

American Legion Auxiliary Wyoming Girls State
Social Networking and Media Use Policy

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming recognizes and supports its ALA Girls State participants' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of online social networks. In this context, however, each delegate must remember that participating in the ALA Girls State program is a privilege, not a right. The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is funded and conducted by Auxiliary members who have invested their personal time and money to present this opportunity that will create lifelong learning and memories for those selected to participate in ALA Girls State.

As a participant in this leadership program, you represent the American Legion Auxiliary and are expected to portray yourself, your school, and the American Legion Auxiliary in a positive manner exemplary of this privilege at all times. Any online postings must therefore be consistent with federal and state laws, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming rules, and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State rules, regulations and policies, including the social media guidelines listed below.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Social Media Guidelines

If you participate on a social networking site or use any social media, you are expected to be mindful of and adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Everything you post on any social media or web-based communication program is public information. Any text or photo posted online is completely out of your control the moment it is posted – even if you limit access to your site. Information, including pictures, videos, comments, and posters, may be accessible to anyone else even after you remove it.
2. Think before you post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it's wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed. Post only pictures that you would be comfortable sharing with the general public and for which you have the subjects' permission and the permission of their parents if the subjects are underage.
3. Use caution when adding someone or inviting someone to be a friend, this includes people you don't personally know, fellow students, and The American Legion Boys State citizens.
4. Limit information about your whereabouts and plans in order to minimize the potential of being stalked, assaulted, or the victim of other criminal activity. At ALA Girls State, you may not post information in advance of an offsite event; you may only post information after returning from the site.
5. What you post has lasting consequences and can affect your future. Many colleges' admissions officers and employers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your character because of information you posted including pictures, videos, comments and posts. You are also advised to make your online friends aware of the potentially damaging consequences of information that is posted about you and others.
6. Similar to making comments in person, you should be respectful of what you say online. The American Legion Auxiliary will not tolerate disrespectful comments, pictures, and behavior online, including:
 - Derogatory or defamatory language and/or images.
 - Comments that constitute a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person or that create serious danger to the safety of another person.

- Comments or photos that describe or depict unlawful assault, abuse, hazing, harassment or discrimination; selling, possessing or using controlled substances; or any other illegal or prohibited conduct.
 - Engaging in or pick fights online. Take the high ground at all times.
7. Respect yourself. Respect others. Respect the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

Monitoring and Consequences

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and staff reserves the right to review and/or monitor delegates' social networking sites and postings.

Any violation of a) the law, b) American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming policies, c) American Legion Auxiliary Girls State rules, regulations or policies, or d) evidence of such violation in your online content, is subject to investigation and possible immediate censure by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State staff and/or law enforcement agencies. Internal consequences may include, but are not limited to: notice to remove the posting or content; immediate dismissal from the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program; suspension or dismissal from the American Legion Auxiliary; or legal action.

As an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State participant, I attest that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by this policy:

Signature of Participant

Printed Name of Participant

Signature of Parent/Guardian if above is a minor

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Date signed: _____

A signed copy is required prior to participation and a copy retained by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program