

American Legion Auxiliary CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE

History and Purpose

For over 100 years, the American Legion Auxiliary has been dedicated to helping young women develop core values of good citizenship and civic responsibility through its Girls State program. Since becoming a national program, the Department of Nebraska has been proud to offer young women across the state an opportunity to attend Cornhusker Girls State.

The purpose of the program is to educate youth in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. This is accomplished through the creation of an imaginary state which is then governed by the citizens of Girls State.

Girls State citizens organize their own city, county and state governments and choose their own elected officials through the election process. They introduce and debate their own bills in a legislative session.

Non-Partisan

The program is non-partisan. The political parties of Girls State are "Federalist" and "Nationalist".

Activities

Morning and afternoon sessions are set aside for educational and government training.

Girls will also be required to participate in a community service project designated by Girls State.

Special Presentations

Highly respected public servants, community leaders, and Girls State Alumnae present information on subjects pertinent to the program.

Staff

Counselors and chaperones of the Cornhusker Girls State program are well-trained and experienced leaders. They are American Legion Auxiliary members and/or Girls State Alumnae. They have all passed background checks.

Eligibility and Selection

Any girl who has been a member of the junior class for the 2021–2022 year, and attends a Nebraska school, or is home-schooled, is eligible for Cornhusker Girls State.

A letter is sent out the first business day of January to every high school principal in the state. It requests they explain the Girls State program to all eligible girls. It also asks them to secure a list of those who are interested. Traits to be considered when recommending a student include scholastic performance, leadership qualities, citizenship and health.

Every sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit should ask the principal for the list of interested girls and then make their selection.

The completed application with the application fee will reserve a space for the Unit's candidate. The Cornhusker Girls State Executive Committee has the right to accept or reject any application. No publicity about a student's selection should be made until official notification is received from the Girls State Secretary, which is usually before April 1.

Endorsement vs Sponsorship

Every girl must be endorsed by a local American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Other individuals, civic organizations, and businesses may contribute to the registration fee, but the application must be endorsed by a Unit. There is no limit to the number of girls each Unit can endorse.

Applications are due to Cornhusker Girls State Program Secretary by March 1, 2022

Instructions to Girls

A packet of instructions is sent to each delegate explaining the rules and regulations of Girls State. Additionally, these instructions include the Girls State rules, dress code, campaigning for office and other information pertinent to the week.

Several forms are also included in the instruction packet. These forms must be filled out completely and returned to Cornhusker Girls State by April 22, 2022 unless otherwise directed in the information packet.

2022 Girls State is planning an on-site program once again at the University of Nebraska during June 5-11, 2022. If it is necessary to go to a virtual session, plans are in place and attendance will be recorded through daily sign in.

Once the program is in session, any girl who is unable to follow the rules and regulations will be immediately dismissed.

There is no early dismissal for ACT Testing on June 11, 2022.

Girls that do not attend the complete on-site or, if necessary, virtual schedule of the week will not receive their pin and certificate of completion.

Application & Fee

Applications can be obtained from any American Legion Auxiliary Unit in Nebraska.

The required application fee to attend Cornhusker Girls State is \$400.00.

All applications, along with the required application fee, must be paid in full and submitted by the Unit to Cornhusker Girls State program by March 1, 2022.

Transportation Fee

Some American Legion Districts provide a bus for transportation to Lincoln and home. The cost of this transportation varies and is paid by local Units/Individuals/Delegates through their American Legion Districts.

Refunds

There are no refunds after May 1, 2022, If you cancel without giving notice to your Unit/contributor or organization, you may be asked for reimbursement of the lost fee.

Cornhusker Girls State
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81st Annual Session

June 5-11, 2022



Sponsored by

**American Legion
Auxiliary**

Department of Nebraska