

INFORMATION TO AID YOU IN YOUR PREPARATION FOR ALA AR GIRLS STATE

There is very valuable information included in this packet for your success at ALA AR Girls State. Please read the ENTIRE packet with attention to detail.

ARRIVAL: You should plan to arrive at the Ganus Activities Complex at 12:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 25, 2025. Only the delegate and one parent/guardian will be admitted into the building to complete the registration process. During registration, delegates DO NOT need any of their luggage or personal belongings. You will move into your dorm after you've completed registration.

Upon entering the Ganus Activities Complex look for the table with the first letter of your last name. You will be provided with your city name and dorm assignment upon presentation of your Reservation Confirmation Ticket received by email which also includes your political party assignment, and you will pay your on-site registration fee of \$5.

DEPARTURE: The last session of ALA AR Girls State concludes at 9:30 A.M. All delegates may begin checking out at the dorms following the completion of the last General Session. All delegates must be picked up by 10:00 A.M. on Friday, May 30, 2025.

ATTENDANCE: Please do not ask to leave early or arrive late. If you fail to attend the entire session for any reason, you will not receive an ALA AR Girls State pin or certificate and will not be given credit for completing the program. Delegates are not allowed to "check out" for any portion of the program. If you are not able to attend the ENTIRE session, please notify your school or sponsoring Auxiliary Unit so that another student may attend in your place. If, due to illness, you must leave ALA AR Girls State early, your parents must pick you up themselves and you are not allowed to return. You will not be released from ALA AR Girls State to anyone other than your parents (or legal guardian) for any reason.

SELECTION OF DELEGATES: You were selected by a committee from your high school faculty or local American Legion Auxiliary Unit with the final approval given by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arkansas. Therefore, if you find you cannot attend, take this entire packet to your school counselor or principal immediately notifying them so they have an opportunity to select an alternate. You will not select your alternate—the American Legion Auxiliary and/or principal make the selection.

ALA AR GIRLS STATE STORE: Delegates will be able to purchase an assortment of ALA Girls State items such as clothing, stickers, and graduation cords. Other items will be available including: toiletries, pens, notebooks/paper, materials for campaigning, water/soda, and snacks. Payment methods accepted in the canteen include cash, and debit/credit cards.

MAIL: Mail may be sent to: Your Name, c/o ALA Arkansas Girls State, Harding University, Box 10762, Searcy, AR 72149-0001.

CORRECT CHANGE YOU WILL NEED UPON ARRIVAL: Please have the **correct change** for the \$5.00 on-site registration fee. We will not be able to make change during registration.

DRESS CODE: Your role as a representative of the American Legion Auxiliary and the ALA Girls State program is reflected in your appearance and behavior throughout the week. We require that our delegates maintain appropriate standards of dress and appearance that are respectful of both our organization and the values of our host campus, Harding University. The following dress code is to be observed during our week of ALA Arkansas Girls State, and violations will not be tolerated (you will be asked to change into appropriate clothing, and if no appropriate clothing items are available, you will be dismissed from the program):

- 1) Women's tops must have at least 2-inch shoulder straps and must not reveal cleavage or midriff. No halter tops or open back tops.
- 2) Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be no more than 3-inches above the knee. No rips or tears in jeans that are above the knee.
- 3) Undergarments must not be visible. Sleepwear must not be worn as outerwear.
- 4) When wearing form fitting attire, such as leggings, delegates must wear a top that is mid-thigh or longer.
- 5) Bathing suits are not permitted.
- 6) Shoes must be worn at all times while on campus.

Sunday night during the evening General Session, we will take a moment to honor one of our long-time ALA Arkansas Girls State staff members who is battling cancer. Please feel free to wear any color of green (bile duct cancer awareness color) to this session for a group photo.

You may want to bring clothing to match your party's color to wear Tuesday during Rally Night. If you plan to run for a State office, please bring a pair of (non-ripped) jeans for the rally. If you plan to attend the Camp Robinson field trip, you must bring a pair of jeans and closed-toed shoes.

Please refer to the ALA Arkansas Girls State Packing Guide (located on our website) for pictures of appropriate apparel and helpful packing tips.

PROVIDED APPAREL: Each delegate will be given one ALA Arkansas Girls State t-shirt. There will be at least two occasions that you will be expected to wear your t-shirt: the Opening Session and city pictures. Your t-shirt size was provided to us when you registered online. Additional t-shirts and sweatshirts will be sold at our Store starting at approximately \$20.00. You will be issued a visor to wear the whole week for identification purposes. If you are a **Federalist**, your visor will be **red**; if you are a **Nationalist**, your visor will be **blue**.

Please reference the ALA Arkansas Girls State Packing Guide on our website for photos of appropriate attire for different events throughout the week.

NEEDED ITEMS: You will also need to bring twin sheets, a blanket, pillow, towels, washcloths, toiletries (including hand soap), clothes hangers, and other necessary items. The only provided items in the dorm rooms are furniture, shower curtain, toilet paper, and trash bags.



Sample Photo of one of the Harding University Dorms

PLEASE REMEMBER: ALA AR Girls State is NOT a federal, state, county, or city government sponsored program. It is a private educational experience sponsored nationwide by the American Legion Auxiliary. We do NOT receive any federal or state funds. The motto of the American Legion Auxiliary is "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY" and this motto is foundational in all programs of ALA Girls State/Nation. Throughout the session, there will be reference in song or prayer to Christ, daily saluting of the American

flag, and singing the national anthem. Anyone who does not feel comfortable with this or who cannot be tolerant of it should not attend.

SERVICE PROJECT: ALA Arkansas Girls State will be collecting change all week in a Nationalist vs. Federalist competition. Our goal is to collect \$2,000. The funds collected will be donated to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arkansas President's Project. This year Ms. Pearl Gordon is the President of ALA Department of Arkansas, and her project is the Fisher's House benefiting Veterans served by VA hospitals nationally, including Little Rock, AR. Please see the ALA Arkansas Girls State website for more information regarding this project.

VISIT TO THE ARKANSAS STATE CAPITOL: During the week all delegates participating in ALA AR Girls State will visit our state's capitol in Little Rock. While there they will have the opportunity to tour the grounds as well as observe our program's elected representatives and senators take part in a mock legislative session. Also during our time there, a college fair including various institutions from across our state will take place.

VISIT TO CAMP ROBINSON: On the same day the program visits the state capitol, a small group of delegates will have the opportunity to alternatively visit Camp Robinson. This opportunity is for the appointed ALA AR Girls State Adjutant General and a small group of other interested delegates. This opportunity may appeal to delegates considering serving in the military or delegates who enjoy hands-on physical activity. Delegates who think they may wish to take part in the Camp Robinson visit should be sure to pack a pair of tennis shoes. Delegates who elect to go to Camp Robinson must have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian, this will be available at check in on Sunday, and is also available on the ALA Arkansas Girls State website. Girls who are interested in this visit will need to notify their city counselors on Sunday night.

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP: American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State delegates who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans are eligible to compete in the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program. Applications can be accessed through the Arkansas Girls State website, <https://arkansasgirlsstate.com/samsung-scholarship> and must be submitted by 11:59 P.M. Sunday, May 25, 2025. One application will be selected based on the criteria provided and will be awarded the local scholarship. That application will then be forwarded to compete for one of the scholarships to be awarded in the national competition.

GIRLS NATION: Girls Nation is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary that instructs delegates on the workings of our national government. During the week of ALA AR Girls State two delegates will be chosen to represent Arkansas as Senators at Girls Nation which is held in Washington D.C. in July. The dates for ALA Girls Nation this year are July

19-26, 2025. Throughout the week city counselors, senior counselors, and staff members identify possible delegates based on standout participation in the various activities of the ALA AR Girls State program. The ALA AR Girls State Board of Directors and ALA Girls State Committee will choose two delegates and one alternate following interviews at the end of the week, this decision is final. Having knowledge of current events will be very helpful for the interview. Any delegate wishing to be considered for Girls Nation will be required to submit a national level bill which reflects her interests and passions. This bill should be no longer than one page typed, using Word, and must be submitted by email or through the ALA Arkansas Girls State Headquarters on the Harding University campus by Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 8:00 A.M. Submissions should be sent to alaarkansasgsstaff@gmail.com with the subject "Girls Nation Bill."

ALA ARKANSAS GIRLS STATE VARIETY SHOW:

Thursday night (our last night on campus) there will be a Variety Show of talent. We will have auditions through the early part of the week, and a panel of staff will select the acts for the show. We welcome all varieties of talent, including singing, dancing, instrument playing, poetry, drama, tumbling, etc. This is an incredible night every year, full of talent, entertainment, support, and friendship. This event is closed to family, friends, and the public.

POLICY ON NETWORKING AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE:

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas recognizes and supports its ALA Arkansas Girls State participants' rights to freedom of speech, expression and association, including the use of online social networks. In this context, however, each delegate must remember that participating in the ALA Arkansas Girls State program is a privilege, not a right. As a delegate, you represent the American Legion Auxiliary and are expected to portray yourself, your school and the Auxiliary in a positive manner at all times. Any online postings must therefore be consistent with federal and state laws, and ALA Arkansas Girls State rules, regulations and policies (including the Guidelines listed below).

Guidelines:

If you participate on a social networking site or use social media, you must keep the following guidelines in mind: Everything you post is public information—any text or photo posted online is completely out of your control the moment it is posted—even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters) may be accessible even after you remove it. Think before you post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it's wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed. Post only pictures and comments that you would be comfortable sharing with the general public. Use caution when adding someone or inviting someone to be a friend (this includes citizens of both ALA Girls State and AL Boys State). Limit information about your whereabouts and plans in order to minimize the potential of being stalked, assaulted or the victim of other criminal activity. Post about where

you've been, not where you're going. What you post may affect your future. Many colleges' admissions officers and employers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments and posts). Similar to comments made in person, you should be respectful online. The American Legion Auxiliary will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as: Derogatory or defamatory language and/or images; Comments that create a serious danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person. Take the high ground. Don't pick fights, or engage in fights, online. Respect yourself; respect others; respect the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State program. Remember that you may use your device only during meal times, recreation periods, and free time before lights out. Use of your cell phone during scheduled program activities, government functioning, or at assemblies is strictly prohibited. This includes both voice and text messaging.

Monitoring and Consequences: The American Legion Auxiliary reserves the right to have ALA Arkansas Girls State staff members review and/or monitor delegates' social networking sites and postings. Any violation of law or of the Harding University and American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State's rules, regulations or policies, or evidence of such violation in your online content, is subject to investigation and possible immediate censure by the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State staff and/or law enforcement agencies. Internal consequences may include, but are not limited to, notice to remove the content and dismissal from the ALA Arkansas Girls State program.

ALA ARKANSAS GIRLS STATE CHECKLIST

Items to bring with you to Girls State on May 25, 2025:

- Correct Change
 - Required
 - \$5.00 on-site registration fee
 - Optional
 - \$3.00 for a 4x6 city picture
 - \$9.00 for a 5x7 city picture
 - \$10.00 digital download (includes all photos taken during GS)
 - Note: City pictures will be sold after Monday. You do not need this money during the registration process on Sunday!
- Clothing Items
 - Required
 - Appropriate clothing for the various meetings and events (refer to AR Girls State Packing Guide for more details)

- If you plan to run for a State office, you will need a pair of (non-ripped) jeans for the rally.
- Twin sheets, a blanket, pillow, towels, washcloths, toiletries (including hand soap), clothes hangers, and other necessary items.
- Optional
 - A lightweight jacket (it is cool in the auditorium) and an umbrella
 - A green shirt/outfit for General Session on Sunday night for a group picture and to honor a long-time AR Girls State staff battling cancer.
 - Clothing to match your party's color to wear Tuesday during Rally Night. **Red for Federalists, Blue for Nationalists.**

** If you forget something, our Girls State Store will have items for sale that you may purchase.

Other important reminders:

- Please report to the Ganus Activities Complex upon arrival at 12:00 P.M. to check in. Refer to attached campus map for location.
- **You may not bring campaign materials of any kind with you** – if you bring any pre printed campaign materials you will be disqualified from running for office for the entire week.
- You must stay for the ENTIRE session – you will not be allowed to miss any portion of the program.
- Cell phones are allowed, but may not be used during any session or meeting.
- ALA AR Girls State is a very strenuous program – please be sure to be well rested before you arrive.
- A nurse will be on staff and available during the entire session. Please note any physical conditions on the Medical Certificate that will be given to the nurse. If you feel we need to know about any conditions before your arrival, please email them to argirlsstatereg@gmail.com.
- You will be given a visor to wear for the entire week. If you are a **Federalist** your visor will be **red**, if you are a **Nationalist** your visor will be **blue**.
- You will be given a **room key** for the week. If it is lost, you will be asked to pay for the cost of the key. The following policies and fees are from Harding University and are the responsibility of each individual delegate. ALA Arkansas Girls State will not be responsible for payment of any incurred fees.
 - \$25 fee for each piece of furniture (mattress, desk chairs, lobby furniture, etc.) that is not in the correct location. (example: bedroom furniture should be left in bedroom)
 - \$25 fee for any room with trash left in it
 - \$40 for each lock a lost key unlocks

- Delegates who drive to Girls State MAY NOT drive at any time during the session. Delegates are not allowed to leave campus under any circumstances without the express permission of ALA AR Girls State Staff.
- Delegates will take part in various mock elections throughout the week. Some of these will include voting at their designated polling location. Voting will be done electronically on personal devices (phones and/or tablets). Delegates who do not have their own device will be provided with a device to use at their polling location.

ALA ARKANSAS GIRLS STATE PLEDGE

As a citizen of American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State, I voluntarily make the following pledge:

- I have read and studied the material sent to me.
- I will observe all the rules and requirements of Girls State.
- I will not damage or destroy any property while at Girls State.
- I will be present for every portion of the Girls State session and I will remain for the ENTIRE session.
- I will remain within the Girls State authorized areas of campus for the duration of the program.
- I will fulfill all obligations of a patriotic American citizen.
- If elected to office, I will serve that office to the best of my ability.
- I will be respectful of and obey the Girls State officials and counselors responsible for the week's program.
- I will be considerate and respectful of all Girls State delegates.
- I will share my Girls State experience as I continue to further my education.
- I will take an active part in the affairs of the party in the city and county to which I am assigned.
- I will not smoke, drink, use illegal drugs (including vaping), use profanity, use cell phones during general sessions and city meetings, be a bully, or wear clothing out of dress code during my week at Girls State.
- I will not participate in sexually explicit conversation, view sexually explicit materials, or behave in sexually explicit manners
- I will wear my assigned visor and name tag when outside my dorm room.
- I will not misuse cell phones and social media rules.

You and a parent or guardian each signed this pledge during your online registration process, acknowledging that you have read and agree with EACH statement in this pledge. Failure to comply with any part of the Arkansas Girls State Pledge is cause for dismissal from the Arkansas Girls State Program.

