

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

History, Eligibility and Selection

ALA Hoosier Girls State is a program designed to educate young women of Indiana in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship. It is a week of living and learning the political system of Indiana through a mythical City, County and State.

The young women chosen for this honor by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit are named as delegates to ALA Hoosier Girls State. In addition, an American Legion Auxiliary Unit may designate other young women to serve as alternates in case a delegate cannot attend the ALA Hoosier Girls State Session.

Once delegates arrive and register, they become citizens of ALA Hoosier Girls State and are 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.

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 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 and Trine University; 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 and non-denominational religious services 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.