

## PURPOSE and OBJECTIVE

Illini Girls State is a simulation patterned after the State of Illinois; it follows Illinois governmental procedure as closely as possible. It is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship which attempts to teach and inculcate in our youth a love of America and a sense of individual obligation to community, state, and nation. It is a powerful, intense learning experience.

Four hundred girls from various communities throughout the State of Illinois will attend Illini Girls State in June, 2009. They will learn the way a two-party system works. At IGS we have two fictitious political parties, the Nationalists and the Federalists. They will caucus, have Primary and General elections, and participate in a party Convention.

They will elect city, county, and state officials. They will learn the duties of various public offices – their functions, limitations, and powers. They will have their own legislature where they introduce, debate and pass their own bills. They regulate their own cities, enforce their laws, and hold mock court trials.

Each girl has a chance to learn for herself that her government is just what she makes it. She learns the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities as a citizen of Illini Girls State that will help her fully participate as an American citizen.

## WHAT GIRLS STATE IS NOT!!

Illini Girls State is not intended to be a vacation, an opportunity to plan and carry out individual interests, or a flexible schedule.

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be in their Junior year of high school.
2. **The certification on the back of the Application Card must be signed by the high school principal or guidance counselor certifying that the applicant is maintaining a C average or above, possesses qualities of leadership, has good character and is cooperative.**
3. **Applicants must attend the entire session.** Be sure your applicants are **not** planning to take the ACT/SAT test during the session or leave for any camp or social function.
4. Each applicant must be willing to pledge allegiance to the Flag of our Country and to abide by all rules of Illini Girls State.
5. Any Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary may sponsor a girl. Units may send a second girl if space is available on a first come, first served basis. Outside organizations or individuals are welcome to fund Unit sponsored girls, if the quota of girls is not filled by May 1, 2009. Department Headquarters will accept registration fees with the understanding that they will be returned if space is not available.
6. After the Girls State Session, each girl will be expected to appear before her sponsoring organization to give a report on her experiences at Girls State.

7. It is a rule of the IGS Commission that the selection of the girl must be based on fairness to every eligible girl and the selection should not be limited to Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary or members of Legion or Auxiliary families.

## APPLICATION -- WAIVER -- FEE

1. APPLICATION must be submitted to American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, P.O. Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702-1426 **PRIOR TO MAY 1, 2009** or until the quota of girls is reached.
2. It is important that you select an ALTERNATE at the time you select your applicant to represent your Unit at Girls State in case your applicant should find it impossible to attend, due to unforeseen circumstances.
3. A qualified alternate will be accepted until opening session, Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. **Registration fees WILL NOT be refunded after June 1, 2009.**
4. The waiver must be signed by parent or guardian absolving the American Legion Auxiliary of all responsibility in case of accident or injury to the girl while attending Illini Girls State. **A HIPPA statement must be signed by both the applicant and parent/guardian.**
5. The cost per applicant is \$200 and is to be paid by the sponsoring Unit or contributing organization.
6. Units whose applicant will be riding a bus from Gurnee, Summit (Chicago), Joliet, Morton, or Bloomington, **MUST INCLUDE** money for the round trip ticket with the application fee.

## STAFF

The staff of about 60 women includes experienced teachers of civics and government, a counselor in residence for every city, two staff advisors for each county and others qualified to conduct various programs.

## WHAT TO TAKE

1. Dresses, skirts, or dress slacks/Capri's are required for assemblies and meals each day. **NO** shorts, jeans or cargo pants **EXCEPT** at recreation. All shirts **MUST** cover midriff. A formal or semi-formal dress suggested for banquet.
2. Walking shoes and/or tennis shoes are recommended. (Going barefoot is prohibited.)
3. **MUST BRING** bed linen (2 flat sheets, blanket or sleeping bag suggested) and personal items for the week, including towels, soap, shampoo, shower shoes and an alarm clock.
4. If interested in participating in the talent show, bring instrument or other required items. **Girls State does not assume responsibility for these or any other personal items.**