



77th AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PALMETTO GIRLS STATE INFORMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Carolina, is pleased to announce the 77th session of **American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State** ("ALA Palmetto Girls State"), to be held on the campus of Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, during the week of **June 9-15, 2024**.

As the week approaches, we will continue monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and evaluating the best way to protect the health and safety of our delegates and staff without compromising the integrity of our program. We will consult with state and local health officials before determining safety protocols that will be in place during the week. Please be aware that the program will involve spending time indoors in group settings. Social distancing will not always be possible, for example, in assemblies, in the dining hall, and in dorm buildings. Protocols in place during the week could include masking, prior testing or vaccine proof, etc. Our team is continuing to monitor the situation and we will make and communicate requirements prior to the week. Please ensure that your potential delegates are aware of both the risks of attending an in-person overnight camp and what precautions **MAY** be in place before they commit.

The week is a hands-on application of government and citizenship. The girls attending ALA Palmetto Girls State (also referred to as "delegates" or "citizens") participate in mock political activities at the municipal, county, and state levels of government by creating the mythical state of "Palmetto."

"ALA Girls State" is a program developed and sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, and ALA Girls State programs are held in every state of our nation. ALA Palmetto Girls State is the South Carolina program and is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Carolina. Delegates are selected by local American Legion Auxiliary Units from across South Carolina. (Note: The term "Unit" refers to a local chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary.) The Unit will undertake its selection process, which may include an application form, interviews, essays, or other means to meet and evaluate candidates. **The ultimate selection of the girls to attend ALA Palmetto Girls State rests with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit.** Therefore, please do not inform any girl that she has been selected to attend ALA Palmetto Girls State. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit will inform the girls selected as delegates to attend this year's session of ALA Palmetto Girls State.

Eligibility of delegates is limited to girls who have completed their junior or third year of high school and who will return to high school as seniors following the ALA Girls State session. Girls who will have graduated from high school before the ALA Girls State session in June 2024 or who will not return to school in the fall following the ALA Girls State session are not eligible to attend. Delegates must either be a citizen or legal inhabitant of the United States. Finally, each girl attending ALA Palmetto Girls State must be sponsored by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit in South Carolina.

As a program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, ALA Palmetto Girls State emphasizes many of the tenets of the American Legion Auxiliary. Among these principles observed, discussed, and practiced throughout the week are the concepts of "God and country," respect for the American flag and South Carolina flag, patriotism, and honoring our United States' veterans. Delegates should therefore be willing to observe and participate in morning invocations, daily vesper services (devotional services), patriotic observances (such as singing patriotic songs and moments of honoring our country's veterans), and showing respect for the American and South Carolina flags (such as saluting the American flag during the presentation of colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Star Spangled



American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State Potential Delegate Application Form



The 77th session of ALA PGS will be held from June 9-15, 2024. Delegates attending will participate in hands-on application of government and citizenship and mock political activities at all levels of government by creating a mythical state of "Palmetto."

If you are interested in attending ALA Palmetto Girls State (ALA PGS), and to help the American Legion Auxiliary make the selection of who will be granted an interview, please complete this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

High School: _____ GPA Weighted: _____

If selected to attend ALA Palmetto Girls State, I can attend the entirety of the program (June 9-15).

YES NO (Circle One)

1. Briefly describe why you want to attend ALA Palmetto Girls? What do you hope to learn from the experience? (Your response should be about 250 words.) (use the back if needed)
2. List any roles of responsibility or leadership positions you have held in any family, school, community, faith-related, employment, or other extracurricular activities (e.g., tutor, babysitter, coach, club officer, team captain, etc).
3. List any school or community extracurricular activities in which you have participated. This may include clubs, sports, school-or-faith-related activities, or jobs.

4. Are you a member of the American Legion Auxiliary? (Circle one) Yes No

Use the back of this form if needed.

Return completed form to Ms. McAllister no later than Friday, 2/23/24.
(Name of person at the school) (Date)

I give my child permission to be interviewed by the American Legion Auxiliary as part of the selection process.

X _____ (Parent/Guardian Signature)

X _____ (Date)