

 AMERICAN  
LEGION

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AUXILIARY

Magnolia  
Girls State

**78th Session**

**June 7th – June 12th, 2026**

**The University of Mississippi**

**Oxford, Mississippi**

*For God and Country*

**<https://www.alamagnoliagirlsstate.com/>**

# AMERICAN LEGION

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## AUXILIARY

### Magnolia Girls State

ALAMGS Applicant,

I am honored and excited to invite you to apply for the 2026 session of American Legion Auxiliary Magnolia Girls State. Our session will be held **June 7–12, 2026, at the University of Mississippi in Oxford**, and I know it will be an experience you will never forget.

You'll spend the week surrounded by some of Mississippi's most driven and inspiring young women, each bringing their own talents and experiences. Together, you'll build your own government from the ground up, and you'll also get to hear directly from state leaders and other amazing women who have been where you are now. It's a jam packed week of learning and leading, and you'll walk away with memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

Since being established in 1937, more than a million young women have taken part in her state's program. Alumni have gone on to serve as Miss America, Governors, members of Congress, CEOs, and leaders in every field imaginable. But more importantly, every alumna leaves with memories, confidence, and a sense of purpose that lasts far beyond the week. I can personally say that Girls State has profoundly shaped my life, building the skills, vision, and confidence I carry with me today, and now it's your turn to experience it.

Enclosed you will find the online application, along with detailed instructions on how to become a delegate. Please speak with your school counselor for guidance, and I encourage you to apply.

I can't wait to welcome you to this year's session! If you have any questions, please email us at [magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com).

All my best,



Abby Burris  
2026 Magnolia Girls State Director  
American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi

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### Magnolia Girls State Quick Facts:

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi Magnolia Girls State is a week-long program for high school juniors that aims to provide you with the opportunity to learn about government and leadership through hands-on experience. The program involves creating a mock government, including the election of officials, legislative sessions, and leadership sessions. Participants will also have the opportunity to hear from speakers and interact with their peers to develop their leadership, show off their creative ability, and compete for scholarship dollars.

- **Taking Place: June 7<sup>th</sup>-June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **Hosted by: The University of Mississippi - Oxford, MS**
- **Only female high school juniors are eligible for participation.**
- **The cost of attendance is \$275 for registration before April 1. After April 1st, a \$25 late fee applies. Sponsorships are available.**
- **Online application opens on January 1st, 2026.**

**Scan to Visit Our Website for More Info:**



**Scan to Begin Your Application**





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### Magnolia Girls State

## What is Girls State?

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program changes lives by bringing together dynamic young women for an intense week of leadership, patriotism and community enlightenment. The Girls State program is a proven leadership laboratory.

For the fictional self-governing state of Magnolia, delegates/citizens will elect their leaders, write bills for debate, and run a legislative session. In the process, these leaders—class presidents, top varsity athletes, artists, and debate champions—dynamically engage with state representatives and senators.

Two participants from each of the states who hold a yearly session are selected to attend the elite American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington DC in July, with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the President of the United States.

Girls State is where the seeds of patriotism are cultivated in our nation's finest high school girls, by women who care deeply about the future of America and take its leadership seriously. It is where future leaders realize their true potential!

***“Girls State impacted my life and gave me newfound confidence to help my community and society,” said one former Girls State Citizen. “It influenced my career choices and my educational choices. The experience changed me dramatically.”***

**Objective:** American Legion Auxiliary Girls State provides an opportunity for superior high school women who have completed their junior year to experience the “nitty gritty” of state government processes—the chance to live outside the textbook. This program not only instills in its attendees a sense of pride and loyalty in America, but also prepares these women for a career in politics, public service, and excellence along their career path. It is the chance to plunge head-first into democracy, develop sharp leadership skills, and create the foundation for informed and responsible world citizenship.

***“[After attending Girls State], I felt more empowered,” said one former Girls State Citizen. “I had the freedom to make choices for myself.”***

**History:** Since 1937, more than one million politically savvy young women have attended American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. Girls State has produced more successful women than any other girls' citizenship training program in the country.



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**Activities:** Mock caucusing and debating of bills educate young women in the real state legislative processes. Each program is state-run and thus unique to the state in which it is held. Cutting-edge political topics ensure that the debates are relevant, lively, and passionate. Fierce political campaigns are held to elect a Girls State governor, and all State-wide officials and party officials, and pass legislation. Girls also have the opportunity to meet with some of their state representatives and senators, who are genuinely interested in the fresh ideas of these future leaders.

***“I still believe Girls State is the best program for young women,” said a former Girls State Citizen. “It can change their lives as well as teach them about politics and their country.”***

In addition, ALA Magnolia Girls State offers these participation opportunities:

- City project to be judged at the end of the week
- College Day with representatives from state universities, colleges, and service academies
- Service Projects
- Glee Club
- Nightly scheduled social activities

**Other Information:** Three meals per day are provided in the university dining facility; however, only one meal is provided on the days of check-in (dinner) or check-out (breakfast). Delegates will be housed in university residence halls and will share a room with one other delegate. Room assignments are made at random, and we make every effort to place delegates from different schools in different cities to encourage engagement and the formation of new friendships.

***Once the unit sponsorship form and payment have been received, a registration packet will be sent to the delegate by email.***

*ALA Magnolia Girls State is a structured leadership and citizenship program, not a recreational camp. The schedule is full and fast-paced. Delegates should be prepared to manage their time responsibly and participate fully in all activities. If there are concerns about a delegate’s ability to meet the physical, scheduling demands of the week, please contact [magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com).*

Delegates are required to remain within the campus area designated for ALA Magnolia Girls State for the duration of the session, and visitors are not permitted. Smoking, alcohol, and illegal drugs are strictly prohibited. Delegates who drive to campus must turn in their car keys to their Senior Counselor at check-in. **EARLY CHECKOUT/LATE CHECK IN ARE NOT PERMITTED.**



## AUXILIARY

### Magnolia Girls State

#### American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships

Participants of the Girls State program in Mississippi are eligible to receive scholarships from the American Legion Department of Mississippi, which amounts to an excess of \$10,000 total. Several additional scholarships may be awarded by American Legion Auxiliary Units to Girls State Participants. Additionally, the program Director and staff will choose the recipient of Mississippi's Samsung Scholarship, who will then move on to compete nationally.

#### Institution Scholarships

These institutions offer scholarships to eligible participants who attend their schools\*:

##### Mississippi State University

- Girls State Governor and/or Girls Nation Delegate
  - o Award Amount: \$2,000 [one year only]
  - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as Governor to their state OR the state delegate to Girls Nation. Must have a scholarship GPA of 3.0.
- Girls State Scholarship
  - o Award Amount: \$1,000 [one year only]
  - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participated in Girls State. Must have a GPA of 3.0.

##### University of Mississippi

- Girls State Governor and/or Girls Nation Delegate
  - o Award Amount: \$4,000 [\$1,000/year]
  - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as Governor to their state OR the state delegate to Girls Nation
- Girls State Scholarship
  - o Award Amount: \$1,000 [one year only]
  - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participated in Magnolia Girls State

##### University of Southern Mississippi

- Girls Nation Delegate Scholarship
  - o Award Amount: \$8,000 [\$2,000/year]
  - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who are named as one of the state delegates to Girls Nation
- Girls State Scholarship
  - o Award Amount: \$8,000 [\$2,000/year]
  - o Eligibility: Entering freshmen who participated in Magnolia Girls State

**Please check with your institution for available Girls State and Girls Nation scholarship opportunities.**

\*As of 11/1/2025



## AUXILIARY

### Magnolia Girls State

#### **So, Are You Interested in Becoming a Delegate?**

Please follow the steps below to apply for the ALA Magnolia Girls State program:

**STEP 1** - Review our information packet and speak with your school counselor or a local American Legion Auxiliary member.

**STEP 2** - Submit your online application using the QR code provided on page 3 (You will need to upload your High School counselor form. Please ensure you have all of the information ready before starting the application. You will be able to save and come back to the form, but can not submit it without all of the information required. **YOU CAN SUBMIT STEP 3 HERE ALSO!**)

**STEP 3** - Take the 2026 ALA Unit Sponsorship Form along with a resume to your local American Legion Auxiliary or sponsor to be filled out and returned to you to email to the director at [magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com).

**STEP 4** - Submit your payment of \$275 (**\$300 after April 1**) by mailing a check to the Department of Mississippi American Legion Auxiliary Girls State at **511 S Tate St, Corinth, MS 38834** with the delegate's name in the memo or our website.

**All payments must be made by April 20, 2026.**

**ALL PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.**

**STEP 6** - Once your payment is received by Girls State, registration information will be emailed to you. Print and complete the registration packet that will be attached to your email.

**STEP 7** - Submit your completed registration packet using the online form linked within your registration email, and sign up for Orientation.

If the cost of attendance is concerning, first contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit to discuss their ability to cover some or all of the cost. If further assistance is needed, contact local businesses or service organizations. We have an expansive network of supporters and alumni willing to give support where needed. No eligible young woman should be turned away because of the cost. If the cost of attendance is being covered by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit, another entity, or an individual, please provide them with the instructions and mailing address found in step four.

If you face any issues or have any questions throughout this process, please get in touch with us by emailing [magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliagirlsstate@gmail.com)



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## AUXILIARY

### Magnolia Girls State

#### **American Legion Auxiliary Unit Sponsorship Form**

TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT  
& returned to the applicant for submitting to the Director:

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Unit's Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Girls State Chairman's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or PO Box No. City State ZIP

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**If the fee to attend the 2026 session is donated by a local Patron, please provide their name and address for acknowledgment:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
***Signature of Unit President OR Unit Girls State Chairman  
OR High School Counselor OR Principal if no local Unit is available***





**AUXILIARY**

Magnolia  
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**High School information**

Must be filled out by the High School Counselor

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ ACT Score \_\_\_\_\_ Month/Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

High School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Email \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Email \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Signature \_\_\_\_\_