



American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of PA Keystone Girls State



Dear Unit President and/or Girls State Chairman:

The time has come to start planning for your selection of a high school Junior who is qualified to attend the amazing Keystone Girls State program, which will be held at Shippensburg University, June 24 to 30, 2012. Keystone Girls State is a top-notch program that offers valuable government instruction and leadership training while providing opportunities to make friendships that can last a lifetime. We encourage you to help spread the word about Girls State and help us get as many young women involved as possible. Our goal is 199 citizens.

A letter is enclosed to be used to contact high schools. Please feel free to photocopy the letter and distribute it to the schools in your area. It is always a good idea to follow-up with a personal interview; take the application with you. If you need additional applications, you may either contact the Department Office or print them from our website at <http://ala.pa-legion.com>.

The website Girls State Section has been expanded. It now contains information about all the activities that occur during Girls State. This will help your potential citizen and your Unit to better understand what happens during the week of Girls State.

Keystone Girls State in cooperation with Adams State College and Clemson University will again be offering the opportunity to acquire up to four (4) college credits. These courses are available to students who attend either Girls/Boys State. The costs to the students are at a considerable discounted cost. These credits are fully transferable to other colleges or universities.

Please be sure to communicate the qualifications and the importance of the program to the principal and/or guidance counselors in your area. The girls that your Unit sponsors are representatives of you and your communities so please take your time and choose them carefully. In order to be considered for Girls State, girls must be citizens of the United States and have completed their junior year of high school. In addition, guidelines require that all participants have never been wed and do not have children of their own. She also should be recognized for her leadership abilities, character, good citizenship and scholarship. The program is strenuous both physically and emotionally so please also consider these factors when making your selection.

An alternate candidate should also be selected in the event of a last minute emergency. No refunds will be given as the Auxiliary has a financial obligation to Shippensburg University. Encourage the schools to make their selections as early as possible before students start to arrange summer jobs and other opportunities. The deadline is May 15, 2012.

Thanks again to our calendar program; we are once again able to keep the cost at \$170.00 per girl. Units should remember that is also the sponsoring Units responsibility to provide transportation to and from Keystone Girls State. Most Units also offer the girls they sponsor some spending money although it is not required. Usually \$25 or \$50 is the norm and should be more than sufficient to cover incidental costs for the week.

If your Unit is financially unable to sponsor additional girls from your area, you might consider connecting with your Legion Post, SAL Squadron, and Legion Rider Chapter. You may also consider contacting other service organizations such as the Lions Club, Rotary, B.P.W., etc. Doing so will help us increase the number of girls who can share in the Girls State experience. However, it is your responsibility to talk with the sponsor and the girls so that expectations are clear. A member of the American Legion Auxiliary should screen all applicants.

Thank you for your efforts that will surely benefit Girls State and our future leaders. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Hrinia".

Melissa Hrinia, Girls State Chairman
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