

2026 Flickertail Girls State was held at the University of North Dakota (Grand Forks) on June 14-19. The program saw an increase in participants with sixty-four in attendance up from forty-four in 2025. Keynote speakers at the event included North Dakota First Lady Kjersti Armstrong and U.S. Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak.

In addition to attendees participating in city, county, and state government proceedings, the 2026 participants and staff had the honor and privilege of attending a celebration of life ceremony. This ceremony was for fallen WWII soldier Staff Sergeant Irvin C. Ellingson and was held at Grand Forks Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, June 18.

Delegates of Girls State elected Leah Dokken (Minot HS) as 2026 Flickertail Girls State Governor. Cadence Fetsch (Valley City HS) and Sophia Johnson (Legacy HS-Bismarck) were elected and represented North Dakota at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., on July 18-25. At Girls Nation, Senator Fetsch was elected as Party Chair for the Nationalist Party.

A heartfelt thank you to all North Dakota units, posts, and individuals who support this wonderful learning experience for our young students. Your donations, time, and energy serving as staff and volunteers for the event are truly meaningful.

God Bless America and God Bless the future leaders of the USA.

Chilly Goodman

Flickertail Girls State Director