

WELCOME TO CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE – 2024

ARRIVAL

LOCATION

- 2024 Cornhusker Girls State will be housed at Sandoz Residence Hall, 820 North 17th Street, University of Nebraska-Lincoln city campus. Part of the Abel-Sandoz residence hall complex, it is located at 17th and Vine Streets. Visit <http://maps.unl.edu/> for a campus map.
- Girls State activities will be held in the Abel-Sandoz complex, Willa Cather Dining Complex Red Cloud Room and other campus facilities or locations as assigned.

PARKING FOR ARRIVAL / DROP OFF

There are a limited number of parking spaces for unloading on the east side of Sandoz Hall. Girls State staff will be available to direct you to parking. There is construction happening close by so if things change you will be notified via email.

PARKING FOR THE WEEK - CITIZEN

- Any citizen driving to Girls State must park in the designated UNL parking lot. Your Counselor will provide you with a parking permit. Counselors will verify that your car is parked in the appropriate area with the hangtag placed on the rear-view mirror. You will not have access to your car during the week. Counselors will secure keys. Unregistered cars will be towed at your expense.
- Parking lots/garages are patrolled by campus security, however, parking on campus is at your own risk. **Girls State is not responsible for any damage to your car.**

REGISTRATION

1. Registration will be held in the lobby of Sandoz Hall from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2024. No late registrations will be allowed as activities will begin immediately.
2. To expedite the registration process, know your floor number. Floor rosters will be posted mid-May on the website – www.cornhuskergirlsstate.com. They will also be available upon your arrival at Girls State.
3. Applications for the Samsung Scholarship will be turned in at this time. No applications can be accepted after the close of registration.
4. The \$25 registration fee will be collected at registration.
5. You will be issued a voter registration card. Registration will then continue on your floor where you will receive your Girls State handbook, identification badge, and complimentary t-shirt.

SANDOZ RESIDENCE HALL

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

- ♦ You will share a room with one other citizen assigned randomly. Please respect your roommate and her property. Exercise common sense regarding noise and lights. Keep your voice low when it might disturb others. Keep your room and your floor neat and clean. Dispose of trash daily.
- ♦ ***Girls State citizens are not allowed to leave their designated floor between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. for any reason, including to campaign. It is important that your counselors know where you are at all times. In the event of weather or other emergency, counselors must account for all citizens.***

MEALS

Please eat lunch on Sunday, June 2, before arriving at Girls State. The Sunday evening meal will be a pizza party on each floor as part of the get-acquainted town meeting. All other meals are served at the Abel-Sandoz cafeteria. Citizens are expected to eat three meals a day. The last meal will be served Saturday at noon. This is an optional meal for citizens and a meal count will be required by Wednesday.

- ✓ **If you have food allergies please note this in the medical information.**

ILLNESS OR INJURY

Licensed medical staff will be on duty 24 hours a day to assist citizens with any medical situations. **Please read the letter from the Girls State medical staff enclosed with this packet.** Girls State is strenuous, both physically and emotionally. Report any illness or medical problem to your counselor or other Girls State Staff immediately. Facilities at UNL Student Health Center, as well as Lincoln medical centers, will be available for emergencies. *Citizens are responsible for any fees associated with the use of these facilities.*

If you are injured before your arrival and unable to walk around campus, please bring a doctor's note with you. If at all possible, please notify Girls State prior to arrival.

MEDICAL STAFF NOTE: *Because of the amount of walking and number of blisters treated by the nurses each year, comfortable walking shoes may not mean flip-flops. They suggest tennis shoes for walking with extra shoes in a light bag/light back pack to change into upon arrival at your destination.*

CELL PHONE USAGE

You may have your cell phone with you, but use of cell phones is limited to break times. Cell phones must be turned off during assemblies, meetings, and other activities. **Girls State is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen cell phones.**

VISITORS

Girls State citizens have organized activities all day and evening, with very little free time. Visitors are discouraged for this reason. If a family member needs to visit you, please contact Girls State in advance to arrange a time to meet. No visitors are allowed above the first floor.

DRESS CODE

PROPER ATTIRE

Girls State is a leadership program. The dress code is designed to maintain the standing and integrity of the program and serves as a reminder to citizens of their role as leaders.

1. Extremely short skirts are NOT acceptable.
2. Short tops are NOT acceptable. Your mid-section must be covered.
3. Strapless or single strap tops and dresses are NOT permissible, unless worn at all times with a jacket or sweater.
4. No logo T-shirts. Exception No. 1 is the Girls State T-shirt. Exception No. 2 is a school logo shirt for the National Guard tour. Exception No. 3 is Friday afternoon Wear R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed).
5. Girls State T-shirts ARE allowed for wear during sessions with appropriate bottoms (skirts, dress pants, dress capris).
6. NO blue jeans and NO gym/athletic shorts are allowed during session.
7. NO rompers. No exceptions.
8. Bring a red shirt for R.E.D Friday afternoon session and picture. Red Girls State T-shirts, red school logo shirts, and red University of Nebraska shirts are acceptable with appropriate bottoms.
9. Blue jeans, shorts, sweats and any T-shirt may be worn AFTER sessions on your floor.
10. Leggings are allowed but may only be worn with an appropriate length skirt or long top. Girls State T-shirts are NOT an appropriate top for leggings.

DRESS CODE CRITERIA

Business Attire: Dresses, suits, coordinated attire.

Business Casual Attire: Dresses, skirts, blouses, long tops, dress pants, dress capris. Dresses and skirts must be of appropriate length. No strapless or single strap dresses or tops, unless worn at all times with a jacket or sweater.

Appropriate Top: Blouses, long tops, Girls State T-shirts. No strapless or single strap tops unless worn with a jacket or sweater.

Appropriate Bottoms: Dress pants or dress capris. Nice khakis are allowed. Skirts of an appropriate length. *No blue jeans. Refer to rule 10 above for leggings.*

Jeans: No tears, holes, or rips please.

Comfortable Shoes: Shoes that are comfortable for walking, and walking, and walking. We can't stress this enough. Flip flops may be comfortable to you, but after considerable walking they do cause blisters. If this happens on the first or second day the rest of the week will be spent trying to cover and heal them. We suggest bringing tennis shoes with a different pair of shoes carried in a light bag/light back pack to change into at your destination.

Please adhere to the dress code. If you are dressed inappropriately your counselor(s) will ask you to change.

DAILY SCHEDULE OF SUGGESTED ATTIRE

SUNDAY

- Arrival and Registration – Casual. Citizens will be given time to change for afternoon activities.
- Afternoon in-Dorm Activities – appropriate tops, appropriate bottoms.
- Opening Assembly – business casual, appropriate tops, appropriate bottoms.

MONDAY

- State Capitol Tour – *assigned* Girls State T-shirt, appropriate bottoms, comfortable walking shoes.
- Girls State Session – business casual, any Girls State T-shirt, appropriate tops, appropriate bottoms.
- Joint Session with Boys State – cancelled for this year.

TUESDAY

- Girls State Session – business casual, any Girls State T-shirt, appropriate tops, appropriate bottoms.
- Group Photo – *assigned* Girls State T-shirt, *preferably* black skirts, black dress pants, black dress capris (but black is not required).

WEDNESDAY

- Girls State Session – business casual, any Girls State T-shirt, appropriate tops, appropriate bottoms.
- Joint Session with Boys State – canceled for this year.

THURSDAY

- Girls State Session – business casual, appropriate tops, appropriate bottoms.
- Capitol and Office Visits – business, business casual.
- National Guard Tour – jeans and logo shirt (Girls State or school only), or any other appropriate top.

FRIDAY

- Court, Legislative, and Girls State Session – Morning: business casual, appropriate tops, appropriate bottoms. Afternoon: any appropriate red shirt. It can be a red Girls State T-shirt, red school logo shirt or red University of Nebraska shirt with appropriate bottoms.

SATURDAY

- Closing Session – suits, dresses, coordinated attire.

GIRLS STATE STORE

STORE

The Girls State Store is open Sunday – Friday. Items available include, but not limited to:

- Short sleeve t-shirts - \$15
- Long sleeve t-shirts - \$20
- crew neck sweatshirts - \$25
- string back packs - \$7
- water bottles - \$5
- sunglasses - \$5
- window clings with the Girls State logo – 2/\$3

Stop in to see what our friendly staff has in store for daily surprises! The cost of merchandise ranges from \$3 to \$25. Cash is the preferred method of payment. Personal checks are also accepted. **Credit/Debit cards are NOT accepted, but there is an ATM located in the Abel-Sandoz lobby.**

MAIL SERVICE

The Girls State Store serves as the Girls State Post Office. They receive outgoing mail, incoming mail, package deliveries, and phone messages. It takes a few days for mail to reach Lincoln and go through UNL delivery. Family and friends should send mail no later than Tuesday. The address is:

YOUR NAME – i.e./Jane Doe
Cornhusker Girls State
UNL Sandoz Residence Hall
820 North 17th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

YOU WILL NEED CASH FOR...

- A \$25 picture fee will be collected during your first town meeting on Sunday afternoon.
- Cash (or checks) for purchases you choose to make in the Girls State Store.
- Cash or Credit/Debit cards are accepted in the UNL convenience store, located in the Abel-Sandoz Commons area, for snacks or drinks.

DO NOT BRING VALUABLES TO GIRLS STATE – Such as jewelry and computers. There is no internet access for citizens. Girls State is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen items.

PURPOSE AND PREPARATION

PURPOSE

The American Legion Auxiliary Girl State program teaches young women responsible citizenship grounded in ethics, the principles of our nation's founders, and respect for God and Country. It is an educational program of government instruction and civic leadership.

Girls State is a learning experience for everyone regardless of your prior background in government and politics. There is room for a wide variety of skill and knowledge levels and you will be able to participate fully in the program.

PREPARATION

Inform yourself

- The secret to a successful week at Girls State is preparing yourself. Current issues play an important role in determining party platforms, writing bills and debating issues. Read your local newspaper or news websites to become informed about current state issues, as well as national and international affairs.
- Learn about the duties and responsibilities of the elected and appointed government officials. This will help you decide which office you are interested in. Become familiar with the political party platform and convention process.
- Review basic parliamentary procedure because it is used throughout the week. There is a basic Parli-Pro guide for review you can access on the website.

Exams

1. **Current Events Quiz** – Multiple Choice. This quiz will cover both national and state events as well as contemporary affairs. Information for quiz questions will come from The North Platte Telegraph, Norfolk Daily News, and the Omaha World Herald newspapers. Also (NPR) Nebraska Public Radio and Nebraska Public Television.
2. **Government Exam** - Information for this exam can be found in the latest edition of the **Nebraska Blue Book**. This is available in your local school library, public library, OR online at www.nebraska.gov.

Orientation Meetings

We are continuing to keep our orientations online this year.

There is a pre-recorded orientation videos that are available for you to view under the Orientation tab.

The video is intended to be watched after you have completed your registration online. as there is a ton of info in this packet. After you have watched the orientation video, we will be hosting a series of three online zoom sessions where attendees/parents/guardians/sponsors may join any one of the sessions to ask any questions that they have about Girls State.

The Q/A sessions will be held:

- Sunday, April 14th7:00 PM CT
- Thursday, April 25th7:30 PM CT
- Tuesday, May 7th8:30 PM CT

Zoom links for each Q/A session will be posted with the orientation videos. Please be checking. We will take attendance and expect girls to attend.

Any questions that come from these sessions will be added to the FAQ Orientation page on the website for future reference.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Vice Chairmen:

- Shelby Luettel, 402-366-0889 or shelbymae_22@hotmail.com
- Vicki Colson, 308-289-4836 or colson.vicki@yahoo.com



ACTIVITIES

Girls State offers several fun, more relaxed activities during the week. Media/Newspaper, and Community Service (volunteer projects), Places of Interest, or some games will be held simultaneously on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. You must participate in one activity. You may participate in only one activity.

- ✓ **During your registration sign-up you will be asked to choose one activity to participate in.**

POLITICAL PARTIES – Nationalist (blue) / Federalist (gold)

You will be assigned to either the Nationalist or Federalist Party at registration. You will actively participate in party conventions.

-  Each party will develop a party platform. Plan several planks for your party's platform. What would you like to see happen in the State of Nebraska? These ideas can be the beginning of a platform for your party.
-  You should also come with ideas for bills you would like to see passed by the mock Legislature.

ELECTED OFFICE

Each citizen is required to run for a City, County, or State elected office. Prior to arrival, think about which office you might be interested in. Focus on two or three elective positions. After arriving at Girls State you can then make a decision which position you will file and campaign for.

FILING FOR OFFICE

Shortly after arriving, you will be required to file for the elective office of your choice. Filing for office declares your intent to seek that office. You may only run for one elected office. Select from the following list of elective offices:

State Elective Positions:

- 1 – Governor
- 1 – Lieutenant Governor
- 1 – Secretary of State
- 1 – State Treasurer
- 1 – State Auditor
- 1 – State Attorney General
- 5 – Public Service Commissioner

County Elective Positions: *2023 County names* – Koutz and Ozenbaugh

- 2 – County Assessor....1 per county
- 2 – County Attorney....1 per county
- 2 – County Clerk....1 per county
- 6 – County Commissioners....3 per county
- 2 – County Engineer....1 per county
- 2 – County Sheriff....1 per county
- 2 – County Treasurer....1 per county
- 2 – Clerk of the District Court....1 per county
- 2 – County Public Defender....1 per county
- 2 – Register of Deeds....1 per county
- 8 – *Board of Regents....4 per county
- 8 – *State Board of Education....4 per county

*Board of Regents and State Board of Education are normally elected by District in the State of Nebraska. At Girls State they are elected by County.

City Elective Positions: *2024 City names* – Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy.

- 8 – Mayor....1 per city
- 32 – City Council....4 per city
- 24 – City School Board....3 per city
- 49 – **State Senators....6 per city (City of Kennedy will have 7)

**State Senators are normally elected by District in the State of Nebraska. At Girls State they are elected by city during city elections.

CAMPAIGNING

CAMPAIGN PRE-PLANNING

Campaigning allows other citizens (1) to know your name, (2) the office you are running for, and (3) the reasons you are running for that office. You may make posters and handouts with your name on them, and/or give speeches to get attention. You may also have other citizens assist and support you with your campaign.

- Begin developing your campaign ideas now. Have your election platform and slogan ready prior to arriving. Your own ideas and abilities are always the best.
- County and State offices will participate in whistle stop campaigns. Simple costumes will be allowed for this part of the campaign process.
- You have limited time to prepare campaign materials so keep your ideas simple. Catchy slogans and name recognition is the key.

CAMPAIGN RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. **No citizen should campaign for a Girls State office by letter, social media, or other means BEFORE the Girls State session begins.** Any delegate who disregards this rule will not be permitted to attend. Any known incident should be reported immediately to the Girls State Office.
2. **No campaigning is allowed until AFTER you have officially filed for office at Girls State.** Posters or other campaign materials are not to be displayed or circulated prior to filing for office. **Please follow the social media guidelines posted on the website.**
3. Bring your supplies for making campaign posters with you to Girls State. No campaign materials can be purchased or ordered through the Girls State Store or the Abel-Sandoz convenience store.
4. **All campaign materials prepared prior to arriving at Girls State are not allowed.** This is the policy so each citizen has equal opportunity.
5. **No PREPRINTED, COMPUTER GENERATED, or COPIED campaign materials are permitted.** No photographs are allowed on campaign materials.
6. Plan your campaign materials according to the office you are seeking. If you run for:
 - A. State office, you will campaign on all eight floors.
 - B. County office, you will campaign on the four floors in your county.
 - C. City office, you campaign on your floor only.***NOTE: There will be approximately 40 citizens per floor.***
7. Campaign materials must be hung with approved UNL materials only. Tape and other approved materials will be available on each floor. Remove your campaign signs following your election out of courtesy to those candidates who are still campaigning.
8. Girls State Staff will remove and discard any inappropriate campaign materials.

APPOINTIVE OFFICE

If you are not elected to office, don't be disappointed. You will receive an appointed position. The appointive positions are just as important as the elected positions and government could not function without them.

In real State government, appointments are made by the Governor. At Cornhusker Girls State, the Advisory Board makes all appointments. In most cases, the appointment fits the level of the failed office run for.

- ✓ **During your registration process you will have been asked your preference choices for this appointment, if it is necessary.**

INAUGURATION AND OFFICE VISITS

INAUGURATION: On Thursday afternoon Girls State Citizens and staff will walk to the State Capitol for the inauguration ceremony of the Girls State Governor.

OFFICE VISITS: Following Inauguration, citizens will be dismissed, in a designated order, to visit the office that corresponds to their elected or appointed position. Most office locations include:

- a) City of Lincoln Office building
- b) Lancaster County Office building
- c) State Capitol building
- d) State Office building(s)

Girls State staff and/or personnel from the various Departments will escort citizens to their respective offices. Transportation will be provided to offices located beyond walking distance of the Capitol.

CLOSING SESSION

Closing session will be held on Saturday, June 8, at 9:00 a.m., in the Red Cloud Room located in the Willa Cather Dining Complex. Certificates, pins, and awards will be presented. Bills introduced and passed by the Girls State Legislature will be reported.

- ❖ **There is no extra seating at the Red Cloud Room for closing session. Parents should wait to pick up after dismissal at the dorm.**

DEPARTURE

CHECK-OUT:

- Girls State officially ends following the closing session at the Red Cloud Room in the Willa Cather Dining Complex. Check-out at Sandoz Hall begins at approximately 10:00 am. Your counselor will provide check-out instructions. **All Girls State citizens must be checked out and gone from campus by 2:00 pm. Preferably sooner.**

- Citizens must return home in the same manner in which they arrived. If your parents brought you to Girls State on Sunday, we will expect them to pick you up on Saturday. If you will be returning home with someone else, Girls State officials must be notified **by your parent/guardian** and a permission slip **from your parent/guardian** provided to the Girls State Secretary. If you rode the bus and your parents will be picking you up, please notify the person in your area/district arranging the bus transportation. Do this **prior to leaving for Girls State**, so the area/district and the drivers are aware.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZENS

GIRLS NATION.....Girls Nation is a continuation of your Girls State experience, but with concentration on national government. In order to attend this unique Federal government session, you must first attend Girls State. During the Girls State session, two Girls Nation Senators will be selected to represent Nebraska. The selection is made by fellow delegates and staff.

- Girls Nation delegates must be knowledgeable about national and international affairs, able to prepare and present a bill, and be experienced in using parliamentary procedure. The process also includes an interview.
- The Girls Nation program is funded by the national organization of the American Legion Auxiliary with support from each participating state. Little or no expense is required of the selected participants or their families.
- The 2023 session of Girls Nation will be held July 20-27, 2024, in Washington, DC. Citizens are asked to confirm their availability on these dates before deciding to run/apply for Girls Nation.
- Information about Girls Nation will be provided during Girls State week. You may also go to alaforveterans.org/ALA-Girls-Nation for additional information.

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP.....Information in your Welcome letter outlines the qualifications and instructions for this scholarship. Read the information carefully. All citizens will not be eligible to apply. If you meet the eligibility requirements, fill out the online application form and submit, then print. **NOTE: A printed copy of the submitted application must be brought with you to Girls State in a manila envelope, with your name and floor number on the outside, and turned in at the time of registration.** Late applications cannot be accepted.

Scholarships will be judged during Girls State with the state winner application submitted to The American Legion, National, and announced during closing session. If the state winner is not a national scholarship winner, she will receive a \$1,250 scholarship.

SPECIAL ISSUES

ACT TESTING.....June 8 is an ACT Testing date for 2024. Girls State does not dismiss any citizen for ACT Testing. Please do not sign up for this date. If you leave you will not receive your Girls State pin or Certificate of Completion and your sponsor will be notified.

PACKING CHECK-LIST

When packing for Girls State, keep in mind that you may need to walk a block or more to the residence hall when arriving or departing from Girls State. Please also refer to the nurse's letter (*included in this packet*) for their suggested items to bring to Girls State.

- \$25.00 Delegate fee
- Samsung Scholarship (*if applying*)
- All** information sent to you from Girls State
- ~~Band instrument (*if in band*).~~ **No band for this year.**
- Clothing for the week (*see dress code, pages 3 & 4*)
- Rain gear or umbrella
- Light jacket
- Blanket (*sheets and pillow with case are provided*)
- Towels, washcloths
- Shower caddy or something to carry items to the shower
- Shower shoes/flip flops
- Plastic drinking glass
- Toiletries/soap/ feminine hygiene items (*shower items must be plastic – no glass please*)
- Hair dryer/straightener/curling iron
- Cameras + extra batteries (optional if bringing a cell phone)
- Cell phone + charger
- Alarm clock (optional if bringing a cell phone)
- Notebook paper/pencils/pens/highlighters
- Campaign materials (*adhere to rules, page 9*) – Poster paper, markers, scissors, glue, etc.
- Red shirt for Friday afternoon Wear R.E.D (Remember Everyone Deployed) and picture.

NOTE: This list is not intended to specify the only things to bring but is a list of necessary items you will need. If you forget an item, like toothpaste, shampoo, etc., it may be purchased at the UNL convenience store.

NOTE: Cornhusker Girls State and/or the University of Nebraska will not be responsible for any articles lost, stolen, or broken.