

 AMERICAN
LEGION

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Magnolia
Girls State

77th Session

June 8th – June 13th, 2025

The University of Mississippi

Oxford, Mississippi

For God and Country

<https://www.alamagnoliagirlsstate.com/>



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Magnolia Girls State

Dear Future ALAMGS Delegate,

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Mississippi, I am proud to present the 2025 Magnolia Girls State Application, ready for you to apply online. Our session is scheduled for June 8-13, 2025, at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

The American Legion Auxiliary Magnolia Girls State program provides an opportunity for high school women who have completed their junior year to experience the “nitty gritty” of state government. This program not only instills in its attendees a sense of pride and loyalty in American citizenship, but it also cultivates you in personal growth, instilling confidence in yourself to strive for excellence along the path ahead.

Since 1937, more than one million young women have attended American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, held annually in every state. Girls State has produced more successful women than any other girls’ citizenship training program in the country. Now, it’s your turn to join this elite group as a future graduate of our program.

Please complete the online application found at alamagnoliagirlsstate.com in its entirety, and in the QR codes below. Your school counselor will need to complete and sign the attached High School Information form as an endorsement for your participation. Further instructions are also included in this registration packet.

We look forward to your application to participate in this year’s session. If you have any questions, please email us at magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela S. Kilcrease".

Angela S. Kilcrease, Director

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Magnolia Girls State Quick Facts:

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi Magnolia Girls State is a week-long program for high school juniors that aims to provide you with the opportunity to learn about government and leadership through hands-on experience. The program involves creating a mock government, including the election of officials, legislative sessions, and leadership sessions. Participants will also have the opportunity to hear from speakers and interact with their peers to develop their leadership, show off their creative ability, and compete for scholarship dollars.

- **Taking Place: June 8th-June 13th, 2025**
- **Hosted by: The University of Mississippi - Oxford, MS**
- **Only female high school juniors are eligible for participation.**
- **The cost of attendance is \$275, but sponsorships are available and encouraged.**
- **Online application opens on January 20th, 2025 and closes April 1, 2025.**

Scan to Visit Our Website for More Info:



Scan to Begin Your Application





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What is Girls State?

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program changes lives by bringing together dynamic young women for an intense week of leadership, patriotism and community enlightenment. The Girls State program is a proven leadership laboratory.

For the fictional self-governing state of Magnolia, delegates/citizens will elect their leaders, write bills for debate, and run a legislative session. In the process, these leaders—class presidents, top varsity athletes, artists, and debate champions—dynamically engage with state representatives and senators.

Two participants from each of the 49 states who hold a yearly session are selected to attend the elite American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington DC in July, with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the President of the United States.

Girls State is where the seeds of patriotism are cultivated in our nation's finest high school girls, by women who care deeply about the future of America and take its leadership seriously. It is where future leaders realize their true potential!

“Girls State impacted my life and gave me newfound confidence to help my community and society,” said one former Girls State Citizen. “It influenced my career choices and my educational choices. The experience changed me dramatically.”

Objective: American Legion Auxiliary Girls State provides an opportunity for superior high school women who have completed their junior year to experience the “nitty gritty” of state government processes—the chance to live outside the textbook. This program not only instills in its attendees a sense of pride and loyalty in America, but also prepares these women for a career in politics, public service, and excellence along their career path. It is the chance to plunge head-first into democracy, develop sharp leadership skills, and create the foundation for informed and responsible world citizenship.

“[After attending Girls State], I felt more empowered,” said one former Girls State Citizen. “I had the freedom to make choices for myself.”

History: Since 1937, more than one million politically savvy young women have attended American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. Girls State has produced more successful women than any other girls' citizenship training program in the country.

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Activities: Mock caucusing and debating of bills educate young women in the real state legislative processes. Each program is state-run and thus unique to the state in which it is held. Cutting-edge political topics ensure that the debates are relevant, lively, and passionate. Fierce political campaigns are held to elect a Girls State governor, and party officials, and pass legislation. Girls also have the opportunity to meet with some of their state representatives and senators, who are genuinely interested in the fresh ideas of these future leaders.

“I still believe Girls State is the best program for young women,” said a former Girls State Citizen. “It can change their lives as well as teach them about politics and their country.”

In addition, ALA Magnolia Girls State offers these participation opportunities:

- City project to be judged at the end of the week
- College Day with representatives from state universities, colleges, and service academies
- *Alagista* staff (a “yearbook” of the delegates and events of the week)
- Glee Club
- Nightly scheduled social activities

Other Information: Three meals are provided daily at the university’s dining facility.

At ALA Magnolia Girls State, each delegate will share a dorm room with another delegate. Assignments are random, and care is taken that no delegate from the same local school is assigned in the same city, if possible. It is our desire that our delegates have the opportunity to meet others from different areas of the state. Friendships made at ALA Magnolia Girls State have proven to be lifelong and cherished.

An information packet will be emailed to the delegate once her unit sponsorship form is received. Although time for recreation is planned, **ALA Magnolia Girls State is not a recreational camp.**

Citizens will not be allowed to leave the campus area assigned to ALA Magnolia Girls State. No visitors are allowed. Smoking, alcohol consumption, and illegal drug use are strictly prohibited. Citizens driving cars to Ole Miss must turn in their car keys to their Senior Counselor at check-in.



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American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships

Participants of the Girls State program in Mississippi are eligible to receive scholarships from the American Legion Department of Mississippi, which amounts to an excess of \$10,000 total. Several additional scholarships may be awarded by American Legion Auxiliary Units to Girls State Participants. Additionally, the program Director and Staff will choose the recipient of Mississippi's Samsung Scholarship, who will then move on to compete nationally.

Institution Scholarships

These institutions offer scholarships to eligible participants who attend their schools*:

Mississippi State University

- Girls State Governor and/or Girls Nation Delegate
 - o Award Amount: \$6,000 [\$1,500/year]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as Governor to their state OR the state delegate to Girls Nation. Must have a scholarship GPA of 3.0.
- Girls State Scholarship
 - o Award Amount: \$1,000 [one year only]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participated in Girls State. Must have a GPA of 3.0.

University of Mississippi

- Girls State Governor and/or Girls Nation Delegate
 - o Award Amount: \$4,000 [\$1,000/year]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as Governor to their state OR the state delegate to Girls Nation
- Girls State Scholarship
 - o Award Amount: \$1,000 [one year only]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participated in Magnolia Girls State

University of Southern Mississippi

- Girls Nation Delegate Scholarship
 - o Award Amount: \$8,000 [\$2,000/year]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as one of the state delegates to Girls Nation
- Girls State Scholarship
 - o Award Amount: \$8,000 [\$2,000/year]
 - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participated in Magnolia Girls State

Please check with your institution for available Girls State and Girls Nation scholarship opportunities.

*As of 1/1/2025



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So, Are You Interested in Becoming a Delegate?

Please follow the steps below to apply for the ALA Magnolia Girls State program:

STEP 1 - Review our information packet and speak with your school counselor or a local American Legion Auxiliary member.

STEP 2 - Submit your online application using the QR code provided on page 3 (You will need to upload and have your High School counselor fill out the form below. Please ensure you have all of the information ready before starting the application. You will be able to save and come back to the form, but can not submit it without all of the information required.)

STEP 3 - Take the 2025 ALA Unit Sponsorship Form along with a resume to your local American Legion Auxiliary to be filled out and returned to you to email to the ALAMGS Staff, magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com.

STEP 4 - Wait **patiently** for notification of acceptance. (Acceptance email will not come until the form from **STEP 3** has been received.)

STEP 5 - Submit your payment of \$275 by mailing a check to the Department of Mississippi American Legion Auxiliary Girls State at P.O. Box 1382, Jackson, MS 39215, with the delegate's name in the memo. **All payments must be made by April 15, 2025.**

STEP 6 - Once you receive your acceptance email, print and complete the registration packet that will be attached to your email.

STEP 7 - Submit your completed registration packet using the online form linked within your acceptance email.

If the cost of attendance is concerning, first contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit to discuss their ability to cover some or all of the cost. If further assistance is needed, contact local businesses or service organizations. We have an expansive network of supporters and alumni willing to give support where needed. No eligible young woman should be turned away because of the cost.

If the cost of attendance is being covered by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit, another entity, or an individual, please provide them with the instructions and mailing address found in step five.

If you face any issues or have any questions throughout this process, please get in touch with us by emailing magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com

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American Legion Auxiliary Unit Sponsorship Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT
& returned to the applicant for submitting to the Director:

Applicant's Name _____

Sponsoring Unit's Name and Number _____

Girls State Chairman's Name _____

Unit Address _____
Street or PO Box No. City State ZIP

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

If the fee to attend the 2025 session is donated by a local Patron, please provide their name and address for acknowledgment:



***Signature of Unit President OR Unit Girls State Chairman
OR High School Counselor OR Principal if no local Unit is available***



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High School information

Must be filled out by the High School Counselor

Applicant's Name _____

GPA _____ ACT Score _____ Month/Year of Graduation _____

High School Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone Number _____

Counselor Name _____

Counselor Email _____

Principal Name _____

Principal Email _____

Counselor Signature _____