

The logo for the American Legion Auxiliary. It features the words "AMERICAN LEGION" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Above the word "AMERICAN" are three horizontal red stripes. Below "AMERICAN LEGION" is a thin blue horizontal line. Underneath the line, the word "AUXILIARY" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

Dear School Counselors and Administrators,

The American Legion Auxiliary is one of America's largest non-profit, patriotic organizations for veterans, their families, military troops, and local communities. The Girls State is one of our most prestigious national programs.

This year, the program will take place from June 28 to July 3, 2025, at the University of New Haven. During the event, students will explore the political process by electing officials across all levels of state government and actively participating in a mock government. Participants are assigned to simulated cities and divided into the "Federalist Party" or the "Nationalist Party." The program is fully managed by experienced ALA Counselors, who ensure its nonpartisan, patriotic, and civic objectives are achieved through interactive learning. With the support of local high schools, rising juniors are selected and encouraged to apply for the Boys State/Girls State programs. Candidates with a strong interest in government, current events, and leadership are competitively chosen and sponsored by ALA Units or AL Posts. The ALA in Connecticut launched the first Laurel Girls State in 1944, inspired by the "can-do" spirit of women in the workforce during WWII. With a focus on civic responsibility, many alums go on to pursue careers in politics like yourself. Former participants include Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, Senator Mae Flexer, and President John F. Kennedy. To learn more, please visit <https://www.alalgs.org>

Below are the registration instructions. Please encourage your students to contact the local American Legion Auxiliary Units directly. If you are unsure who to contact, have trouble connecting, or have any general questions, please email us at ctgirlsstate@gmail.com.

For God & Country,
Jessica Abel, Laurel Girls State Chairman/Director



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2025 GIRLS STATE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Location: The University of New Haven - West Haven, CT

Dates: Saturday, June 28th 2025 - Thursday July 3rd 2025

Fee: \$450.00 per delegate (does not include transportation to and from Girls State)

PURPOSE: The purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary Connecticut Laurel Girls State is to educate young women in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship. We teach that a well-informed, intelligent, participating citizenry serves to protect and preserve our American institutions and democracy. Citizens organize their own city, county, and state governments. The young citizens “learn by doing”.

THE PROGRAM: Each day is carefully planned so that each student will have a part in the function of Girls State and the opportunity to learn for herself that her government is what she makes it. The entire program is non-partisan -- the “National” and “Federal” political parties organized during the session are purely mythical and for the sole purpose of enabling the students to set up their own city, county, and state governments, using the existing constitution and laws as guides.

SELECTION OF STUDENTS: The basic qualifications for Girls State candidates are leadership, citizenship, scholarship, and character. Selection should be based on these qualifications rather than on a single achievement, such as excellence in scholarship or athletic proficiency. The selection should be approved by the faculty of the candidate's school and by a school official.

REGISTRATION STEPS:

1. Please encourage your students to contact the local American Legion Posts or Auxiliary Units directly. If you are unsure who to contact, have trouble connecting, or have any general questions, please email us at ctgirlsstate@gmail.com.
2. Units/Posts will work with students to complete the registration form. It will be mailed in.
3. Once our office receives the completed form, selected students will receive an email with the next steps.
4. Complete applications are due by June 6th, 2025.

If you have additional students you wish to send but do not have sponsorships available through local posts or units, please email our Chairman/Director at ctgirlsstate@gmail.com. We have limited additional scholarships available.