

Plan of Action

2022-2023 ALA MA Girls State

The 2023 program will be held from Saturday June 17th - Friday June 23rd at Stonehill College in Easton, MA. Arrival is between **9 and 10:30 am on Saturday** (first meeting begins at 11) and students will leave campus **Friday morning**. Students are **not** permitted to leave campus for other commitments, so decisions should be made with this in mind.

Sponsorship is **\$350 until April 1st, will increase to \$375 until the final deadline of May 20th**. (Make arrangements with the Director if you have questions or deadline concerns)

**** Be sure to pay attention to above deadlines and the following instructions! ****

Make checks payable to: Department of Massachusetts ALA; **memo:** Girls State

Mail check and attached form to: Andrea Pelletier
Director ALA MA Girls State
PO BOX 128
Wilbraham MA 01095

The selection of your Girls State citizen is vital to the program. It is important that there be a selection process when choosing your Girls State citizens. There have been a growing number who have gone home due to an uninterest, or being uninformed. ALA Girls State affords participants the opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens by informing them about the privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship.

Students are eligible to attend ALA Massachusetts Girls State if they meet the following criteria:

- Will complete their junior year of high school the same year as they attend.
- Interest in government and/or current events.
- Have strong leadership abilities.
- High moral character.
- Above average scholastic standing.
- **Must be able to attend the entire week!**
 - ★ Citizens will not be allowed to leave during the week and return to campus.
Students may not leave early and receive their certificate, nor arrive any later than Saturday.

Partner with schools to provide information on how to identify and prepare potential candidates. The **objectives** of the program are:

- To develop leadership and pride in American citizens.
- To educate citizens about our system of government.
- To instill a greater understanding of American traditions.
- To stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government process.
- To encourage all eligible ALA Girls State citizens (past and present) to join the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Promote opportunity and benefits of membership as a resource for volunteerism.

Orientation sessions are held in each district, or combined districts, and also online, so that citizens and their parents can learn what is expected of them during the week. Through life-like scenarios and hands-on experiences, ALA Girls State teaches students the structure and workings of city/town and state government. They will learn by setting up their city/town, electing their officials, writing and debating bills, and electing their state constitutional officers. They will solve scenarios in their city/town as well as create a budget. There are law, government, and economics courses for them during the week, and a large selection of mini-courses for the students to pick from, all of them taught by staff members from Girls or Boys State.

The American Legion Auxiliary provides a select number of ALA Girls State citizens an educational opportunity by continuing their experience on the national level at **Girls Nation**. They will meet with members of the US Congress and their State Representatives. There is also a chance they could take a trip to the White House.

- Two ALA MA Girls State representatives will be selected after an interview process during the week. The ALA Girls Nation program will be held from **July 22-29 2023**.

*****NO FUNDS may be returned if your delegate decides not to attend, or doesn't show up at the program. We are charged the count given to the college prior to the week's start. It is vital that you choose an alternate as well, so if your first choice cannot attend, you will not lose your funds.*****

**American Legion Auxiliary
Massachusetts Girls State
2023 Sponsor Registration Form**

Please register _____ student(s) for the 2023 ALA MA Girls State Program.
(# of students)

****All sponsorships are taken first come first serve based on available space.**

FEE: \$350 until April 1st (early bird price) **\$375 until deadline of May 20th.** Money must be sent to the Director by this date, unless pre-arranged, to ensure all required paperwork can be collected from the citizen in time.

Send all checks and forms to:

**Andrea Pelletier
Director MA Girls State
PO BOX 128
Wilbraham MA 01095**

Dates of program: June 17 - 13 2023

Where: Stonehill College, 320 Washington St, Easton MA 02357

Limit: 350 students

Name of **Sponsoring organization**, or Unit/Post #: _____

School sponsor will work with : _____

SPONSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

(To receive sponsorship information packet)

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street city state zip

Telephone: _____ (In case I need to contact you about your citizen)

Email address: _____
this is where you will receive your information packet

The initial ALA Girls State information packet will be sent to the person above, using the email address provided. Please contact me if this is an issue.

****The paperwork for the citizens will be found on the website (www.massgirlsstate.org) under "FORMS" in early 2023. Citizen registration packets should NOT be accessed until money is received. NO MONEY CAN COME FROM A STUDENT OR THEIR FAMILY. Funds MUST come from a sponsoring organization!****

(organization can be school, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, American Legion Post, Local VFW, Knights of Columbus, etc)