

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE

2020 APPLICATION PACKET

72nd ANNUAL SESSION

June 7-12, 2020 at The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg



Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. With a membership at nearly 800,000, local American Legion Auxiliary units have a strong presence in more than 9,000 communities nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary's mission is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.



2020 ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Return the completed application packet for consideration to the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit representative or school counselor **no later than March 2, 2020**.
2. **Be sure we have a valid email address as we will correspond electronically with the accepted delegates going forward.**
3. Once the applicant is approved by the local Unit, the Unit will forward the applicant's original completed application (with required original signatures) and signed pledge sheet **via snail mail** to the ALA Department Headquarters office, **WITH PAYMENT of \$275*, by April 10, 2020**. Checks made payable to *ALA Magnolia Girls State*. **No refund of applicant's fee will be made once received in the Department Office.** Mailing address: ALA Magnolia Girls State, PO Box 1382, Jackson MS 39215; 601-353-3681

School Officials (i.e. Counselor, Teacher, or Principal) or Parent: If no local Unit is available in your area to review and accept applicant as their Sponsor, you may send the completed original app to our Office in Jackson for review by the Director or Girls State Committee members. ***Please note, the student's fee is not automatically paid by the Auxiliary.*** It depends on available funding. A participant should be prepared to secure a Patron (see item #4) for the fee, to be paid by after notification of acceptance and remitted to our office no later than May 1, 2020.

Alternates will be considered if an approved/processed applicant cancels; contact the ALA Magnolia Girls Director immediately (contact info on last page of this application). No alternates can be accepted 2 weeks prior to session.

4. *Securing payment for the registration fee of \$275 may be done several ways: contact local Auxiliary Unit for assistance, if available; seek out local businesses or civic organizations to serve as a Patron and donate the fee; and schools may also serve as a Patron to pay fee via activity fund, etc., or a family member of the applicant. The local Auxiliary Unit representative (if available) can provide guidance and assistance in seeking out local Patrons. You may also contact the state ALA office or ALA Magnolia Girls State director.
5. The Girls State Director/Committee will send the applicant, **via snail mail**, confirmation of acceptance and other pertinent forms needed to complete the application process.

Revised 9/2019

**ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE
2020 SESSION APPLICATION**

Complete and submit to local sponsoring Unit or School Counselor by March 2, 2020,
for consideration of acceptance as a Delegate. **Please type or print clearly!**

Name _____
Last First MI

Home Address _____
Street or PO Box Number City State ZIP

Telephone Number (____) _____ (home)

Cell phone Number (____) _____ (parent/guardian)

Email Address _____
(Required)

Parent/s Email Address _____

Adult T-shirt size of applicant _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT:

Sponsoring Unit's Name and Number _____

Girls State Chairman's Name _____

Unit Address _____
Street or PO Box No. City State ZIP

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

If fee to attend the 2020 session is donated from a local Patron, provide name and address for acknowledgement:



***Signature of Unit President or Unit Girls State Chairman
or High School Counselor or Principal if no local Unit is available***
(This form must be mailed to the Dept. Office no later than April 10, 2020)

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi Headquarters, PO Box 1382, Jackson, MS 39215;
601.353.3681; alamagnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com; missala.com/girlsstate

Section 2 – Applicant Eligibility Verification

Eligibility to participate in ALA Magnolia Girls State

High school girls eligible to participate in the ALA Magnolia Girls State program must have completed their Junior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining, be a United States citizen or legal inhabitant of the United States as evidenced by a current and/or valid birth certificate, visa, passport, Green Card or other United States government-issued documentation verifying a legal presence in the United States for at least the duration of the ALA Magnolia Girls State program.

Further, the ALA Magnolia Girls State leadership development program is a week-long 24/7 session for high school girls. Participation is limited to females, as evidenced by her birth certificate or a sworn statement signed by a licensed medical doctor.

Requested above documentation must be provided onsite, at check-in on Sunday, June 7, 2020, for verification. ALA Magnolia Girls State will not retain a copy of this documentation.

Eligibility to Serve in an Elected Office

The purpose of the ALA Magnolia Girls State program is to provide a nonpartisan participatory program that teaches eligible high school females responsible citizenship grounded in ethics, the principles of our nation's founders and respect for God and Country. The ALA Magnolia Girls State conforms to the structure of the Mississippi state government as specified by the Mississippi state constitution.

Documentation Requirements (copy of U.S. Government-issued document required)

I attest that my daughter (ward) has a U.S. government-issued birth certificate or legal documentation of her legal presence in the United States provided by the U.S. government (e.g. visa, Green Card, passport). I understand that upon arrival and registration/check-in at ALA Magnolia Girls State on June 7, 2020, I am expected to provide a bona fide copy of her birth certificate or her U.S. government-issued documentation proving that she is a legal inhabitant of the United States for the duration of the event. If I fail to provide current and valid documentation, my daughter will not be allowed to take part in ALA Magnolia Girls State and I, as parent/guardian, will be responsible for all expenses incurred up to that point in time.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

American Legion Auxiliary Magnolia Girls State

Biographical Form

Section 3 – Applicant Biography Information

Applicant Name _____

Parent(s) or guardian(s) Name(s) _____

Applicant Birth Date _____

Emergency Contact: Name/Phone Number(s), if other than Parent/Guardian indicated:

Emergency Contact Phone Number(s): _____(day)

_____ (evening)

*Are you a descendent of a veteran? _____Yes _____No

*Is either parent(s) or guardian(s), or other member(s) of immediate family, a member of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary? _____Yes _____No

Is yes, indicate which (or both) organization _____

*Do you have any active duty or deployed family member(s)? _____Yes _____No

*(*Note: not required for consideration of acceptance into this program)*

Is the applicant considering a military career? _____Yes _____No

Does the applicant plan to apply to any of the U.S. Military Academies?

_____Yes _____No

Applicant's Name _____

Please list your top two (2) talents/hobbies (ex. Singing, writing, photography, etc.)

1. _____

2. _____

High School Information

Grade last completed _____ G.P.A _____

High School Name _____

Counselor's Name _____

Street address of high school _____

City/State/Zip of high school _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

List top three (3) high school activities (ex. teams, clubs, student government, organizations)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Honors/Awards/Achievements

List top three (3) honors/awards (scholastic, athletics, arts, personal, student government offices held, etc.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Applicant's Name _____

Have you ever overcome any significant obstacle in your life? If so, briefly share your story, if you wish:

Community Involvement

List two (2) organizations you have served/volunteered and in what capacity:

1. _____

2. _____

Applicant's Name _____

In essay format, tell us about your understanding of the democratic form of government and how you can be a productive citizen of the United States. (You may attach an additional page, if necessary.)



ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE PLEDGE

To complete my delegate application, I voluntarily make the following pledge:

As a citizen of Magnolia Girls State of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Mississippi,

I voluntarily make the following pledge:

- I pledge to cooperate and participate in the activities of ALA Magnolia Girls State and will abide by its rules.
- I will obey the code of conduct of the facility.
- I will take an active part in the activities of the program and will take a serious and conscientious interest in fulfilling my responsibilities as a delegate at ALA Magnolia Girls State, in any capacity in which I may be privileged to serve.
- I will respect the judgment and authority of the staff at ALA Magnolia Girls State.
- I will participate in all flag and patriotic ceremonies, with full proper respect.
- I will be fair, honest, and cooperative in all my dealings with my fellow delegates.
- I will make a report to my sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit regarding my ALA Magnolia Girls State experience and knowledge gained and will help promote the program wherever possible.

I/we have read and understand the above:

Signature by ALA Magnolia Girls State applicant

Date

Signature by parent/guardian

Date



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE FACT SHEET

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State: “I Was Blown Away by the Experience!”

Description: The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program changes lives by bringing together dynamic young women for an intense week of leadership, patriotism and community enlightenment. The Girls State program is a proven leadership laboratory.

For the fictional self-governing state of Magnolia, delegates/citizens will elect their own leaders, write bills for debate and run a legislative session. In the process, these leaders—class presidents, top varsity athletes, artists, debate champions—dynamically engage with state representatives and senators. Two participants from each of the 49 states who hold a yearly session are selected to attend the elite American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington DC in July, with an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the President of the United States.

Girls State is where the seeds of patriotism are cultivated in our nation’s finest high school girls, by women who care deeply about the future of America and take its leadership seriously. It is where future leaders realize their true potential!

“Girls State impacted my life and gave me newfound confidence to help my community and society,” said one former Girls State Citizen. “It influenced my career choices and my educational choices. The experience changed me dramatically.”

Objective: American Legion Auxiliary Girls State provides an opportunity for superior high school women who have completed their junior year to experience the “nitty gritty” of state government processes—the chance to live outside the text book. This program not only instills in its attendees a sense of pride and loyalty in America, but also prepares these women for a career in politics, public service, and excellence along their career path. It is the chance to plunge head-first into democracy, develop sharp leadership skills, and create the foundation for informed and responsible world citizenship.

“[After attending Girls State], I felt more empowered,” said one former Girls State Citizen. “I had the freedom to make choices for myself.”

ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE FACT SHEET, PAGE 2

History: Since 1937, more than one million politically savvy young women have attended American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. Girls State has produced more successful women than any other girls' citizenship training program in the country.

Activities: Mock caucusing and debating of bills educate young women in the real state legislative processes. Each program is state-run and thus unique to the state in which it is held. Cutting-edge political topics ensure that the debates are relevant, lively and passionate. Fierce political campaigns are held to elect a Girls State governor, party officials, and pass legislation. Girls also have the opportunity to meet with some of their own state representatives and senators, who are genuinely interested in the fresh ideas of these future leaders.

"I still believe Girls State is the best program for young women," said a former Girls State Citizen. "It can change their lives as well as teach them about politics and their country."

In addition, ALA Magnolia Girls State offers these participation opportunities:

- Glee Club and *Alagista* staff (a "yearbook" of the delegates and events of the week)
- City project to be judged at the end of the week
- College Day with representatives from state universities and colleges
- Skit Night (each city will present a skit for competition) or Talent Show or other such activity

Scholarships: Girls State delegates may apply **online (only)** for the prestigious Samsung Scholarship, if she is a descendant of a United States wartime veteran. To apply, a copy of the veteran's DD-214 (or discharge papers) is required. One ALA Magnolia Girls State citizen is chosen from delegates who properly apply online as Mississippi's recipient (actual state scholarship award amount varies from year to year). Her application is then forwarded online to the National Headquarters of The American Legion to compete with 98 other students from across the country for one of seven \$20,000 scholarships.

Other scholarships will be available. These scholarships are provided by American Legion Auxiliary Units and American Legion Posts across the state.

As our host site, The University of Southern Mississippi will also offer each 2020 delegate a \$1,000 scholarship. However, this scholarship is only for those who plan to attend Southern Miss upon High School graduation and who are duly accepted according to the university admissions standards. Other state universities who also offer like successful completion scholarships (\$1,000 one-time award for freshman year) include Miss. State, Ole Miss, and Delta State.

Staff and Guest Speakers: Local and state elected officials will be our guests during the week ALA Magnolia Girls State to draw on their expertise to give the delegates a realistic view of government. Other guest speakers will present on topics pertinent to the program, i.e., parliamentary procedure and purposes of caucuses as well as topics that lend to empowering our young ladies, i.e., self-defense, awareness and response, personal safety and preparing for college.

The program staff is made up of dedicated members/volunteers of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Mississippi. Senior and junior counselors reside with the delegates, one senior

ALA MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE FACT SHEET, PAGE 3

and two/three junior counselors per city, and supervise the delegates' activities throughout the week.

Other Information: Three meals are provided daily at the university's dining facility. The 2020 session will be housed in a secure, modern dormitory complex at Southern Miss, near our meeting facility. Each floor of the dorm will constitute two or three cities, with a population of no more than 24 citizens each.

At ALA Magnolia Girls State, each delegate will share a dorm room with another delegate. Assignments are random, and care is taken that no delegate from the same local school is assigned in the same city, if possible. It is our desire that our delegates have the opportunity to meet others from different areas of the state. Friendships made at ALA Magnolia Girls State have proven to be lifelong and cherished.

The fee for each delegate to attend 2020 ALA Magnolia Girls State is \$275 and includes tuition, room/board, two city t-shirts and one set of pictures (one city/one large group). **No refund of applicant's fee will be made once received in the Department Office.** The delegate must notify her sponsoring Unit and/or the Department Headquarters at 601.353.3681 immediately, if she cannot attend, and an alternate may be submitted in her place for consideration.

An information packet will be emailed to the delegate once her application acceptance has been received at the Department Headquarters. Although time for recreation is planned, **ALA Magnolia Girls State is not a recreational camp.**

Citizens will not be allowed to leave the campus area assigned to ALA Magnolia Girls State. No visitors are allowed. Smoking, alcohol consumption and illegal drug use is strictly prohibited. Citizens driving cars to Southern Miss must turn in their car keys to their Senior Counselor at check-in.

For further information, see your school counselor, contact your local sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit or contact the Department Headquarters at the address below:

Local Mississippi contact: Angela Kilcrease, Director, angelakilcrease@bellsouth.net

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi Headquarters, PO Box 1382, Jackson, MS 39215; 601.353.3681; alamagnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com; Web site: missala.com/girlsstate

The Organization: Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership of nearly 850,000, local American Legion Auxiliary units have a strong presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary's mission to serve veterans, their families and their communities is carried out through its hundreds of outreach programs delivered by its members, volunteers and National Headquarters. ###