

What is American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Hoosier Girls State (HGS)?

ALA Hoosier Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. It is a program designed to educate a select group of American young women in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship. Young women who have completed their junior year in high school in an Indiana public or private school are eligible to participate. This year, girls who are completing their senior year are also being allowed to participate due to the 2020 session being cancelled due to Covid.

While the purpose of ALA Hoosier Girls State is to teach the American structure of politics and government, it focuses on the process in Indiana. It is nonpartisan and nonpolitical in that no existing political party is promoted. ALA HGS uses party names that were used in the early days of our country's history: Nationalists and Federalists. You will receive instruction in how the political system works and how the state government works. Indiana's political and government systems reflect the process at the federal level. You will set up a two-party political system, create a pretend state government, and consider legislation.

Of the approximately 400 young women attending ALA Hoosier Girls State, two will be selected to attend ALA Girls Nation held near Washington D.C. in July. From 50 ALA Girls State programs, 100 young women will convene to create a fictitious country, set up the government and pass legislation.

The ALA Girls State program, through the national organization of the American Legion Auxiliary, has been the recipient of the Freedom Foundation Award for outstanding achievement in bringing about a better understanding of the American way of life. This is a tribute to the more than 12,000 young women who are delegates at the 50 ALA Girls State programs each summer. These participants are recognized as leaders in their schools and communities.

ALA Hoosier Girls State is staffed by capable volunteers, who generously give of their time and talent to serve as administrative or counseling staff members for one week each summer on the campus of Trine University. This year you will be participating virtually from your homes!

Eligibility and Selection

The young women chosen for this honor by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit are named as delegates to ALA Hoosier Girls State.

Once delegates register, they will be assigned to one of the two political parties – **Federalist and Nationalist**. (This name change is necessary since citizens are elected as delegates for political party activities.) Citizens learn the political party structure and every citizen files and campaigns for an elective office. Once elected, they serve in that office.

Eligibility for ALA Hoosier Girls State requires an ALA Girls State Delegate should be enrolled in an Indiana high school having completed the junior or third year, and be returning to the high school level setting the following year, be in the upper half of her class academically, and be sponsored by a Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Indiana. Home schooled girls are eligible if they meet the same requirements. **Due to the cancellation of the 2020 session, we are inviting senior high school girls who would have been eligible to attend last year to join us for the 2021 Virtual session, and they must fulfill the other guidelines listed above.**

Qualifications for ALA Hoosier Girls State, includes that a Delegate shall be interested in government, has leadership abilities, is honest, meets scholarship criteria and possess good character. She shall show proper respect to the U. S. Flag and have a love for God and Country.

Expectations of ALA Hoosier Girls State Delegates, include staying the entire ALA HGS Virtual Session, showing respect for the American Flag; participating in all aspects of the scheduled program; following the guidelines and rules of the ALA HGS Board of Directors; giving proper respect to all staff members and all other ALA HGS delegates. Love for God and Country will be broadened by inspirational Flag ceremonies held during the ALA HGS week and all participants are expected to attend these programs.

Citizenship, not politics, is emphasized at ALA Hoosier Girls State, and competition for elective office is the means to an end, not the goal.

“A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman.”

Melinda Gates