



70<sup>th</sup> Session, 2010

**Sunday June 27<sup>st</sup> - Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Held at [Michigan State University, McDonel Hall](#)

# **American Legion Auxiliary**

- Formed 1920, American Legion Auxiliary is a remarkable organization with dedicated women devoted to America's veterans, young people and communities.
- The largest women's patriotic organization members are mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters and granddaughters of military veterans.
- Founding and sponsoring organization of Girls State



- Girls State was **established in 1941** under direction of National President Dorothy Pearl from Detroit and Edna Alber Department President from Ann Arbor. We honor them each year with an Alber-Pearl County.
- Started to teach young women to be better home makers then after World War II Girls State changed to teaching local to state government process.

# What is Girls State?

A hands on approach to learning government by actually creating a mythical state through the election of public officials on local, county, and state levels and then by carrying out the duties of these respective offices.

"Going was such an honor to me and it was one of the most empowering experiences of my life. I actually felt as though I was in a real state and we were really running it!"

# A typical session includes:

- Citizens are divided into two mythical **political "parties,"** Federalists and Nationalists. The parties allow Citizens to gain knowledge of how the system works. Elections are held to fill positions. Activities include campaigning, party conventions, debating, voting, legislative sessions, journalism, choir, trip to Capitol and talent show.
- The **legal track** includes the Bar Exam, State Bar Association, mock trial, law suits, district court cases, etc.
- This "hands on" method is extremely effective. Affords participants an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens by informing them about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American

For more info check out: <http://www.boysandgirlsstate.org/>

Find Girls State on [Facebook](#)

# Staff



- Girls State is **governed** by the Girls State Committee and the Department Executive Board. Working behind the scenes are 20 volunteering Auxiliary members.
- **Auxiliary** staff is always available to help with problems, say hello or visit the candy dish.
- **Government** Staff consists of 15-19 qualified professionals with most having bachelor degrees in Political Science, Law or working on their masters.
- Alan Vanderburg is the Government Coordinator. He is currently the Ottawa County Administrator. Dr. Jack Feldon, Judicial Advisor, practices law in Gaylord.



- **City Counselors**, former Girls Staters, are available to assist you 24/7. They report to Co-General Counselors whom are liaisons to the American Legion Auxiliary. This is the chain of command if you have a problem.
- **Medical Personnel** are on duty 24/7. Prescription drugs in original containers must be turned in at registration. You will report to nurse at the time to take your medication. This is for the protection of our citizens by preventing the loss or theft of any medication.
- **Medical emergencies** need to be reported to Counselors immediately so necessary arrangements can be made
- **Medical Clinic** on campus and **Sparrow Hospital** are close by.

# Delegates Must Do note deadlines

- You will receive an information packet. Please open and read all the information as soon as it arrives. You'll want to post the to do checklist so you can refer to it often.
  - Included is a form to **collect info from your local government.** You are required to turn this form in at registration.
  - Need a special diet, please fill out the form on department web site [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org).
- **Medical form** – sports physicals that are dated after June 20, 2009 are acceptable. Staple to our form- completed and signed by parent or legal guardian. This form is also located on our web site at: [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org).
  - If we don't have this you cannot attend Girls State as clinic or hospital will not treat you. **Mail this form** to American Legion auxiliary Department Office in Lansing by **June 1, 2010** or bring it in Registration day.

# Samsung American Legion **Scholarship**

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- Samsung, a worldwide leader in electronics, endowed a scholarship fund of \$5,000,000 to be administered by The American Legion.
  - The endowment was made to show **appreciation to U.S. veterans who came to the aid of Korea** during its struggle against communist forces during the Korean War.
  - Derived from interest and other income from the \$5,000,000 principal amount enabled, **ten \$20,000** scholarships and **88 \$1,000** scholarships in 2007.
  - **The Ten \$20,000** scholarships will be awarded at the National Level from the ones submitted by each state.
- These scholarships are **only awarded to Boy and Girl Staters** who successfully\* complete the program and are a direct descendant of a U.S. wartime veteran who qualifies for [membership](#) in The American Legion.
  - An application can be obtained on auxiliary website: [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org) or [www.legion.org/1138](http://www.legion.org/1138). It is a PDF file in Adobe Acrobat that allows you to save the form and make changes as necessary.  
**Follow the rules** if it says typed that is exactly what it means; if it is not completed properly it will not be considered.
- \*participate and stay for the entire week

# Optional: Earn College Credits !!!!

- **Elective College Credits** are available through two reliable universities.
- ACE Network is an organization of Girls and Boys Staters. Offers a **3-credit hour** course, ED190 for \$270 through, **Clemson University**
- **Course description:** Provides active learning opportunities for students to understand better the system of government, learn mechanics of how leadership can influence education and other initiatives, and develop interpersonal skills that will assist them throughout their professional lives. The course culminated with a Service Learning Plan.
- **Register** via the registration packet that in your delegate packet or at: [www.ed190.com](http://www.ed190.com).
- **Complete entire week** at Girls State. Girls State will be contacted to verify you completed the program.
- Complete online module of leadership, journal entries, and submission of a Service Learning Plan. May include a 50 question test.
- Must complete registration and **payments** before or during Girls State registration on June 27<sup>th</sup> Complete all online coursework by July 25<sup>th</sup>; grades will be posted by Aug 8, 2010
- Donates \$20 to Girls State program for each registered participant. Offers \$1000 scholarship for each 50 registered participant.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> College Option

- RTG Associates offers elective credits through the **University of Colorado** at Colorado Springs at a cost of \$55 a credit. Up to 4 credits are available. Visit [www.LeadershipCredit.org](http://www.LeadershipCredit.org) for more info.
- Classes are LEAD152-Citizenship for 3 credits and LEAD161-College Option for 1 credit.
- These credits are transferrable to all but 5 universities: Yale, Harvard & 3 military academies.
- Complete registration on line between April 1, & Aug 15, 2010.
- Complete entire week at Girls State. We will verify.
- LEAD 152: you must submit two-page paper citing your appreciation and program benefits to your sponsoring organization.
- LEAD 161: you must email a value analysis of College Options Disk Set.
- Girls State program receives \$15 for each 3 credit registrant.
- **There maybe additional Credit opportunities available, information will be in packet sent from Department in the Spring**

# Registration

- Registration on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9a.m. - 11a.m. at [MSU's McDonel Hall](#).
- After registering you will take registration card to West McDonel Hall desk to get your room key. **Lost keys cost you \$30.**
- Once registered you are not allowed to leave the Girls State area of campus.
- You will meet your city counselor when you take your belongings to your room.



Your counselor will have a packet of information for you; this will include the **Government Manual**, which is also available on our website [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org).

Print the manual early and review it before you arrive as you will have a bar exam on Monday. **Passing the exam allows you to become lawyer and/or judge.**



## **Loyalty Pledge** – read carefully.

It states you will take part in all ceremonies, stay the entire session, participate in the program, make a report to your sponsoring organization and you **MUST** show respect for the flag of the United States.

Sign this pledge and turn into your city counselor. **If you feel you cannot commit to this pledge then you might consider not attending Girls State.**

- You will be assigned to: a **political party**, either Nationalist or Federalist, a city, county (3 cities to a county). All cities and counties are named after a Past Department President.



- **Name Tag** – must be worn at all times. Ticket to dining room. First meal - lunch on Sunday. Meals are on rotating schedule, by county. Need a **special diet, please fill out the form** (found at [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org)) and bring it with you so we can let MSU know about your diet.
- **Linens** will be in your room. You can exchange dirty linen during the week. You are responsible to turn in all linen at end of week. These include: 1 pillowcase, 2 sheets, 2 towels and 1 washcloth. Blankets, pillow and mattress pad are on each bed.
- **Share suite of rooms** with 3 other girls. Great opportunity to meet girls from all over Michigan. You will not share a room from someone from your school or hometown.

# MCDonel Hall

room size – Approximately 12' x 11'  
Two room connected by bathroom sleeps 4



## MSU:

- charges you \$30 for Lost keys
- prohibits smoking within their buildings
- Directions can be found at <http://maps.msu.edu/>

## If your daughter drives to Girls State

- You will have to surrender your keys at registration, they will be returned upon time to leave.
- **Parking** is available for \$8.00 a week.
- **Neither MSU nor the Auxiliary is responsible for any damaged or stolen items.**
- Any **parking tickets** are YOUR responsibility.
- We will direct your daughter to the designated parking area and instruct her to affix the parking permit properly to the windshield.

# Every morning starts

with breakfast and a flag raising ceremony,  
then city, county and state meetings.



Rise at 6:30a.m. and lights out at 11:30 p.m.



- **Girls State Choir** will be formed and will perform at the capital and closing ceremonies. If you play an instrument and would like to try out for the **talent show** make sure you bring it with you. We will provide a piano.
- If you chose to **run for Governor**, you must secure signatures on a petition.

**No premade posters  
are allowed.**

- If you prefer not to run for an office, you can be a reporter for your city, writing daily articles for the daily newspaper called Politically Speaking. You can also enter contests for best short story, poem or pencil drawing **done during Girls State session.**

*"I really enjoyed this week even though there were some rough times. I'm glad that I stuck with it because it was a very rewarding experience."*



- **Sunday:** First city meeting . Before dinner the Lansing American Legion Post 216 Milford will perform flag raising and lowering, for the rest of the session this will be performed by the citizens by city. The **Opening Ceremony** will be held at 7:00 pm.
- **Monday:** Each city has its own profile and a unique set of political problems. You will elect city and county officials who must work out solutions to those problems. **The first two days at Girls State is the roughest, stick with it, it gets better.**



- **Tuesday:** your party convention - finalize platform & select candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and Supreme Court Justices. It can be a very **LONG NIGHT**.
- **Wednesday:** More campaigning. In the evening your city namesake may visit, tours your decorated city and dines with you. City decorations will be judged.
- After dinner **city pictures** will be taken for the yearbook and then **vote** for the candidates you want to govern Girls State. After the voting is tabulated you will be called together for announcements of winners.



# State Capital later ....



- **Thursday** we will be going to the State Capitol for a tour and inauguration of the elected State Officers.
- We encourage girls to **wear** their Girls State shirt with Navy or Black shorts or slacks and comfortable shoes.



# ...later Fun & Games



When you return to MSU you will have lunch then it is time to get back to work balancing budgets, passing bills, reporting news...



In the **evening**, we will have a picnic outside, weather permitting.

Then under the direction of the MSU staff. you can enjoy: **(This may not happen this year so we can finish earlier on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.)**

- a movie,
- play volleyball,
- create a tied-died t-shirt,
- take a trip to MSU dairy store or go to the MSU book store





- **Friday:** back to work on budgets, research for bills being considered. Prosecutors will present their cases in local courts, defense counsel will represent their clients, and all those elected to judicial position will be hearing those cases. In the evening there will be a Talent Show. Each city will select one entry to represent them in the Talent Show.
- **Saturday:** will be a wrap up of those budgets and bills. In afternoon a **Moot Court** and **Mock Trial** will be held.
- **Closing ceremonies** will be held on Saturday late afternoon, where parents may attend. **No Dinner on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

# Girls Nation

- Two delegates and two alternates will be selected to attend **Girls Nation** as Senators. This program is similar to Girls State but is based on federal government where President and Vice President are elected.
- This program is held in Washington D.C. Selections are made from government staff advisors. They are interviewed by Girl State Chairman, Department President, Jack Feldon and Al Vanderburg.



[Checkout Girls Nation @  
http://girlsnation-auxiliary.com/index.asp](http://girlsnation-auxiliary.com/index.asp)



# Packing

- A **notebook** with paper, pens, pencils and a calculator. This is required by government staff.
- **Dressy dress** or two-piece skirt/blouse for opening/closing ceremonies and picture taking on Wednesday.
- **Daytime wear** – MODEST casual clothes such as shorts, jeans, tops and casual foot wear. Many girls like to wear a dress or shirt & blouse for dinner each night but this is not required. **Please avoid skimpy tops and outfits.**
- For day **at capitol** we encourage you to wear the Girls State T-shirt, khaki shorts or slacks and comfortable shoes.
- **Rainwear**, umbrella, jacket, sweater and sweatshirt.
- **Personal care** and comfort, curling iron, hair dryer, radio , fan. Flashlight, toiletries- bar soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant and sanitary items.
- **You can bring** a comforter, stuffed animals, and pictures to make you room “home” for the week.



- **Money** – between \$25 to \$40. Counselors will collect \$5 for “**City Taxes**”, from each citizen to pay for pizza one night, city decorations, and/or birthday celebrations. This is over the cost of Girls State T-shirts, yearbooks, trips to MSU bookstore , Ice Cream Store or vending machines.
  - **Bank your money \*** at Girls State Bank upon registration. We are not responsible for money not banked.
  - **Girls State mementos:** T-shirts, yearbooks, pens, caps, water bottles and Lounging pants will be on sale \*
  - Pay phones in the lobby, calling cards are very useful. **Cell phone** may be brought but they **MUST** be turned off during meetings and after lights out.
  - **Snacks** from home, yes you may.
- \* Available during registration and throughout the week during lunch and dinner except for Wednesday and Friday evenings. Last time to shop or get money out of bank is Friday at lunch.



- Double check your packing list - there is no one to shop for you.
- **Girls are not allowed to have visitors during the session.**

- There will be an **emergency** contact number in the packet you receive in the mail. This is manned 24/7 except for opening and closing ceremonies. Voice mail service will be available during those times.
- **PARENTS** if you have an emergency at home PLEASE **contact the Auxiliary Girls State Office first.**
- We will contact your daughter immediately with any message or have her call home. **We don't want her to be alone for any unwelcomed news.**

- Attending Girls State is a huge commitment. Girls State is a progressive simulation, beginning with your first city meetings on Sunday. If you have **no interest** in learning how the government process and judicial system works, then Girls State may not be for you.
- You will get out of Girls State as much as you are willing to contribute to it. **Involvement is the key**, come with a positive attitude and a big smile.
- **Someone paid \$300 for you to attend this session.** Please present them with a report on your experience, either verbal or written.



- We cannot stress enough that Girls State is a learning experience, not a **summer camp**. There is little opportunity for physical exercise. You will learn a lot, and have fun in the process.
- Try to **get lots of rest before you come**; the program is very strenuous, very early mornings and very late nights.



- Delegates if for any reason you **cannot attend**, it is very important that you **contact your sponsor as soon as possible**, and turn over any information you received. If you can't get in contact with your sponsor contact the Girls State Chairman or the Department Office in Lansing.
- Remember there are alternates willing to fill your spot.

- **Alternates:** don't give up. There is always a possibility that someone will be unable to attend. You could still be called, even on opening day.
- If you are willing to come at the last minute lets us know. Email [rdees29@comcast.net](mailto:rdees29@comcast.net)
- I suggest you obtain some of the forms needed from the [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org) website in advance so you will be ready when called.

# Safety

- PARENTS: please be assured that the safety of your daughter is our main concern.
- MSU has 24 hour security inside McDonel Hall. MSU will keep us informed on safety and weather issues.

It is our hope that all of our citizens will become leaders in our country through their experiences at American Legion Auxiliary Girls State.