

Greetings to you from the ND ALA Flickertail Girls State Board!

Normally, I would be writing to you and telling everyone about the upcoming session for 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2020 ND ALA Flickertail Girls State session has been indefinitely suspended. Notice that I did not use the term cancelled. Here is why we chose that wording. By indefinitely suspending something, it will not be happening at this time but could still happen in the future, although we do know the reality is the program will not host until 2021. To state cancelled means something is done, communications cease, the discussion ends, and the event will not occur at any time in any format. We do not want the discussion about our program to stop for the year because our mission is not done, nor are our communications about our program. There have been some inquiries by email from girls that are interested in the program as well as some applications that came in prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. Those application fees were not deposited and will be returned asap to the units. The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters has cancelled the 2020 ALA Girls Nation program in Washington, D.C. In addition to that information, the American Legion National Headquarters has stated that the 2020 Samsung American Legion Scholarships have been suspended due to the amount of AL Boys State and ALA Girls State programs that will not be in session this year.

Here's what we are doing to continue to support ND ALA Flickertail Girls State:

Girls that would have been eligible for the 2020 session will continue to be eligible for the 2021 ND ALA Girls State session. This means that the 2021 session will have girls attending that have completed their senior year. ALA National Headquarters gave each Department and Girls State program guidance suggesting that they consult their respective program Constitution and Bylaws regarding accepting seniors in the program next year. At this time, there is no statement in our ND Girls State Constitution and Bylaws that would prohibit having senior girls attend.

What we want to do for the summer and fall of 2020 is take the names of girls that are interested and continue to reach out to them. We are looking at sending monthly emails, possibly including a short video clip from ND ALA Girls State counselors, to keep them excited about the program as well as giving them more information on what to expect. What we need from units is to keep sending in names of girls that would be interested in ND ALA Girls State, including the upcoming juniors. It's never too early to promote the program. This is an extension of recruitment efforts and by no means a replacement for the 2020 session. The ND ALA Girls State board believes that by using this platform we can get girls excited about 2021, and in turn, they can help us find more young women that would like to be involved. The ND ALA Girls State board has requested approval for 2021 session dates of June 13th-18th from the ND ALA Department Executive Committee. As we are not certain when the next DEC meeting will be held, we appreciate your understanding that we are unable to confirm dates at this time and consider them pending approval and not set in stone.

The ND ALA Flickertail Girls State Board will continue their communications with the ND ALA DEC and ALA National Headquarters on any changing needs. As always, we appreciate any feedback that you may have. We hope that this finds you all safe and well. Thank you for your support!

ND ALA Girls State Board

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Thoreson, Chairman

Any additional questions? Please contact Dana Thoreson at 701-720-5612 or email at ndgirlsstate@gmail.com