



## Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Your daughter has just come in telling you she has been selected to be a delegate and is attending Idaho Girls State. This means you most likely have some questions. Don't worry, we've got the answers.

### **What will she do during this week?**

Girls State is first and foremost an exercise in citizenship and leadership. In order for any government to function, it must have the active participation of its citizens. Your daughter will be actively helping to create a city, county and state government. The delegates will be grouped into nine cities. Each city will be responsible for making its own laws, electing officials, and carrying out its governance. In addition, the nine cities will group together and form a state government and then vote as a state on who will lead them.

### **Will my daughter have any free time?**

Girls State Delegates are women on the move ... morning 'til night. There isn't much free time, especially in the beginning of the week. Building governments from the ground up requires a lot of time and energy. Cell phones are allowed during the day to take pictures, but the girls will only have time to call or text after all the session activities are concluded for the day.

### **If these delegates are building their own government, who is REALLY in charge?**

There is at least one adult counselor assigned to each city. She acts as a leader until the city government officials are elected; then she steps back and acts as advisor to the city. Along with the city mayor and city sheriff, they are responsible for the city's behavior at all times. Thus, at least one of the adult counselors is with the city at all times; she also sleeps on the same dorm floor along with at least one other staff member. In addition to the city counselors, there are other staff members working in the Girls State office, the Girls State store, and the Legislative office. Day and night health consultants are on staff to handle any medical problems that might arise and a local hospital is located only blocks away.

### **What about security?**

The Delegates are housed in three dormitories on the NNU campus. The dorms are locked and accessible only by electronic key cards issued to Girls State staff and select NNU personnel. The dorms remain locked at all times. The Delegates are NOT issued keys to the dorms, or to their individual rooms. Should a girl bring any item which she wants to be secured, she can ask her counselors to lock it up in their rooms. No delegate will be allowed to leave campus at any time and will be either with her city or in her chosen activity at all times. NNU and ALA also provide additional security overnight to ensure the safety of all delegates.

### **What does my child need for the week?**

Each delegate has been given a list of what is needed (and not needed) for the week. This information is also posted on the Idaho Girls State webpage at [www.idahogirlsstate.com](http://www.idahogirlsstate.com) under the Instructional Letter to Girls State Delegates and Parents, Daily Dress Requirements and the Quick Reference Packing Guide. It is recommended that girls NOT bring any expensive jewelry or electronic equipment. She may wish to bring money to purchase items in our Girls State Store. Items include: Girls State apparel, drawstring tote bags (many girls purchase these to carry their Girls State material), and water bottles. There are drink and snack machines in the dorms as well. There is also an ATM on campus.

### **Speaking of food ....**

You don't need to worry about meals while your daughter is attending Girls State. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in NNU's dining hall. Menus vary daily, but there are always fresh fruit and vegetable choices. Any special dietary needs or allergies should be brought to the attention of the counselors and the health consultant.

### **What if she forgets something?**

There are staff members who can go to the local store on Sunday to pick up important items that the delegates have forgotten. If your daughter needs something from home, it can be mailed to her. The address is:

Delegate's Name  
Syringa Girls State  
C/O Northwest Nazarene University  
623 Holly Street  
Nampa, ID 83686-5897

### **Can I visit?**

Friday night is the Inauguration ceremony where guests are encouraged to attend; before the ceremony begins a Flag Retirement Ceremony is held which you are welcomed to attend. The Flag Retirement begins at 7:00 p.m. and the Inauguration at 7:30 p.m. However, during the rest of the week, the events are tailored for the delegates and their cities.

### **What if my daughter can't stay the whole week?**

We know that sometimes plans overlap. However to get the most out of Girls State and enjoy the experience, delegates should plan on attending the whole week. The events held this week are quite unique and it is recommended that Delegates who cannot arrive on Sunday morning or who have to leave before Friday defer their spot to the alternate delegate selected by their sponsor. Also, if a delegate chooses to leave Girls State for any non-emergency reason, she will be asked to refund the attendance fee to her sponsors.

### **Service Project**

This year, the delegates will be making scrapbooks for the residents at one of our three Veterans Homes. These heroes will provide photographs and other memorabilia so we can personalize this record of their life. The delegates will work together to assemble the scrapbooks. We will also be collecting toiletry items for the Veterans Homes. If you would like to donate, please have your daughter bring the items with her to Girls State and give them to her Counselor on Sunday.

### **Scholarship Information**

The Samsung Corporation has endowed scholarships to be awarded to one delegate from each Girls and Boys State in the United States. The State winners are awarded a \$1000 scholarship and are eligible for one of ten \$20,000 scholarships. All applications must be submitted online. No new applications will be accepted on site, only applications submitted online before midnight on June 1, 2016 will be accepted. For more information, please visit <http://www.legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application>. Additional information is available on the Idaho Girls State website ([www.idahogirlsstate.com](http://www.idahogirlsstate.com)).

In addition to the Samsung Scholarship, some universities offer scholarships for Girls State Citizens. Colleges and Universities that have offered these scholarships in the past include: Northwest Nazarene University, Gonzaga, College of Idaho, and Lewis and Clark State College. Check with the scholarship office at universities and colleges you are interested in for scholarships and special opportunities that are unique to you, as a Girls State citizen.

### **College Credits**

The delegates have the opportunity to start earning college credits during the session. NNU is offering “Introduction to American Government” – a 2 undergraduate credit course for \$130.00. The two – one hour classes are held during the Girls State session. A Course Syllabus and application is included in this packet.

Northwest Nazarene University also offers a Concurrent Credit Program, where the delegate can begin to earn college credits while still in high school. Please see their web site at [www.nnu.edu](http://www.nnu.edu) for further information.

In addition to the above opportunities, your daughter is able to earn Leadership elective credits (fully transferrable elective credits to the accredited you select post-high school with the concurrence of your college academic advisor) from Adams State College. More information is included in this packet and can be found at [www.leadershipcredit.org](http://www.leadershipcredit.org).

Clemson University has teamed up with The Ace Network and Boys State and Girls State across the country. The course, Leadership, Citizenship, and Community Service (ED 190), a three credit course is available for \$495.00 (plus a \$25.00 application fee). Further information can be found at <http://www.theacenetwork.com/ed190/>

### **Still have questions?**

We have the answers! Please email the Girls State Session Coordinator at [idahogirlsstate@msn.com](mailto:idahogirlsstate@msn.com) or call 208-342-7066. Please leave a message and we will contact you as soon as possible.