

## **ALA VIRGINIA GIRLS STATE**

The purpose of ALA Girls State is to provide an outstanding, unique, and coveted educational opportunity for the young women of the Commonwealth of Virginia and instills the basic ideals and principles of American government and good citizenship. It is a non-partisan state-level government-in-action learning program during which ALA members guide young women to become patriotic citizens and knowledgeable stewards of freedom and democracy.

It is a highly selective program designed for young women with above average academic standing, outstanding character, and exemplary leadership qualities. Units should follow the selection and participation guidelines set by the Department. Units work with schools to find potential candidates to attend, however it is up to the unit to make the final decision regarding attendees following interviews. Home-schooled students are also eligible.

Delegates to ALA Virginia Girls State campaign for offices, vote in a mock election, and participate in mock legislature. They participate in Patriotic activities and participate in a community service project.

Funds for ALA Girls State are raised through unit activities as well as outreach to other community organizations. The American Legion Auxiliary is still the sponsor, and it should be made clear that is the case to all who attend. After attending the ALA Girls State session, each delegate should be invited to appear before their sponsoring unit, the outside contributing organization and to their local school to present regarding their ALA Girls State experience.

### **Frequently asked questions**

Q1. Who is eligible?

*Public, private or homeschooled high school females who have completed their junior year (rising seniors) with at least one more semester of high school remaining.*

*Participants must be U.S. citizens or legal residents of the U.S. Documentation is required.*

Q2. Can poppy funds be used for ALA Girls State?

*Absolutely not. Please see p. 85 of the ALA Unit Guide Book (2024)*

For more information, visit <https://www.legion-aux.org/ALA-Girls-State> and <https://www.vagirlsstate.org/>

*Excerpted from the ALA Unit Guide (2024, pp.76-77) and Department C&B*