At the end of the week, we hope you will have lasting memories and valued friendships.

Congratulations & welcome to ALA Girls State!

Lisa Williamson
National President
American Legion Auxiliary
2023-2024

Kelly Elliott
National Chairman, Girls Nation
American Legion Auxiliary
2023-2024

Where do I go? What will I be doing?? What do I wear???

Got questions? We have the answers!! ALA IGS Orientations are a great way for you and your parents to learn what to expect when you arrive for your week at Eastern Illinois University!
A list of orientation time and places being held at Auxiliary Units are available on the ALA IGS website. It's a great time to get all your questions answered, AND you can meet the ladies that are sponsoring you!
Can't make it? Orientations are online too!

Check out all things American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State at:

www.alaigs.org

SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON!!!!

What to Bring to American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State

1. Yourself – excited and ready to have a great week!!
2. You are responsible for carrying anything you bring. Be sure they are labeled.
3. Skirts, dresses, dress slacks for assemblies. All tops must cover your stomach and cleavage. All skirts and dresses must be modest and not form fitting. No Rompers. (Please see Dress Code Packet)
4. A light jacket and/or a sweater. The meeting rooms get cool.
5. You may bring jeans, shorts, sweats for daily recreation time and free time only.
6. Robe, PJ's and any other clothing you require for the week.
7. Please bring a "special dress" for Friday evening banquet. That can be a formal dress, homecoming or prom dress. Friday evening is our evening of special guests so the girls tend to dress up.
8. Comfortable shoes. We do a lot of walking. Please make sure whatever you bring is comfortable and will not rub blisters on your feet.
9. Sheets for your bed. You should also bring quilt, blanket, and a pillow.
10. Towels, washcloths, shower shoes and personal toiletries. They are not provided.
11. Alarm clock, a camera, hangers and Air Freshener
12. Pens, pencils, poster board, construction paper, markers, masking tape etc – anything you need to make and hang campaign posters (some of these items are available in our shopping center) **NO GLITTER or GLITTER GLUE.**
13. Money to shop with in the shopping center. We do have a bank to keep your money if you choose to use it and will accept credit/debit cards in the shopping center.
14. Personal music, CD, iPod, cd player, etc.
15. Snacks you might like to share
16. Musical instruments, anything to try out for Talent Show

DO NOT BRING: Cars, pre-made campaign materials, things to pass out if you run for office, TV's, swimsuits (the pool is not open), anything you fear may be stolen when you are not in the room.



Arrival and Departure Information

Arrival on Sunday June 16th

Check in anytime from 12:00 pm- 2:00 pm

Check in the lobby of : Lawson Hall
 Eastern Illinois University
 2151 4th Street
 Charleston IL 61920

Make sure you eat lunch prior to your arrival as there will not be lunch served. Once the delegate checks in, they will not be permitted to leave campus.

Departure on Saturday June 22nd

Pick up after final flag lowering at 11:30-12:00-time will depend on when we dismiss from final assembly

Pick up at; Lawson Hall
 Eastern Illinois University
 2151 4th Street
 Charleston IL 61920

Parents and guardians are welcome to watch the final flag lowering just outside Lawson Hall

Please complete and return:

Delegate Name: _____

Who will be picking up delegate on Saturday June 22nd:

FOLLOW US



ALA Illini Girls State

@ala_igs



Illini Girls State

@ala_igs



ALA Illini Girls State

/ALAIGS1/

Wednesday Night Party Conventions:

The 2024 themes are:

Nationalists: Western/Country Party

Federalists: Pajama Party



ALA IGS Talent Show 83rd Session

Get creative and showcase your talents! Perform either individually or with a group. Bring your instruments, sheet music, songs on iPods or CD's, dance shoes, & costumes!

More information to be announced at ALA IGS

2024 Service Project Gas & Food Cards for Veterans

Donate school Gas Gift Card or Gift Card to Fast Food Restaurants. **Please write with sharpie the amount on the gift card either \$5 , \$10 or attach the receipt.** Supplies will be donated to VA hospitals throughout the state of Illinois. Bring one or as many items as you would like. Your city counselors will collect them during the session.

- Casey Gas Station
- Marathon Gas Station
- Speedway Gas Station
- McDonalds
- Arby's
- Wendy's
- Culver's
- Panera

Thank you for your support of this program!

Rules for Campaigning

1. All campaign items must be made at ALA IGS. No photo's, photocopied items or "passouts" will be allowed. No Computer Created Material is allowed.
2. Social Media Campaigning is strictly prohibited.
3. No campaign material shall be posted or distributed prior to filing a petition.
4. No campaign material shall be posted on campus or in the dining hall. Masking tape only is to be used for posting campaign signs. No signs are to be taped to the floors.
5. No glitter or glitter glue may be used on campaign signs or posters.
6. No campaigning during Elections within 10 feet of the Polling Place.
7. Activities on Party Convention Night will be confined to the Ballroom assigned to each Party.
8. At the close of the State Conventions, the citizens shall return to their dorms immediately.
9. County Candidates will be presented in their respective counties by the County Chairman of each Party.
10. Posted campaign materials must be removed by the candidates following the election proclamations.
11. You may not campaign or announce your declaration to run for office prior to filing a petition.
12. You may not announce the office you are running for when asking a question of a speaker.

Campaign rules will be monitored by a committee of citizens.

Precinct Committeemen, Delegates and all Appointed Officials **EXCEPT** Judges of Election are eligible for candidacy in other offices. Elected Officials are **NOT** permitted to resign to run for another office.

MISCELLANEOUS POSITIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES	APPOINTED	ELECTED	PETITION REQUIRED	OTHER INFORMATION
Judges of Elections Each City has 3	Conducts all elections for their City and all other duties associated with the Election Process such as Voter Registration, etc.	XXX		NO	There is at least one Judge for each Political Party in the City
Precinct Committeeman One Per Party, Per City	Represent their Political Party in the City, Conducts all City Party Caucuses.		XXX	NO	This Office is elected during the 1st Party Caucus in the City. The County Chairman from each party is elected from this group.
Delegate 12 Per Party Per County	Voting Body of the Party who adopt the Party Platform during the Party Convention. Elect Party Leader		Chosen by members of each Party in County.	NO	Work with the State Central Committee on the decorations for the party Conventions.
State Central Committeeman 1 per party for each Congressional District	Represents their party from their Congressional District. Presides over party conventions. The party leader is elected by ballot, by the Delegates to the convention.		XXX	Yes	Party Leaders are asked to return the following year to preside until new party leaders are elected. Petition requires signatures only from candidates in Congressional District.
CITY OFFICES	RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES	APPOINTED	ELECTED	PETITION REQUIRED	OTHER INFORMATION
Mayor	Conducts all City Meetings. Appoints and assigns duties for City Officials. Responsible for the welfare of the City when the Counselor is unavailable. Is the Leader of her City!		XXX		
Alderman	Conducts Golden Broom Inspections. Monitors health and sanitation of City. Responsible for delivery of City Mail.		XXX		
City Clerk	Required to take roll call at City Meetings Required to take minutes at all City Meetings Required to compile City Book		XXX		City Books are judged at the end of the Session and an award is given to the Clerk submitting the most unique and complete City Book.
City Treasurer	Custodian of City Funds used for City Spread and all other social activities. Collects shoe tax.		XXX		
Police Officer	Law Enforcement officer of the City in charge of wake up calls, lights out enforcement, and enforcement of all other IGS rules	XXX			Appointed by Mayor
City Superintendent of Schools	Grades tests for City Citizens and records test scores	XXX			Appointed by Mayor
Recreation Director	Keeps track of where city citizens are during Rec time.	XXX			Appointed by Mayor
City Reporter	Helps put together an IGS newspaper - issued once during the week. Participates in 1 IGS newscast.	XXX			Appointed by Mayor

COUNTY OFFICERS	RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES	APPOINTED	ELECTED	PETITION REQUIRED	OTHER INFORMATION
Circuit Court Judge	Leads County Project		XXX	YES	Petition requires signatures only from candidate's County
Superintendent of Educational Service Region	Directs Education Programs within the County such as Study Sessions. Signs Certificates of Achievement.		XXX	YES	Petition requires signatures only from candidate's County
State's Attorney	Represents the citizens in the county and acts as legal advisor to county officials		XXX	YES	Petition requires signatures only from candidate's County
County Clerk	Secretary for County Meetings. Keeps attendance records and minutes for County.		XXX	YES	Petition requires signatures only from candidate's County
Sheriff	Law enforcing officer for the County.		XXX	YES	Petition requires signatures only from candidate's County
County Treasurer	Responsible for working with the City Treasurer's on any monies to be collected.		XXX	YES	Petition requires signatures only from candidate's County
LEGISLATIVE OFFICES					
House of Representatives TBA number Legislative District Number based on Attendance	Create, write & propose bills for the betterment of IGS & society for consideration by the newly elected IGS Governor. Does this work in special sessions of the General Assembly		XXX	YES	Petition requires signatures only from candidate's Legislative District. Bills that are passed & signed by the Governor are considered by the ALA IGS Committee for betterment of ALA IGS
Senators TBA number Legislative District Number based on Attendance					
STATE OFFICES	RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES	APPOINTED	ELECTED	PETITION REQUIRED	OTHER INFORMATION
Governor	Signs or vetoes bills presented by the House and the Senate. Is asked to report to Department Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary in July. Returns the following year to preside over ALA IGS Sessions until new Governor is elected. Is awarded the Jayne & Samantha Thompson Scholarship. Special Guest for Friday Evening Banquet.		XXX	YES	Petition allows maximum of 10 signatures from candidate's County. Remainder must come from other Counties
Lt. Governor	Will preside during one meeting prior to the end of the session. May be asked to act as Governor in her absence. Special Guest for Friday Evening Banquet.		XXX	YES	Petition allows maximum of 10 signatures from candidate's County. Remainder must come from other Counties
Attorney General	Each of these Officers will preside during a meeting prior to the end of the session. Also be asked to perform other duties by the Governor. All State Officers are Special Guests for Friday Evening Banquet.-		XXX	YES	Petition allows maximum of 10 signatures from candidate's County. Remainder must come from other Counties
Secretary of State					
Comptroller					
Treasurer					

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS NATION

American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation is a continuation of the government learning process started at American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. Two citizens will be selected/elected from American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State to represent Illinois as U.S. Senators. The process starts with the city counselors. You will be interviewed and asked for an idea of a federal bill you would like to see introduced to become law. If you are chosen as the candidate from your city, you will then be interviewed by the staff advisors and counselors that make up your county at American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. At this point, your bill must be in writing. Don't worry, your counselor and staff advisor will have a sample bill so it can be written in the proper format. It does not have to be typed or perfectly written. The important part will be your idea and how you see your idea being realized. The four county candidates will participate in county "whistle stops". You will present your bill to each ALA Illini Girls State county and then be asked questions by citizens that pertain to your bill. The citizens of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State will then elect two U.S. Senators to represent them.

No matter what office you hold at ALA IGS, you CAN run for US Senator. This is the only time you can hold an office AND run for an office. You do not have to forfeit the office you already have.

If elected, you MUST be able to attend for the full week. This is held at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac MD, just outside of Washington, DC. The dates for this year are July 20-27, 2024. DO NOT LET COST CONCERN YOU. The National American Legion Auxiliary pays for the senator's round trip flight from the airport closest to her home. Once there, the only expenses will be souvenirs.

ALA Girls Nation gives you opportunities that you may not otherwise get to experience. You could visit Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon, and many different memorials throughout Washington honoring our leaders and heroes. You could possibly even visit the White House and meet the President. On Thursday, you will spend the day on Capitol Hill meeting with your representatives and senators. These appointments are made for you by the ALA Girls Nation staff.

Back at the William F. Bolger Center, you will have the opportunity to meet in committees to determine which of the bills introduced by each state will go to the full ALA Girls Nation Senate floor. Throughout the week you will have senate sessions to debate and vote on bills and resolutions. You will also have party conventions to elect your leaders and your candidates for President and Vice President of the Senate.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation is an experience of a lifetime!! So, COME WITH AN IDEA FOR A FEDERAL BILL THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE BECOME LAW! Go through the process and take a chance. It could be an experience that will change your life.

POLICY STATEMENT

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion Auxiliary is an organization based on the principles for God and Country.

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State reserves the right to accept or reject any application to the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State.

After the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State is in progress, the right is reserved for the Director to dismiss any citizen for violation of the rules of the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State or other good cause, as determined by the Director regardless of sponsorship.

Any citizen of the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State found to be using, or in possession of intoxicants, illegal drugs, firearms, other weapons or explosives, gambling, destroying property, or leaving the IGS campus area without the permission of the Director or her Staff Advisor may be subject to immediate dismissal without refund and barred from further participation in the program.

Sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Units, contributing organizations, parents and school officials will be notified of any delegate's failure to complete the session and the request will be made that American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State be stricken from the delegate's academic records.

A delegate failing to complete the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State session without just cause, barring illness or death in the family, may be held responsible for reimbursing the delegate fee to their sponsor.

HEALTH and MEDICAL

During American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State first aid and/or medical attention, if required, will be available. Every care will be taken to avoid accidents and prevent illness, but the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State will not be responsible for either injuries or sickness should they occur.

ACCOMODATIONS POLICY

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State welcomes participants with all levels of ability. If accommodations are required to participate, Department Headquarters and the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State Director must be informed in advance. Requests will be reviewed and a determination will be made regarding if the accommodations can be provided within the structure of the program. If an applicant requires a personal care aide, that student's sponsoring Unit or contributing organization must furnish a full time female aide, over 21 years of age, to assist the student. All expenses for the aide, including transportation, meals and lodging will be assumed by the sponsoring unit

or contributing organization. Proof of legal age of the aide is required. This is to be furnished to the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State Director with the student's application. Also, the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State must be assured that proper insurance is provided for the student and her aide, and any additional premiums will be assumed by the sponsoring Unit, contributing organization and parent or guardian of the student.

The American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State is an educational exercise in which the majority of the base skills are transmitted to the delegates via verbal and published communications.

The American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State program will make every effort to afford qualified individual delegates an opportunity to participate regardless of ability, but at no cost to the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State.

HEARING/VISION ACCOMODATIONS POLICY

The following policies will be applied to Hearing and/or Vision Impaired applicants:

1. The applicant must be accompanied, so as to provide her personal safety at all times, by a qualified person (personal aide) or signing person (an interpreter) of the same sex and of legal age that is capable of voice communication as well as sign language.
2. The aide or interpreter must accompany the student to all the program functions and must adhere to all delegate rules.
3. The aide or interpreter will be subject to the same fees as a delegate but will not be allowed to participate in the actual program without the express prior permission of the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State Director.
4. The American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State will not be responsible to the aide or interpreter in any way, for any remuneration for her efforts on behalf of the hearing and/or vision impaired delegate.
5. If there are varying degrees of vision impairment, or a seeing eye dog involved, that may be subject to variations of the above rules, they will be considered on an individual basis by the Director of the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State.
6. These restrictions are in addition to the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State Accommodations Policy.

All arrangements for any hearing impaired and/or vision impaired delegate must be submitted in writing and approved by the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State Director, before the individual's acceptance as a delegate to the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State program.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
ILLINI GIRLS STATE

Dear Parents,

Every precaution is taken to avoid accidents and sickness at American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. Participants who do not already have group accident/sickness medical insurance coverage are insured under a group policy provided by the American Legion Auxiliary. This policy is EXCESS COVERAGE to any other valid and collectible group insurance plan. *This exclusion does not apply to individual accident and sickness policies.* Should an unforeseen need arise for this insurance program, more detailed information will be sent directly to you at that time.

Sincerely,
Sarah Wyckoff
Director of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State

NOTE: In case of an **emergency**, parents can reach their daughter with messages by phoning the number below. This number will be in effect beginning **Sunday, June 17th, 9:00 a.m. through Saturday, June 22nd, 1:00 p.m.**

Reminder: If your call is not an emergency, girls may not receive your message for 2 to 3 hours due to the scheduling of activities. Their time to return calls will depend upon their schedule.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ILLINI GIRLS STATE OFFICE (24 hours a day)
University Police Department Number

217-581-5131
217-581-3212

