

Greetings from the ND ALA Girls State Board!!! We hope that everyone is safe, healthy, and warm.

The ND American Legion Auxiliary Girls State team is currently in the process of planning 2021 Flickertail ALA Girls State to be held at the University of Grand Forks, June 13-18th. This will be the 75th anniversary of the ND ALA Girls State program and we are diligently planning for a great year! **At this time, we are planning for an onsite program. This will be our top priority.** We do need to inform everyone that due to some uncertainties with COVID-19, we are aware that there may be a small possibility to do some virtual programming and we are simultaneously planning for that structure. However, that is a **last resort** scenario at the time of this publication. As a board, we recognize that a virtual program would not be the best option, in turn understanding that canceling another year would also be devastating to the program as well. The ND ALA Girls State Board is working side by side with the ALA National office to ensure safety of our youth, validity of the program, and following what is needed to keep our program successful. The board is currently working on the following ideas:

With the 2020 session being canceled last year, girls finishing either their Junior year OR Senior year in a North Dakota high school (including public school, private school, or home school) are eligible to attend the 2021 ALA Flickertail Girls State Program. The registration fee for attendees is \$250 and there will be a registration deadline of April 30th, 2021. If there is a need for help with sponsorship, please email ndgirlsstate@gmail.com

We are continuing the planning process by reaching out to schools for recruitment efforts in order to support our attendance numbers. We understand that some units are unable to get into schools with the COVID-19 safety measures in place and we will support you in contacting schools by whatever means available.

At this time, ALA Girls Nation is continuing to plan for their program to be held on site in Washington, DC. Two of the ND ALA Girls State board members have again been asked to be on staff for the 2021 session. Lauren Hillebrand and Dana Thoreson will be attending and have been in contact with National Girls Nation Chairwoman, Wendy Riggle, as well as video conferencing with the Northwestern Division Chairwoman, Kristie Nohavec, to ensure a successful year both at the state and national level. There are two notable items that will be expressed to the girls at this time: girls that have completed their senior year will NOT be eligible to attend ALA Girls Nation nor will they be eligible for the Samsung Scholarship.

We pray you continue to stay safe and healthy as we navigate into the "new normal". We will update you on changes to the program. Please reach out to us with questions at either ndgirlsstate@gmail.com or 701- 314-2460 (Dana Thoreson). Also, visit our website at www.ndgirlsstate.org for more information.

Sincerely,
Dana Thoreson, ND ALA Flickertail Girls State Chairwoman