



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Girls State



FACT SHEET

The American Legion Auxiliary Wyoming Girls State program is a week-long session of learning about our government - on the city, county, and state levels. It is practical application of Americanism and good citizenship. It was developed from the idea that our youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of our government, and that the individual, being an integral part of the government, is ultimately responsible for the character and success of the government. The American Legion Auxiliary organized the Girls State program in 1941.

The 2017 Wyoming Girls State Session will be held at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne. The session will begin on Sunday, June 11, 2017, and conclude on Saturday, June 17, 2017. Students who are not able to attend for the entire session should not apply for the program. Delegates not in attendance for the entire session are ineligible for elected offices, special awards, and scholarships.

Any female student in the Junior Class, attending school in Wyoming, is eligible to participate, providing she is selected as a Delegate and is sponsored by an American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Unit. This includes students who are being home schooled as long as the local School District has approved their curriculum and classifies them as a member of the Junior Class.

It is recommended that students selected as Delegates and Alternates to Wyoming Girls State receive training, organized by their local American Legion Auxiliary Unit, in Americanism including flag etiquette, campaigning for office, bill writing, and parliamentary procedure. In the past funding has been available to send all alternates, so do not exclude anyone you have trained.

In addition to the Wyoming college scholarships awarded at Wyoming Girls State (University of Wyoming and most of the Community Colleges), the Samsung Scholarship is also awarded to one of the Delegates. The Samsung Scholarship Fund has a \$5 million dollar endowment, which allows for a Girls State and a Boys State winner in each state participating in the program to receive up to a \$1000 scholarship. These state winners are then considered on the national level for an additional scholarship. Annually in the past, 10 national level scholarships in the \$25,000 - \$30,000 range have been awarded. Recipients must be descendants of a veteran with an honorable discharge.

Delegates attending the Wyoming Girls State program become citizens in cities and campaign for city offices. They receive educational training either in the Judicial process by participating in mock trials as a judge, attorney, defendant, juror, etc.; or in the Legislative process by debating bills in the House or the Senate, using parliamentary procedure to amend and pass bills into legislation. Using a two party system, the Delegates campaign for County, State, and Federal offices by holding a Primary & General Election. An Inauguration is held and the Delegate elected as the 2017 Girls State Governor will return to assist with the 2018 Wyoming Girls State Session. The Delegates are also assigned to Girls State Choir and will perform during Inauguration. During the week, through a selection process that involves the Delegates as well as the Girls State Staff, two (2) Delegates will be chosen to represent Wyoming at Girls Nation, a program similar to Girls State, but held on the National level in Chevy Chase, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C. in July.

For additional information, contact the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit Chairman, Girls State Director, Bobbie Swanlund, 5220 Danielle Court, Cheyenne, WY 82009, (307) 287-4546, (e-mail gaswanny@aol.com) or visit the Web Site <http://www.wyamericanlegionauxiliary.org/girls-state> or the Girls State Facebook page.