



American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State Unit Chairperson's Instructions 2023

The following instructions are provided to assist you with delegate recruitment, selection, enrollment, and registration. Please feel free to contact the CGS Director if you have any questions. **Thank you** for your hard work and dedication to the ALA Colorado Girls State Program.

What: 2023 American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State Session

When: Second week of June (TBD)

Where: TBD

Fees: \$265 per delegate (No charge is allowed to the delegate. This price is subject to lowering. If so, you will be contacted.)

Applications: All CGS delegate applications will be completed **on-line**. Students will fill out the application and answer the essay questions. This will go directly to the Registrar who will then match the delegates with the nearest Auxiliary Unit. She will then send the Unit Chairperson the applications.

Due to changes in Youth Protection, The American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State will be implementing new guidelines to protect the delegates, parents, ALA Units and members of the Units, along with the American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State staff.

- When communicating with a delegate via email or text, you must include their parents on all communications. At no time should you have a one-on-one conversation.
- When conducting interviews with the delegates, either have a group interview or require that the parent(s) attend.
- All ALA CGS staff are required to have a background check and to pass a Youth Protection training prior to the ALA CGS session. If any Unit Chairperson would like to take the Youth Protection training, we will be using the Scouts BSA Youth Protection. There is no cost to taking the training and you can click on the following link to access the training. <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/youth-protection/>

Enrollment Deadline: May 1, 2023

Unit Chairperson Monthly preparation for CGS:

January-February:

1. Obtain the following forms so you are familiar with them from the Department Website at <http://www.alacolorado.com/girls-state.html> or via mail from the ALA Department Secretary.
 - Unit Chairperson Information form is to be emailed to register.alacgs@gmail.com. This is important so that CGS staff can communicate with you.
 - Unit Chairperson's Instructions
 - Delegate Rules and Pledge Form
 - Medical Certificate
 - Media Release
 - Krav Maga
 - Dress Code
 - Penny Wars
 - Scholarships
 - Map of college
 - Special dietary restrictions form (Optional)
 - Enrollment Summary Form
 - Colorado Girls State poster . Also prints on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
 - Colorado Girls State brochure
 - Preparing for your week at Colorado Girls State
2. Set dates for contacting schools, application deadline, candidate interviews (not required), and the unit's ALA CGS selection committee meetings. Remember the enrollment Deadline is **May 1, 2023**.
3. Contact school counselors or other school personnel and distribute brochures, posters, etc. Remind them that the applications can only be done online.
4. Contact last year's delegates to help you recruit and build interest in their schools.
5. **FUNDRAISE! Contact previous sponsors and plan fundraising events. This is especially important as the cost of this program rises each year. The fee for each delegate is \$265. Fundraising can also be done earlier such as in the fall.**
6. Send thank you notes and or certificates of appreciation to financial sponsors and school personnel.
7. Have your financial sponsors make their checks payable to your unit. The unit will send only one check with the completed forms to the Department office.

February – April Final selection of delegates

1. The candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Must have completed her junior year in high school (or home school)
- Should be strong scholastically
- Must be residing in the United States legally
- Must be able to attend the **entire week** of ALA Colorado Girls State. Delegates should plan to arrive on the morning of the first day and will not be allowed to leave campus for any reason except for serious illness or death in the family. Do not select girls who have conflicting engagements with ALA CGS.
- Shall be chosen on the basis of leadership, character, courage, honesty, scholarship, and cooperativeness.
- **She must have an interest in government and politics.**

2. The application process should be as follows:

- Applicants complete application form with essay questions online.
- The applications for delegates in your area will be sent to you by the Registrar.
- The Unit Girls State Chairperson and her committee decides on the final selection of delegates. **All girls should be seriously considered for selection.** If the unit cannot afford to send all of the applicants, then their names will be sent to Department headquarters. These delegates will then be matched to units who wish to sponsor delegates using scholarships.
- The names of all delegates and alternates must be sent to Department as soon as possible, but **by May 15th, 2023 deadline.**
- ALA Colorado Girls State reserves the right to accept or reject any applications for citizenship to ALA Colorado Girls State.

3. Delegate requirements

- Enrollment forms must come through an American Legion Auxiliary Unit or The American Legion Post (if no Auxiliary is available). Schools may suggest young women for attendance, but the Auxiliary or Legion Post must make the final selection.
- Notify the candidates of your final decision and refer them to the ALA Colorado Girls State website:
<http://www.alacolorado.com.girls-state.html>
- The medical forms, dietary requirements, and other necessary forms are on the website.
- Delegate manuals will be available online for review prior to the ALA Colorado Girls State session. Please note that these manuals will not be mailed to the delegate. Please highly **encourage your delegates to read these manuals online before going to Girls State** as this will give them much needed information

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Two ALA CGS delegates will be selected to attend the ALA Girl Nation session held in Washington D.C. in late July, 2023. Delegates must plan to attend the entire session of ALA Girls Nation if they are selected as a Colorado Senator.
- The ALA CGS Director, counselors, and JC's will arrive on campus the day before the session starts. You may contact the director on her cell phone if you have questions or concerns.
- Delegate registration begins at 8:30am in the designated site on campus. This location will be on the website. All delegates must be registered and checked into their cities by 10:30am for their first city meeting with their city counselor.

Be sure to turn in your hours, mileage, and expenses on your annual unit reports. Any unit member who serves as a counselor/staff member at CGS can report the 100 hours she spends on campus as a counselor/staff member.

Reminder: Delegate fees are \$265 per delegate.

THANK YOU for your support of American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State!

Questions: Contact
Ann Ritacco, Chairman ALACGSSC
bearquiltco@yahoo.com

Registrar: Kellie Hayes
register.alacgs@gmail.com
719-494-7167