



American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

An Americanism Project in Citizenship, Leadership and Practical Training in Government
Delivered virtually from the campus of Davis & Elkins College
June 14th – 18th, 2021

PROCEDURAL OUTLINE

Introduction

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, sponsors Rhododendron Girls State as evidence of its faith in American democracy and in the value of responsible citizenship.

I. Purposes

Rhododendron Girls State will train its citizens:

- A. To know the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship;
- B. To recognize the need for honesty, integrity and responsibility in private and public life;
- C. To understand that the very life of democracy depends upon informed and concerned citizens;
- D. To realize the increasingly important role of women in public life;
- E. To be responsible, active participants in the communities in which they live.

II. Eligibility

- A. Be a member in good standing (minimum of 2.75 GPA) in the Junior Class of a West Virginia high school;
- B. Be a resident of West Virginia;
- C. Be single;
- D. Be on the Principal's Approved List of girls eligible for attendance;
- E. Be in attendance for the full week of the program;
- F. Be attending Girls State for the first time.

Any applicant may be rejected for what the American Legion Auxiliary considers just cause.

III. Method of Selection

Candidates for Rhododendron Girls State shall be selected in the following manner:

- A. Each High School Principal shall receive from the Girls State Registrar, Ann C. Buchanan, information regarding selection of candidates from Registrar.
- B. Principal's Approved List: The high school faculty, or such part of it as the Principal shall designate, shall select a list of candidates equal to ten times the indicated number of delegates requested by the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit. The candidates shall be chosen from the Junior Class on the basis of:
 1. Leadership
 2. Good moral character
 3. Good academic record (minimum of 2.75 GPA)
 4. Cooperation and dependability
 5. Community participation and service
- C. The Principal's List under his/her signature shall be given to the local American Legion Auxiliary President or Girls State Chairman for submission to contributing organizations. If there is no American Legion Auxiliary Unit near a school, which desires to be represented at Girls State, the Principal may register the girl(s) directly with the American Legion Auxiliary. The Principal shall have the responsibility of securing a contributing organization and seeing that the completed application, completed health form and \$125 sponsor fee is sent to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia for verification. A contributing organization is any civic or fraternal organization, school group or business (or a combination of them), which finances a student to Girls State.

Due to limitations placed on contributing organizations during the pandemic. It was decided that an individual **CAN** be a direct contributor for the 2021 Sessions.

The **\$125 sponsor fee** must be mailed to:
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of West Virginia, Inc.
1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville, WV 26155

After processing the money, the information will be sent to Registrar, who will email the needed information for the selected girl(s) as soon as possible to complete the online registration and the forms to submit during the registration process.

IV. American Legion Auxiliary Unit Responsibilities

- A. The local American Legion Auxiliary Unit will secure the contributing organizations to send delegates to Rhododendron Girls State. A contributing organization is any civic or fraternal organization, school group, or business (or a combination of them), which finances a student to Girls State. As stated above due to pandemic limitations, individual **CAN** be a contributor or they may make a donation to a qualifying organization.
- B. It is the responsibility of the ALA Unit to see that the sponsor fee of \$125, along with the names, telephone number, and email addresses of the girls being sponsored by their unit is sent to ALA Department of WV by April 15 2021 for seniors (Class of 2021) and May 15, 2022 for juniors (Class of 2022). After the Department Secretary processes the sponsor fee, names and email addresses will be sent to Registrar, who will send the needed information to the selected girl(s). **No fees will be returned after April 16, 2021 for seniors and May 15, 2021 for juniors ; but an alternate may be used as a replacement for a girl unable to attend.**
- C. The participating girls are responsible for completing the **Online Application Form** and completing the **Online Orientation**; she is also responsible for getting the **appropriate forms** properly completed, scanned, and submitted no later than May 1 for Seniors and May 30 for Juniors.

The Experiences of Girls State Citizens

As each citizen of Rhododendron Girls State registers, she becomes the citizen of a city, county and state. She has an active role in making ordinances and laws, in their enforcement, and in the administration of justice. She is a member of a political party and, as such, will help to develop its platform and actively campaign in support of its candidates. As a voter, she will participate in primary and general elections. As an official, she will perform the functions of that office. Throughout the week, she will attend seminars, which address citizenship, leadership and governmental topics.

General Information

- A. After the Registrar receives the confirmation that fees have been paid, the selected girl will receive an email with the instructions for completing the online application, as well as how to scan the forms. **The following five (5) forms must be completed and submitted by the applicant prior to attending Girls State: parental waiver (must be notarized), the ALA Waiver and Consent (must be notarized), the pledge, and the Press Release.**
- B. Registration will be complete by Sunday, June 13th, at Davis & Elkins College. Girls State will be in session during designated times Monday June 14 through Friday June 18.
- C. The Director of Girls State may dismiss any girl for just cause without the consent of the contributing organization.
- D. The Samsung Scholarship application must be completed online. Please go to www.legion.org, select **Programs**, then select **Scholarships**. Scroll down and select Samsung Scholarship. If applicants meet eligibility requirements, they will need to create a username and password to complete the online process. The application is also on our website; <http://wvgirlsstate.org>, **The application must be completed online before arrival on Sunday, June 13.**
- E. You may contact Ann Buchanan (304-654-9932) or AnnBuch@aol.com for additional information. Calls will be returned and emails will be answered ASAP.