

# From Delegates to Leaders: Day One



*The 85th Annual Cornhusker Girls State is officially underway! Delegates gathered for Opening Session, ready to learn, lead, and make memories that will last a lifetime.*

## Opening Ceremonies Kick Off the 85th Annual Cornhusker Girls

The 85th Annual Cornhusker Girls State officially began with an informative and inspiring Opening Session. Delegates were welcomed by the Girls State staff, who introduced themselves and shared what participants can expect throughout the week.

Delegates heard from Lynna Gene Cook, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian, who explained the importance of parliamentary procedure and how it helps meetings run effectively. They also listened to Ruth Hietbrink, Department of Nebraska President of the American Legion Auxiliary, who welcomed delegates and encouraged them to embrace the opportunities Girls State provides.

Throughout the sessions, delegates learned about the Whistle Stop Campaign, a unique tradition that allows candidates to present their platforms and connect with voters. They were also taught how to file for office and run successful campaigns as they prepare to run for office.

The evening concluded with a special presentation introduced the new floor names, each honoring an impactful woman from Nebraska whose leadership and contributions have made a difference in the state.

---

## Welcome to the 85th Annual Cornhusker Girls State!

Whether this is your first time away from home for or you've been counting down the days until your arrival, we are excited to have you here. Over the next week, you will have the opportunity to learn about government, develop leadership skills, meet new people from across Nebraska, and create memories that will last long after Girls State ends.

Yesterday marked the beginning of an incredible journey. As you attend sessions, run for office, participate in campaigns, and work alongside your fellow delegates, remember that Girls State is about more than learning how government works. It is about discovering your voice, building confidence, and realizing the impact you can have in your school, community, and beyond.

This newsletter is here to capture the stories, achievements, and memorable moments that make Cornhusker Girls State special. We hope it helps you celebrate your successes, learn about your fellow delegates, and reflect on the experiences that shape this week.

Take every opportunity that comes your way. Introduce yourself to someone new, ask questions, step outside your comfort zone, and most importantly, have fun. We cannot wait to see what each of you accomplishes during this exciting week.

