

How will I know where I will be staying?

Upon arrival on campus (between 1 and 4 p.m. on Monday), the girls check in at the registration desk in the North Complex Commons Dining Hall. Room keys are issued at the time of registration. If you lose your key, it will cost you \$30.

How do I get to Girls State?

The girl's family and/or sponsoring organization is responsible for transportation to and from Vermillion.

What if I'm interested in Journalism City?

Eighteen girls having the same qualifications as delegates to Girls State are selected as members of Journalism City. The Registrar must receive applications by **February 1**. Journalists will not count against the number of regular delegates allotted for each school. Information concerning Journalism City is sent to all Units and schools in December.

When do I register?

The registration deadline is April 1 and the fee is \$100. The completed registration form(s) and medical waiver must be sent to Girls State Registrar.

What if I have more questions about Girls State?

If you have more questions about Girls State, you can visit the Girls State website at

<http://orgs.usd.edu/girlstate>

or contact:

Cheryl Hovorka, Director
USD Farber Center
414 East Clark Street, 233 Dakota Hall
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
605-677-5702 (W)
605-665-5635 (H)
605-677-8808 (F)
gstate@usd.edu

Dates to Remember

February 1—Journalism City applications to Irene Hovorka (see address below)

April 1—Fees, completed registration forms and medical waiver forms (please mail all these items at the same time)

Send to: Irene Hovorka
Girls State Registrar
816 Park St.
Yankton, SD 57078

June 1—Girls arrive on The University of South Dakota campus between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

June 6—Girls State ends at noon.



Dear 2009 Girls State Citizens,

I would like to congratulate you on being chosen to participate in South Dakota Girls State 2009. You have been recognized as an accomplished young woman in both your school and community and now you will be given the chance to share your talents with other girls of the same caliber. Your week spent at Girls State is sure to be one filled with learning experiences and memories that will stay with you the rest of your life.

My best advice to you coming into this week is to bring an ambitious attitude to get involved. Girls State presents many opportunities if you put yourself out there and take advantage of everything it has to offer. The more you do, the more you will learn and appreciate this wonderful opportunity. Your week will be what you make of it, and I want to encourage everyone to have an open mind and most of all have fun.

I am looking forward to being able to spend this week with you as you discover how powerful a group of intelligent young women can be. I hope this will be as memorable an experience for you as it was for me, and that you learn more about government while making life long memories and friends in the process. Congratulations again and I wish you all the best at GirlsState 2009!

Whitney Jencks
2008 South Dakota Girls State Governor

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SOUTH DAKOTA GIRLS STATE	
Incorporated Officers	
Sherry Woltjer Department President	Dell Rapids
Pat Coyle Department Secretary	Huron
Cheryl Hovorka Director and Chair	Yankton
Shirley Baker President of Girls State Corporation	
Twila Dvorak Vice President	Winner
Mary Jane Scherschligt Secretary and Treasurer	Alpena
Mary Ewing Dean of Counselors	Aberdeen
Irene Hovorka Registrar	Yankton

63RD ANNUAL
SOUTH DAKOTA
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
GIRLS STATE

*A Citizenship Program
for Young Women*



The University of South Dakota
Vermillion, South Dakota
June 1 – 6, 2009

63RD ANNUAL SOUTH DAKOTA GIRLS STATE

A Citizenship Program for Young Women



You probably have questions about what Girls State is all about. This brochure should answer your questions and stimulate your interest in finding out more about this unique opportunity!

What is South Dakota Girls State?

Girls State brings together the best girls from all over the state of South Dakota to experience a week of intensive training in citizenship and government. In essence, Girls State is a laboratory of political science. Each participant takes an active part in the week's activities and learns that her government is just what she makes it. As future voters and office holders, Girls Staters gain a thorough understanding of the workings of government.

How long does Girls State last?

This year's session runs from Monday, June 1, to Saturday, June 6. Participants check in from 1–4 p.m. on Monday and are finished at noon on Saturday.

Who is eligible to attend Girls State?

- Finishing her junior year of high school and one semester of high school remaining;
- High moral character with strong leadership abilities and above average scholastic standing;
- Demonstrate DEFINITE INTEREST IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT;
- Submit a statement of interest form available from the Auxiliary unit;
- Attend the FULL session of Girls State. NO PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED TO

ATTEND OTHER ACTIVITIES during the session. To receive awards, the FULL session must be attended.

Final selection of the delegates rests with the local Auxiliary units. If a Unit selects a girl who requires special needs assistance, then the unit must furnish a full-time aide (over 21 years of age) to assist that delegate, with expenses for the aide assumed by the unit.

What activities are involved in Girls State?

Girls experience government at the city, county and state levels. Delegates are assigned a mythical city, county and political party. Each girl has the opportunity to run for office, campaign (for herself or others), vote and listen to a variety of speakers. At the end of the week, girls attend state political conventions and wrap up the week with the inauguration of the Girls State Governor.

Can I run for office?

Of course! We encourage all girls to run for at least one office. What better way to learn about campaigning than to experience it for yourself. We suggest, however, that you wait until you arrive at Girls State before you decide which office(s) to run for. Pre-made signs and other campaign materials are not allowed. You will have time to make signs during the week.

What else is there to do?

Girls State is mainly a time to learn to actively participate in government, but there are other opportunities to experience. In addition to making new friends, you have the opportunity to join the chorus, participate in recreational activities, share your special talents during the Talent Show on Wednesday night, and earn college credit.

Is attendance required at all events?

Yes. If you accept the honor of attending Girls State, you are expected to attend all events during the entire session. Each day at Girls State builds upon the previous day, and if you miss one part of the week, you would not leave with the full knowledge the other girls have gained. If you are elected to an office, you must be available to carry out the duties of that office throughout the week.

What clothes should I bring?

You will need a variety of clothes for your week at Girls State. You should expect to look nice for all meetings and assemblies; during your free time you can wear casual clothes. There may be several occasions when you want to wear a dressy outfit—if you are running for an office, if you are selected for a special talent presentation, or if you are selected to sit on stage during a General Assembly for a prayer or citizens' panel. Remember to pack for a variety of weather conditions: hot, rainy or cool. Maybe even all in the same week!

A few particular items to remember when packing:

- one outfit for red, white and blue day (Friday)
- a dress or formal for inauguration (Friday night)
- comfortable shoes
- dressy clothes suitable for daily wear, such as slacks, knee-length shorts, dresses, skirts and blouses. You will be expected to maintain a neat and well-groomed appearance each day
- sport clothes for recreation only

What else should I bring?

Remember, you will be gone from home for a week, so pack accordingly! A short reminder list:

- personal items (shampoo, deodorant, razor, etc.)
- towels
- two sheets for a twin bed (bring flat sheets—the beds are long), blankets and pillow or sleeping bag
- notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, other art supplies for posters, etc.
- alarm clock
- rain coat/umbrella
- spending money for pop, stamps, etc. (Suggested amount \$30) Girls State t-shirts are provided.
- any talent items/accessories you may need

Will I need a physical before I come to Girls State?

Each Girls State delegate needs to submit a medical waiver form provided in the Girls State application packet.

