



Dear Principals/Counselors,

January 10, 2021

Welcome to the 73rd year of Montana's American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program!

Thank you up front for your assistance in spreading the word about this year's ALA Girls State Session to be held **Sunday, June 13 thru Saturday, June 19, 2021** at Carroll College in Helena. PLEASE NOTE: The delegate fee is now **\$325** and the 5-page 2021 application is included with this letter as you need and can also be obtained at <http://mtlegion.org/girlsstate.html>. The webpage also includes additional ALA Girls State resources and information.

This year we will be allowing **recently graduated seniors** to attend the session since their opportunity was cancelled last year. The only caveat is that these girls will not be eligible to go to ALA Girls Nation in Washington DC or compete for the Samsung scholarship.

ALA Girls State is a weeklong program of nonpartisan, non-denominational curriculum. As a Montana participant, the girls are assigned to fictional cities named after gem stones whereupon they embark in the full democratic process of seeking office, holding elections and making and/or enforcing laws. It is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program. Additional activities include Capitol field trips, choir, journalism, special distinguished speakers, mock trial, moot court, self-defense classes, talent show, trips to KTVH studio and visits with veterans. Two girls selected by the delegates and counselors will become our ALA Girls State Senators and have the opportunity to represent Montana at our Nation's Capitol for the week-long ALA Girls Nation.

Completion of ALA Girls State will gain many scholarship and college/university bound students extra consideration on applications as well as empower them to aspire to greater accomplishments. Speaking of scholarships, the delegate who is elected as **Governor will receive \$500** and the **Lieutenant Governor, \$300** courtesy of the Department of Montana ALA.

There is also the opportunity for eligible students to apply for the Samsung Scholarships administered by The American Legion. I have included an information sheet on the scholarship which must be completed on-line at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung>. Paper applications will not be accepted. Students wishing to apply need to fill out all areas required before submitting the application on-line. A **hard copy of the Samsung application needs to be brought to the session for judging** at the State level so it must be completed before coming to ALA Girls State. It is a lengthy, time consuming application so please let your ALA Girls State applicants know about this opportunity as soon as possible in order to give them time to compile the required documentation.

Delegates to ALA Girls State are selected from girls who have **completed their junior or senior year** of high school, have an interest in government and current events, show strong leadership abilities, and have high moral character. **HOME SCHOOLED students are eligible if they meet the above criteria.** The delegate fee of **\$325** may be paid by your local American Legion Unit,

Post, other local organization or the student themselves. If there is not an Auxiliary Unit / Post in your town or a neighboring one, please have the student submit the school endorsed application and fee of \$325 to:

**Registrar Colleen Chlapowski
845 Delphinium Dr
Billings MT 59102**

Applications will be accepted January 15, 2021 until May 15, 2021. Deadline for delegate fee refunds is May 15, 2021. Delegates are required to attend the full session of ALA Girls State from Sunday afternoon to Saturday noon. All delegates must be American Citizens or show proof they are residing in the country legally. If a delegate has special needs, please annotate the application as such and accommodations will be made to the best of our ability.

Colleen may be reached at (406)248-2928 or 4princessc@gmail.com for any questions concerning applications or registration.

We have availability for 275 delegates at Carroll College. Schools are not required to fill the number of delegates available to them but if a school does not intend to fill the allotted number or wishes to have more than their allotted number, please let your local Unit/Post or Registrar Colleen know as soon as possible so that we can maximize attendance and share the experience with as many MT girls as possible. Please do not reallocate your delegates to another school without contacting Colleen first as vacancies are filled on a first come first served basis. Delegates are allocated based on a school's 2019-2020 sophomore girls population: If you have seniors interested in attending, you may double your allotted number of attendees for this year only.

1-25 girls=1 delegate	26-50 girls=2 delegates	51-75 girls=3 delegates
76-100 girls=4 delegates	101-130 girls=5 delegates	131-160 girls=6 delegates
161-200 girls=7 delegates	201+ girls=8 delegates	

After Colleen receives the delegate fee of \$325 and a copy of the application, your delegates will then receive the ALA Girls State Delegate Congratulatory letter. They are **NOT confirmed delegates** unless they receive the Delegate Congratulatory letter.

Thank you for time and commitment for MT ALA Girls State and I look forward to working with each of you to present a fulfilling and enjoyable event for our Montana girls and celebrating our 73rd year of guiding young MT women to become patriotic, knowledgeable stewards of freedom and democracy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by any means below.

Sincerely,

Jen Dalrymple
Director, MT ALA Girls State
Department of Montana American Legion Auxiliary