

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

VIRGINIA GIRLS STATE

"LEADERSHIP: WITH GREAT POWER, COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY"



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What is this program and why do we have it?

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Virginia will proudly host ALA Virginia Girls State at Longwood University from Sunday, June 16, 2019 to Saturday, June 22, 2019. The cost for the 2019 session will be \$350.00. This is an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship, leadership, and love for God and Country. Participants are assigned to mock cities and to either the "Federalist Party" or "Nationalist Party". They are immersed in learning about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and actively running a mock government. Assistance from dedicated ALA volunteers ensures the program's nonpartisan governmental, patriotic and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships.

Two girls are selected from each ALA Girls State program to attend ALA Girls Nation. ALA Girls Nation "senators" meet for a week in Washington, D.C. where they run for political office, campaign, debate for the passage of legislation and meet with U.S. Congressmen and Senators from their states. Capping off the week of ALA Girls Nation is a possible meeting with the President of the United States at the White House. This year ALA Girls Nation will convene July 20-27, 2019.

What can you do?

1. Instill an awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission in all ALA Girls State citizens.

Ideas: Member

-Encourage eligible young ladies to become involved with volunteer projects in their communities that involve veterans, active duty military or the American Legion Auxiliary.

Ideas: Unit

- Invite your ALA Girls State delegates, both past and present, to participate in service projects with your unit, even if they are not ALA members.
- Use the invitation to donate/participate as an opportunity to raise awareness of your local ALA unit in your community.
- Encourage unit members to solicit sponsorship/fundraising or donations from other organizations or businesses to sponsor ALA Girls State delegates.
- Increase networking with schools (including charters, private and home schools) that have no active units in their communities.

-Educate ALA Girls State citizens about the programs and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary by including "Auxiliary Facts" in the orientation scheduled for your area.

2. Actively encourage all eligible ALA Girls State citizens (past and present) to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

Ideas: Member

- Ask ALA Girls State citizens who have become members to pass on the benefits of membership to other eligible family members.
- Prepare talking points about the ALA and use them when you are speaking with ALA Girls State delegates and their families.
- Promote opportunities and benefits of membership as a source for volunteerism.
- Coordinate your efforts with other members so recruitment doesn't become a nuisance to participants.

Ideas: Unit

- Invite eligible ALA Girls State delegates you sponsor to join your unit.
- Actively engage ALA Girls State citizens (past and present) to pass on the importance of membership to other eligible family members.
- Develop a very brief, mission-focused presentation to showcase the ALA mission, history and relevance to current issues affecting the military and their families.
- Promote opportunities and benefits of membership as a source for volunteerism.

3. Increase participation by highlighting college scholarship/funding possibilities for ALA Girls State program participants.

A. State participation scholarships- available scholarships are the Verna Vance Scholarship (\$1000) and the Nell Collins Hatcher Scholarship (\$1000).

Ideas: Member

- Make a donation to your local ALA Girls State program
- Ask other organizations you volunteer with to donate to ALA Girls State.

Ideas: Unit

- Solicit donations from other veteran, civic or booster organizations to sponsor ALA Girls State delegates.

- Network with schools (charter, private, home schools) that have no active units in their communities.
- Ask parents of past ALA Girls State delegates to contribute to the ALA Girls State program.
- Have fundraisers to increase scholarship funds available to participants.

B. Samsung Scholarship

Every year a participant of each ALA Girls State program, who is a direct descendant of a veteran, is eligible to apply for the Samsung scholarship at the state level. Ten (10) National awards of \$10,000 are given to 2 finalists in each region. Ten (10) National runner-up awards of \$5,000 are given to 2 finalists in each region. The remaining Department finalists will receive \$1,250 each.

Ideas: Member

- Write an article for your local paper with Samsung scholarship information.
- Take a photo of past/present Samsung scholarship winners for the inclusion in department publications.

Ideas: Unit

- Include a flyer promoting the Samsung scholarship in your ALA Girls State packets to the schools.
- Identify eligible Samsung scholarship recipients during the interview process.

4. Utilize the Internet, social networking sites and written media to increase awareness and visibility of ALA Girls State.

Ideas: Member

-Link personal social media accounts to ALA Girls State program accounts, as well as ALA Girls Nation sites. Since this program involves minors, please be sure to familiarize yourself with safety precautions found in the ALA's social media policy.

- Virginia ALA VGS is www.vagirlsstate.org
- Twitter and Instagram handle is @ALAFORVeterans
- Facebook page is "American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation"
- ALA Girls Nation blog at www.ALAGirlsNation.blogspot.com

Ideas: Unit

- Review candidate selection process and marketing efforts to ensure attraction of quality candidates.
- Establish various social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or use current sites and include how to maintain them.

- Create a Facebook page and/or Twitter account for your unit and "like" your ALA Girls State program page and the ALA Girls Nation page. Engage with possible participants as to the best ways they may be reached.
- Prepare and article about your ALA Girls State participants and submit it to your local new media. If it is published, share the link on your social media sites.

5. Stay up to date on the latest ALA Girls State program news and best practices.

Ideas: Member

- Sign up to receive *ALA eNews* and *In the Know eBulletin* from ALA National Headquarters at www.ALAforveterans.org.

Ideas: Unit

- Maintain regular contact with your ALA Girls State department leaders.

ALA Girls State Reporting

Mid-Year Reports

Each unit is required to submit a mid-year report to reflect their program from April 1 -December 1, 2017. Reports are due to this chairman postmarked by December 15, 2017.

Annual Reports

Each unit is expected to submit an annual report by April 15, 2018, to reflect their activity from April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018. Please send to this chairman. Units that submit narratives, please include the following:

- What have you done within your ALA Girls State program to encourage membership?
- What methods does your unit utilize to recruit ALA Girls State delegates for membership? Are they effective?
- Discuss your unit's successful solicitation of funding outside of The Legion Family.
- How have you improved the unit involvement and understanding of all aspects of the program? Has program participation increased because of this?

Additional Resources:

- Department website www.vaauxiliary.org

- ALA Girls State website www.vagirlsstate.org
- National website www.alaforveterans.org
- ALA Girls State Program and Operations Guide
- Sign up for National ebuletin and enews
- Department Chairman, Vice Chairman and committee

ALA VIRGINIA GIRLS STATE ANNUAL REPORT
DUE December 15, 2018

Please answer the following questions on what you have done from **April 1, 2018 to December 1, 2018** for your ALA Virginia Girls State program. Please include some of the following ideas:

- 1- How many girls did you send for the **2018** session?
- 2- Have you already started your process for the 2019 session?
- 3- How many schools will you be contacting for your delegate selection?
- 4- Have you reached out to the private schools and the home schooled in your area?
- 4- Are you looking, or have found, external sources of financing for your delegates?
- 5- Will your delegates be provided transportation through your District or Unit?
- 6- Has your Unit decided to participate with the interviewing process?
- 7- Please explain any of your fantastic support in any manner to the ALA Virginia Girls State program.

ALA VIRGINIA GIRLS STATE ANNUAL REPORT
DUE April 15, 2019

COMPLETE AND SEND TO: Anne Starke, 3817 Chatham Circle, Norfolk, Va. 23513

This report covers April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

Unit Name and

Number _____ District _____

Chairman Name and Address _____

Phone Contact _____ Email Address _____

1. How many delegates did your Unit sponsor? _____

2. Did your Unit interview the girls and make a final decision? _____

3. Did ALA Girls State delegates join your Unit after the 2017 ALA VGS year? _____

4. What schools did your delegates attend – public, private and home school?

5. Did your Unit have outside organizations assist with funding for your delegates? If so, please list. _____

6. Did your delegates attend an orientation? Yes _____ No _____
Was the orientation provided by your Unit or District?

7. Did you Unit recognize your delegates upon their return? Explain _____

8. What other contributions did your Unit make to the ALA VGS program?
Verna Vance Scholarship _____ Amount _____
Transportation of delegates _____ Amount _____
Other _____

9. How did your Unit promote ALA membership to your ALA VGS delegates?