Dear 2017 Girls State Delegates and Parents,

California

G I R L S S T A T E

Congratulations on being selected by your American Legion Auxiliary Unit to attend the 74th session of California Girls State. The session will be held on the campus of Claremont McKenna College from Monday, June 26th through Saturday, July 1, 2017.

Girls State is a non-partisan citizenship development program which will better help you understand how our democratic system of government functions. The purpose of Girls State is to teach our young women leaders more about how the different levels of government, and to help awaken a keen appreciation of the privilege and individual responsibilities of American citizenship. Our hope is that each of you will return to your school next year and share the knowledge and experience with your fellow students. The Girls State program invites active participation of all girls in a “learning by involvement” environment. You learn while setting up your own cities, counties and mythical state. Citizens will be running for office, enacting city and county ordinances, preparing party platforms and passing legislation. In essence, you will perform all duties of our regular elected officials.

We, of the American Legion Auxiliary, want to assure you and your parents that you will be given a week of fun and learning under the guidance of experienced staff members, counselors, and nurses who were chosen because of their ability to work with teenagers. We are a diverse group

of women who return year after year for the excitement and joy we receive from our Girls State

citizens.

Please read the enclosed information concerning travel, medical release, clothing and what to expect at California Girls State. You are required to prepare a bill prior to the session, and information on our website is provided on how to do that. There is also information on our special service project for this session of Girls State. Be sure to go over all the information in this packet with your parents.

The goal of Girls State is not to see how high you can climb on the political ladder, but to prepare you for that day when you will be casting your first vote and assuming the full responsibilities of citizenship. This is a week of learning by doing. No lectures, no books, no test. Each of the days is jam packed with learning, growing, and fun. Be prepared for the experience of a lifetime.

The Staff, Counselors, and I are eagerly waiting your arrival. See you on the 26th of June. Sincerely,

Rhodona ‘Dona’ Enright

California Girls State Director cagsdirector@gmail.com

Sponsored by

American L egion Auxiliary

401 Van Ness Ave., Ste. 319

San Francisco, CA 94102

 [www . ca g i r l s s t a t e .o r g](http://www.cagirlsstate.org/)

**Girls State Basics**

You are expected to arrive on the Claremont McKenna Campus (400 9th St, Claremont, CA

91711) on Monday, June 26th at 9:00am. Please do not be late, as we begin our program at

11:00am after all delegates have moved in.

Medical – Medical attention is provided by a registered nurse on staff. All medications must be checked in with the nurse when you arrive. Parents are responsible for all bills that should arise from treatment, hospitalization, and /or medication and prescriptions that may be necessary.

**Arrival Medical Report must be signed by parent and turned into the nurse upon arrival.**

Phone Calls - In case of an emergency, your family should leave a message with the staff member on duty and the message will be delivered to the delegate. Delegate cell phones can only be used during free time. They will have to be turned off during meetings and general sessions. Girls State phone contact number for the week of Girls State is (626)

221-3123.

Room and Keys – When you arrive on campus you will be assigned a room and city in one of the residence halls. You will room with one or two other girls. There are between 25 and 36 girls in each city. You will receive a lanyard to put your key card and/or key in to wear around your neck at all times. **The college campus charges $20 for any lost key room cards and $20 for lost meal cards. You will be responsible for the cost if you lose them.**

Schedule – The Daily Girls State Schedule is in the Handbook, which you will receive on arrival. All delegates are expected to attend all meetings.

The American Legion Auxiliary is not responsible for lost or stolen articles, either in route or while attending Girls State.

No girl may leave the session (except in case of emergency) until after the Closing

Ceremony - approximately noon on Saturday, July 1, 2017.

For security and safety reasons all Girls State Citizens are required to stay within the designated boundaries of the campus at all times.

Girls State is a closed session. The delegates are not allowed visitors during the week. Delegates may receive and send mail, but delegates are not allowed to receive food deliveries like pizza, cakes, etc. Please do not mail anything after Wednesday as it will not arrive in a timely manner.

The Mailing address will be:

**California Girls State – Delegates name**

**C/O Claremont McKenna College**

**742 N. Amherst Ave. Claremont, CA 91711**

**What to Bring**

Clothing – The key to your appearance is your own good taste as a campus leader. Pack informal clothing such as jeans, skirts, walking shorts, blouses, and t-shirts. Bring a solid red and a solid navy t-shirt or polo shirt for picture day. Political party colors are red and blue, so bring items of each color (scarf, ribbon, skirt, blouse, etc) for party representation. Bring a sweater or jacket as it may be cold in the evening. You need one dressy dress (not formal) or pants suit for the Inaugural Ceremony. You may also want to bring a business suit/outfit for campaign speeches.

Shoes – There is plenty of walking. Bring comfortable walking shoes and socks. Athletic shoes are ideal and sandals are OK. No bare feet!

**Bedding – Bring your own sleeping bag, or blanket and sheets (extra long twin)**. Also bring towels as **NO** linens are provided.

Sundries - Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, personal hygiene products and something to get your items to and from the shower.

Jewelry - Bring a watch so that you will be on time for all activities. Cell phones can only be used during free time. Cell phones may not be used as watches. We strongly recommend you do not bring any expensive jewelry.

Luggage- Mark your name plainly on suitcases, totes, and purses. You carry your own luggage and you may be on the 2nd or 3rd floor of a dorm with no elevator.

Backpack - We suggested a tote-type bag or backpack so that you can carry your wallet, handbook, camera, etc. in one bag.

Supplies - You may also want to bring postage stamps, stationary, notebook, pencils, pens, markers, scissors, tape, etc.

Refillable Water Bottle – Please bring your own refillable water bottle to help keep you hydrated throughout the day. Be sure to label it with your name.

Fan - Not all of the dorm rooms are air-conditioned!! You may wish to bring a fan. Sun Protection - There will be meetings held outside. You may wish to bring a hat or

sunglasses for shade and sunscreen to protect your skin.

Spending Money – This is a decision for you and your family. The Girls State Store is available to purchase clothing and souvenirs with the Girls State logo; a pre-order form is available on the Girls State website cagirlsstate.org. We accept cash, checks, traveler’s checks, and credit cards (card must be in your possession).

Orchestra/Choir/Talent Show - If you wish to try out, bring your musical instrument, music, costume or other props necessary for any talent you would like to share.

Sharing / Friendship time – Bring copies of your favorite poems, prayers or special thoughts to share at city friendship time each evening. Some girls also like to bring yearbooks or family photos.

**Girls State Arrival Medical Form – Signed form must be turned in to nurse upon arrival.**

2017 California Girls State Transportation Questionnaire **Please print clearly!**

Delegate Name High School

Will be arriving at Girls State on June 26th at 9:00am via: (check one)

□ Private transportation (Drop off location 400 9th St, Claremont, CA 91711)

□ Girls State Bus chartered by my ALA unit

□ I’m driving myself (keys must be surrendered on arrival to receive parking pass.

Mileage will be noted)

□ Flying into Ontario Airport\*

Airline Flight # Arrival time

□ Other

Will be departing Girls State on July 1st at noon -12:30 via:

□ Private transportation (Pick up location 400 9th St, Claremont, CA 91711)

□ Girls State Bus chartered by my ALA unit

□ I’m driving myself home

□ Flying out of Ontario Airport\* (book a flight that departs after 2pm)

Airline Flight # Departure time

□ Other

**\*A Girls State shuttle bus will be available from the Ontario Airport for a fee of $15 round trip. There is no discount for one-way. Please make check payable to American Legion Auxiliary and send with returned questionnaire.**

**Please return this questionnaire by June 5 with $15 check (if applicable) made out to the American Legion Auxiliary to:**

Ann Kelley

California Girls State Asst. Director

2075 Spanish Bay Court

Merced CA 95340



Dear Girls State Delegate,

The American Legion Auxiliary has been serving veterans, active duty military, and their families for over 90 years. One of the objectives of the Girls State program is to instill in each

Girls State Citizen a commitment to volunteerism. Each state selects a service project to

work on during their Girls State Session. California Girls State’s service project for this year is providing items for the **Bob Hope USO at Ontario Airport**. Last year over 7,000 troops came

through Ontario Airport during the months of May and June, stopping at the USO for a little

snack and some much needed rest.

Below are suggestions for items that we are asking each delegate to bring. Please bring one or more of the following items to help fill up the boxes that will be presented from this year’s delegates.

**Toiletries**

Travel size deodorant

Travel size shaving cream

**Drinks**

Water (16.9 oz)

Soda (Pepsi, Coke, Diet Coke, Root Beer, Dr. Pepper, Mt. Dew - the favorite) Gator-Ade (all flavors)

**All snacks must be individual sized**

Rice Krispy Treats

Quaker Chewy Granola Bars

Beef Jerky

Grandma Cookies

Austin Crackers w/ Peanut Butter

Austin Cookies & Crackers Variety Pack

Tree Top Fruit Snacks

Variety Nuts

Instant Quaker Oatmeal

Kellogg's Cereal (Individual Boxes)

**Other serving needs**

Dixie Plates (8 1/2")

Ziplock bags to pack to-go snack bags for deployments/training (quart and gallon)

**Miscellaneous Items**

50 new pillowcases

Thank you for giving to help our active duty women and men! Dona

**California Girls State**

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American Legion Auxiliary Department of California

**Arrival Medical Report**

**Girls State Delegate: Please be sure to have both parents or legal guardian(s) sign this form, the day you leave for Girls State.**

**This form must be turned into the nurse when you check in at Girls State. Do not send it prior to your arrival at Girls State!**

I herby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, my daughter,

 , has not been in contact with or exposed to any contagious disease within 10 days prior to departure.

To whom it may concern:

The undersigned, do hereby give permission to the officers, leaders, or agents of California Girls State, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California, to obtain and administer such medical aid or assistance as might be required for the care of our daughter,

 , in the event such medical care, of any emergency nature becomes necessary.

It is further understood that such permission will include the administering of such medicines or treatment as might be ordered or administered by a duly licensed physician of the State of California.

In no event will California Girls State, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California, its officers, leaders or agents become liable for any first aid rendered, or treatment, drugs and medicines or surgical procedures performed pursuant to this consent and the undersigned hereby holds said partied harmless from any liability which may accrue as a result of consent.

Parent Print Parent Signature Date

Parent Print Parent Signature Date

This form must be signed by both parents or legal guardians or reason must be given why only one signature is available, i.e. death, divorce etc.