



# American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Girls State



## FACT SHEET

The American Legion Auxiliary Wyoming Girls State program is a week-long session of learning about our government - on the city, county, and state levels. It is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship. It was developed from the idea that our youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of our government, and that the individual, being an integral part of the government, is ultimately responsible for the character and success of the government. The American Legion Auxiliary organized the Girls State program in 1941. Delegates who attend the entire session and complete an essay can apply for 3 college credits granted by Laramie County Community College. **The 2024 Wyoming Girls State Session will be held at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne. The session will begin on Sunday, June 9, 2024, and conclude on Saturday, June 15, 2024.** Any female student in the 11th grade of a Wyoming High School, Virtual High School, or homeschool is eligible to participate, provided she is selected as a delegate and is sponsored by an American Legion Auxiliary Local Unit. It is recommended that students selected as delegates to Wyoming Girls State receive training, organized by their local American Legion Auxiliary Unit, in Americanism including flag etiquette, campaigning for office, bill writing, and parliamentary procedure. In the past, funding has been available to send all alternates, so do not exclude anyone from the training. In addition to the Wyoming college scholarships awarded at Wyoming Girls State (University of Wyoming and most of the Community Colleges), the Samsung Scholarship is also awarded to one of the Girls State delegates. The Samsung Scholarship Fund has a \$5 million-dollar endowment, which allows for a Girls State and a Boys State winner in each state participating in the program to receive up to a \$1250 scholarship. These state winners are then considered on the national level for an additional scholarship. Annually, in the past, up to 10 national level scholarships in the \$10,000 range have been awarded. In addition, up to 10 runner-up scholarships in the \$5,000 range have been awarded. Recipients must be descendants of a veteran with an honorable discharge. Delegates attending the Wyoming Girls State program become citizens in cities and campaign for city offices. They receive educational training, either in the Judicial process by participating in mock trials as a judge, attorney, defendant, juror, etc. or in the Legislative process by debating bills in the House or the Senate, using parliamentary procedure to amend and pass bills into legislation. Using a two-party system, the Delegates campaign for County, State, and Federal offices by holding a Primary & General Election. An Inauguration is held, and the Delegate elected as the Girls State Governor will return to assist with the next summer's Wyoming Girls State Session. The Delegates also participate in the Girls State Choir which performs during Inauguration. Throughout the week, using a selection process that involves the Delegates as well as the Girls State Staff, two (2) Delegates will be chosen to represent Wyoming at Girls Nation, a program similar to Girls State, but held on the National level in Chevy Chase, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C. in the 3rd week of July. Girls Nation delegates will also be expected to return the following summer and be on Girls State Staff. For additional information, contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit Chairman or **Girls State Director, Dawn Kenneda, 941 Pinyon Pl. Sheridan, WY 82801, 307-321-0848, [wgsdirector@gmail.com](mailto:wgsdirector@gmail.com)**. Additional references: the Wyoming Girls State Facebook page or visit the Web Site [http://www.wylegionaux.org/girls\\_state.html](http://www.wylegionaux.org/girls_state.html).