



American Legion Auxiliary Wyoming Girls State

January 2017

Dear Girls State Delegate,

CONGRATULATIONS and welcome to a unique experience in Americanism and Citizenship! The 2017 session will be held June 11-17, 2017 at Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne. Prepare for a whirlwind week of learning, legislating, and leading. We encourage you to come ready to run for office, participate in your party, support your bill and participate 100% of the time.

“What do I do and what do I bring?” Careful reading of the enclosed materials will answer these questions and your training by the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit will cover the others. **PLEASE READ EVERYTHING THOROUGHLY.** Refer to the Check List (Form 19) for deadlines. Meeting these deadlines is essential in our planning a successful session. Forms will be provided to you by the local unit chairman and fill-able forms are available on our website, <http://www.wyamericanlegionauxiliary.org/girls-state>. You are required to pay a \$30.00 nonrefundable processing fee and that should be submitted with your forms that are due on April 1, 2017. Please note that your medical form must be completed May 18-25, 2017 and mailed to the director by May 25, 2017.

A letter to you and your parents will be sent mid-May detailing your Education, Office filed for, and City assignments. This mailing will also include a list of suggested items you should bring with you, photo form, and other pertinent information.

All delegates are required to file for and run for a county, state, national or judicial office. Once you decide which office you are going to run for you should begin working on your campaign speech immediately. You must be prepared ahead of time as there is very little free time to do this once you arrive for the session. Match your interests and abilities to the position and research the office. Props or gimmicks, including audience participation, are not allowed. Use of these items will be cause for disqualification.

All delegates are also required to write and submit a bill. Please refer to the information on bill writing in your packet. Bills are due on May 1, 2017. Please email a copy to gaswanny@aol.com.

If you are a direct descendant, i.e. child, grandchild, great-grandchild or a legally adopted child, of a U.S. veteran who served during a period of war you are eligible to apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. The application can be found on our website, <http://www.wyamericanlegionauxiliary.org/girls-state>. The application MUST be completed online. A high school official must also complete a section of the application. A copy of the veteran's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (Form DD214) or other government documents showing time served on active duty military is required to be submitted with the application. Do not delay obtaining the necessary paperwork. Deadline is May 1, 2017 and applications received after that date will not be considered.

Although the LCCC campus does not appear very large, be prepared for a lot of walking! The week will end with a banquet and Inauguration on Friday evening and graduation on Saturday morning. This requires all delegates to remain on campus until after graduation. If your parents plan to make the trip for the banquet and Inauguration and stay over for graduation, a list of local motels will be provided with the information sent in May. Please note you MUST stay for the entire session to be eligible for awards and scholarships.

The most important thing to bring to the 2017 Girls State session is a positive attitude. We are proud that you want to spend a week with extremely capable peers from across our great state utilizing your talents to the fullest extent. Contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit Girls State Chairman, a past Girls State Delegate, or myself if you have any questions. The entire Girls State staff is looking forward to sharing the week with you at Wyoming Girls State!

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