

**MASSACHUSETTS GIRLS STATE  
2017**

<b>PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AND WATCH THE DEADLINES. FOR DATES, TIMES AND FEES!</b>
---

Girls State will be held at **Stonehill College, 320 Washington Street, Easton MA 02357** from Saturday, **June 17- 23, 2017**. Girls State Delegates are to arrive between the hours of **9:00am. – 11:00am. Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>** and all citizens must be off the campus by **2 p.m. on Friday the 23rd.**

The fee for Girls State citizens will be **\$325.00** paid by **April 1, 2017** and **\$350.00** after that. The **DEADLINE FOR MONIES**, to be sent into the **Department Office** for Girls State Citizens is, **NO LATER THAN May 25, 2017 UNLESS PRE-ARRANGED WITH THE DIRECTOR.**

**AT THIS TIME THERE IS A LIMIT OF 350 GIRLS – SO IT'S IMPERATIVE YOU FOLLOW THE DEADLINES!**

<b>You MUST use the attached REGISTRATION SHEET to send in your money!</b>
--

The selection of the Girls State attendee is vital to the program. Girls State affords participants an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens by informing them about the privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.

**Marketing and Citizen Selection Goal:** Partner with schools about the Girls State Program. Information provided to schools should help identify and prepare young women for the lessons of government and leadership.

The program objectives are:

- To develop leadership and pride in American citizens
- To educate citizens about our system of government
- To instill a greater understanding of American traditions
- To stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes
- To encourage all eligible ALA Girl State citizen (past or present) to join the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Promote opportunity and benefits of membership as a resource for **volunteerism**

**Awards:** “Million Member Award” – Units that demonstrate how working the mission of the ALA Girls Nation Committee engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership in the unit will receive a National’s Presidents citation. A special citation will be given to the **Best Unit in each division.**

**Entries are due to the department chairman no later than April 15, 2017.**

Girls are eligible to attend Girls State if they meet the following criteria:

- Completed Junior year in high school the same year as current Girls State
- Interested in government and current events
- Have high moral characters
- Have strong leadership abilities
- Have an above average scholastic standing
- **MUST BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE ENTIRE WEEK**

<b><u>NO MONEY CAN BE RETURNED TO YOU IF YOUR CITIZEN DECIDES NOT TO ATTEND, OR DOES NOT SHOW UP AT GIRLS STATE. WE ARE CHARGED FOR THE COUNT GIVEN TO THE COLLEGE. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU <u>CHOOSE ALTERNATES</u> ALONG WITH YOUR CITIZENS SO IF A GIRL CAN NOT COME YOU HAVE ANOTHER GIRL TO CHOOSE.</u></b>
--

**Orientation Goal:** Provide information to volunteers and delegates to facilitate a successful Girls State Session.

- Orientation sessions are held in most Districts (or combined districts) so that all citizens can learn first-hand what is expected of them and what they can expect from the Girls State Program. A policy for the selection of delegates should be in place, which may include a written essay, a questionnaire and certainly a personal interview. You should ask questions about how they feel pledging allegiance to our flag and inspirational thoughts.
- Girls State teaches the citizens through hands on experience, the workings of City/Town and State Government. The girls learn by doing, setting up cities and towns, elections of their local officials, writing and debating bills using parliamentary procedure, and the election of their Constitutional Officers. We also have law, economics and government classes. They also have the opportunity to perform as a team submitting scenarios, budgets and in the process learn about themselves and what they can do.

**Girls Nation Goal:** The American Legion Auxiliary provides a select number of young women a unique citizenship educational opportunity by continuing their experience in governmental practice.

- Two Girls State Citizens will be selected to represent the state as a US Senator to Girls Nation which will convene at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, **July 22 – 30, 2017** for the purpose of experiencing Federal Government.

**Public Relations Goal:** Create a program to educate the public about the importance of the educational opportunities afforded young women attending Girls State and Girls Nation sessions and demonstrate how this education will help create a more informed nation.

- Create press releases for local and state media
- Maintain high profile by using the name and symbol of the American Legion Auxiliary whenever dealing with the public.
- Girls State Flyer

**Resources:** Web sites and Auxiliary references:

- [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) (ALA Girls State Program and Operations Guide)
- [www.boysandgirlsstate.org](http://www.boysandgirlsstate.org)
- [www.facebook.com/ALAGirlsNation](https://www.facebook.com/ALAGirlsNation)
- [www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionAuxiliaryGirlsState](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionAuxiliaryGirlsState)

I would like to encourage Units Posts and Organizations to promote our program so the awareness is out in the communities. Let them know that the American Legion Auxiliary is proud to be part of education and government procedures. Our program has had many successful people become great leaders, lawyers, politicians, philanthropists, etc. We are also accredited with the Massachusetts School System. So **PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE**

If you have any questions, need any help, or would like me or one of my staff to visit your Unit, Post or Organization, to explain the program, please contact me by e-mail or phone. We also have a web site, which will have the forms the girls will need on it, which you can visit to gain more insight into what we do. Our web site is: **[www.massgirlsstate.org](http://www.massgirlsstate.org)**.

Bonnie Sladeski  
Girls State Director  
12 Doverbrook Road Chicopee, MA 01020  
413-593-1646 or 413-427-0937 (cell)  
E-mail: DIRECTOR.MASSGIRLSSTATE@GMAIL.COM

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**MASSACHUSETTS GIRLS STATE 2017 REGISTRATION FORM**

Please register \_\_\_\_\_ girl(s) for Girls State 2017.  
All reservations are on a "FIRST COME" space available basis

**NEW DATES AND FEES!**

FEE: **\$325.00 before April 1, 2017 and \$350.00 after that. FINAL DEADLINE** for money into the Department Headquarters to register citizens is **MAY 25, 2017.**

**Make checks payable to: Department of Massachusetts A.L.A**  
**Remit to: American Legion Auxiliary**  
**Department of Massachusetts, Inc.**  
**State House Room 546-2**  
**Boston MA 02133**

**PLACE HELD: Stonehill College**  
**DATES: June 17 – 23, 2017**  
**LIMIT: 350 Girls**

**Sponsoring Auxiliary, Post or Organization Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_ District# \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON RECEIVING INITIAL**  
**PACKET INFORMATION (NOT THE GIRL STATE DELEGATE):**  
**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO HAVE A TELEPHONE NUMBER IN CASE I NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT YOUR GIRL(S) APPLICATION. FOR FAST RECIEPTS OF CONFIRMATION FORMS PLEASE SUPPLY A READIBLE E-MAIL ADDRESS.**

The initial packet needed for Girls state will be sent to the person listed above, as soon as your check is received at the Department Headquarters, after the Department Secretary/Treasurer informs me.

The paperwork for the Girl State Citizens will be on the Girls State Web Site: [www.massgirlsstate.org](http://www.massgirlsstate.org) under the key word "FORMS. **Girls are NOT to access forms until funds are received, NO MONEY CAN COME FROM A GIRL OR HER PARENTS. AN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT, POST OR A SPONSORING ORGANIZATION MUST PAY FOR ALL MONIES! THIS IS FROM THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY!**