

Week at a Glance

Are you ready for a week that will change your life? ND ALA Girls State week begins with an intro to the American Legion Auxiliary and getting to know your fellow "Staters" while completing service projects for Veterans.

After a short interactive lesson from actual college professors, cities will form and elect Mayors and Alderwomen. City ordinances (laws) will be written, and quite often there is a disaster to conquer. Each Stater is assigned to a political party who will not only decide for themselves what they stand for, but will hold a primary election to place candidates on the ballot - from Governor to Public Service Commissioner.

Counties will function by holding a trial and then nominating and voting for State Senators and Representatives. After the general election, Skit Night with special guests including the Boys State Governor and American Legion members will provide a fun break from the action. Finally, election results lead to the Governor and her cabinet balancing the budget, the House and Senate passing bills, and the Supreme Court hearing cases.

The week ends with a celebratory Graduation ceremony, recognizing each Stater's successful completion of the program as well as presenting scholarships and awards to a few outstanding participants. A candlelight ceremony will bring the week full circle and ensure the best week of your life is imprinted in your heart.



Testimonials

Running for office and becoming involved has been perhaps one of the most powerful experiences I've ever had. It has changed who I am as a person and it has enhanced my abilities as a leader.

~ Dakota Sipes,
2017 Girls State Secretary of State

Girls State had a huge impact on my life. Girls State really helped me learn more about myself, what I wanted to do, and improved my self-confidence.

~ Kali Christianson, 2012 Girls State
Citizen and Girls Nation Senator

ND ALA Girls State provided me with the opportunity to develop into an outstanding citizen leader. Girls State was by far my favorite organization that I have attended throughout my high school career; I loved the welcoming atmosphere that was full of young women ready to learn about local and state government. I will never forget my time at ND Girls State!

~ Samantha Nordmark,
2016 ND Girls State Governor
and Girls Nation Senator



Contact Us

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Find us on Facebook-North Dakota Girls State
<https://www.facebook.com/ndgirlsstate>



University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, North Dakota



Brianna Maddock, 2017 ND Girls State Governor,
2017 Girls Nation, Sargent at Arms; and
Iida Lehto, 2017 ND Girls State Lieutenant Governor.

ND ALA Girls State is a program of the
American Legion Auxiliary.

Top Five Reasons To Attend ND ALA Girls State

1. Find your voice

Wondering if you can make a difference in the world? Girls State helps build self-confidence and discover things about yourself you never knew. Your voice matters.

2. Have fun and build lifelong friendships

Meet other women from all over North Dakota. Make friendships that last well into your adult life.

3. Earn credit

Girls State citizens can earn .5 high school credit hours for attending and completing the ALA Girls State program.

4. Win scholarships

Apply for and win several scholarships available only to ND ALA Girls State participants. Improve your chances of winning other scholarships or of being accepted to universities.

5. Get inspired

Hear from North Dakota women who are making a difference today.



School Credit & ND Civics Exam

North Dakota ALA Girls State citizens can earn .5 high school credit hours for attending and completing the ALA Girls State program, recognized by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Any student who graduates from a North Dakota high school is required to take and pass a Civics Exam. This exam will be offered to North Dakota ALA Girls State citizens. Citizens are not required to take the exam.

The application of credit and acceptance of the civics exam is determined by the local school district and not at the discretion of DPI or ND ALA Girls State.

Scholarships and Awards

A full list of scholarships and awards can be found on the ND ALA Girls State webpage.

Samsung American Legion Scholarship

One \$1,250 scholarship is awarded to a ND ALA Girls State citizen who applies for the Samsung scholarship. Her application is then eligible for one of the ten national scholarships of \$10,000, or one of ten runner-up scholarships of \$5,000. Scholarship applications must be a direct descendant of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership. Samsung scholarships are for undergraduate study only and may be used for tuition, books, fees, and room and board. Winners are selected according to academic record, involvement in school and community activities, community service and financial need. Applicants who are direct descendants of Korean War veterans will receive special consideration.

Outstanding Student of Government

The girl with the highest score on the government test is awarded \$100 by the UND Department of Political Science and Public Administration.

Kennelly Award for Outstanding Citizen

A \$75 scholarship is awarded to one participant who has demonstrated leadership and cooperation in striving to attain the objectives of ND ALA Girls State, displayed proper conduct, self-control, and influence on others.

About ND ALA Girls State

What is Girls State?

At Girls State, citizens are divided into cities, two cities form a county, and all counties combine to create the mock state of Flickertail Girls State. Citizens learn about city, county and state government by running for offices, holding elections, writing laws, and participating in various other activities. Participants don't just hear about the government process—they are the process!

Who can attend?

The only requirement for attendance is that a (female) participant must have just completed her junior year of High School. The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State does not discriminate by race, creed, color, religion, disability, or grade point status. Exchange students and students that are home-schooled are all welcome to attend.

Who can sponsor an attendee?

ND ALA Girls State is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary. A Girl Stater needs to be sponsored by a unit to attend. Don't have a unit in your town? No problem! Contact the ND ALA Girls State Board at ndgirlsstate@gmail.com and they will help find a sponsor.

Registration

Download the registration and medical form from the Girls State website. www.ndgirlsstate.org

ALA Girls Nation

Two participants per state, known as "Senators," are chosen to represent their respective Girls State program. A week is spent creating a mock legislature, submitting bills and resolutions, participating in senate sessions, holding a national convention, and electing officials such as president and vice president. Special field trips include visits to the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, monument tours, and a day on Capitol Hill meeting with state senators and representatives. North Dakota Senators are chosen by Girls State citizens.

