Purpose

Provide an educational opportunity for young women in the basic ideas and principles of our American government through the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation citizenship programs.

ALA Girls State Core Program

Girls State is a non-partisan program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Since its inception in 1937, nearly one million young women have had the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local government works. June 2021 marks the 76th session of ALA Granite Girls State in New Hampshire.

High School girls who have completed their Junior year of high school spend a week of study, working together as self-governing citizens of a mythical state. They hold elections of public officials on local, county, and state levels and then carry out the duties of their office.

Objectives

Instill a commitment of volunteerism and an awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission and its programs.

- Encourage eligible young ladies to become involved in volunteer projects in their communities that involve veterans, active military or the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Actively encourage all eligible ALA Girls State Citizens to join the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Invite the girls you are sponsoring to join your unit.
- Increase scholarship/funding for ALA Granite Girls State Programs.
- Make a donation to the Granite Girls State Programs
- Ask ALA Granite Girls State Alumni to help and contribute.

Promote the availability of the Samsung Scholarship. The Samsung Group, an International electronics company, has endowed a scholarship fund of 5 million dollars to be administered by the American Legion. Eligibility: Completed Junior year of high school and participate in Girls State or Boys State session (i.e. child, grandchild, great-grandchild or a legally adopted child of a US Veteran who served during wartime.) Each year, one ALA Girls State Citizen from each ALA Girls State Program is guaranteed to be named a Department Finalist and receive a $1,250 scholarship. Ten National Finalists and Ten National Runner-ups are then chosen from the Department Finalists, each receiving a $10,000 and $5,000 scholarship, respectively.

Utilize the Internet, Social Networking Sites and Written Media to increase awareness and visibility of the ALA Granite Girls State Program.

Stay up to date on the latest ALA Girls State programming news and best practices through the “In the Know” eBulletin.
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, party officials, and pass legislation. Girls also have the opportunity to meet with some of their own 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.”

Department Awards/Scholarships

Dottie Hunnewell Memorial Award (for present year attendees of ALA Granite Girls State)
Detachment of NH ALA Granite Girls State Scholarship (for present year attendees of ALA Granite Girls State)
Samsung Scholarship (for present year attendees of ALA Granite Girls State or NH Boys State)

ALA Girls Nation

Two girls are selected from each state to attend Girls Nation. Girls Nation Senators meet for a week in Washington, D.C. They run for political office, campaign for passage of legislation and meet with Congressmen and Senators from their own state, plus a possible meeting with the President of the United States. ALA Girls Nation will be held at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland from July 24 – 31st, 2021.

Resources:

* ALA Girls State Program and Operations Guide – can be found at www.ALAforveterans.org
* www.alagranitegirlsstate.wordpress.com
* www.facebook.com/GraniteGirlsState
* www.facebook.com/ALAGirlsNation
* www.instagram.com/alagirlsnation
* www.twitter.com/alagirlsnation
* www.alagirlsnation.blogspot.com

Department Awards:

Lamont Pierce Girls State Plaque (given in memory of James D. Lamont & Heidi Ann Pierce, through the James E. Coffey Unit #3, Nashua) - Given annually at Mid-Winter Conference to the Unit that sponsors the Granite Girls State Governor.

Ann G. West Girls State Award (donated by PDP Glenda Joyce) – Given to the Unit in Department submitting the best overall Girls State report. Unit chairman is to fill in all questions on the Annual Report Form and provide a narrative not to exceed 800 words and must have their Unit name and number, name and address of the Unit chairman. Pictures may be included. Examples of outlines, letters, newspaper articles and programs should be included, as well as, fundraising ideas.