



The 85th session of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State will be held on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL from Sunday June 21st Saturday June 27th, 2026. American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State is a simulation based on Illinois Government to provide citizenship training for girls who have just completed their Junior year in High School.

UNITS SHOULD BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION OF THE CANDIDATES. THIS IS OUR PROGRAM, AND WE ARE THE SPONSORS! When selecting candidates, please be sure they are interested in being there and have an interest in government. Do not make your selection based solely on the fact that the girls are American Legion Auxiliary Juniors or that they are a relative of someone in the American Legion family. APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND THE ENTIRE SESSION!

On the recommendation of our insurance company, The American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State will no longer provide transportation to the session. Delegates and their parents will be responsible for transportation to and from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston!

UNIT INFORMATION

Units are expected to make arrangements with their candidates to attend an orientation session. Parents should also be encouraged to attend. Orientations prepare citizens to participate fully at American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State and help them feel comfortable about choosing to come. Each year citizens who have attended orientation report having a better experience than citizens who did not attend orientation. Orientation for every delegate is mandatory. All orientations need to be given by committee members following the approved script so every delegate receives the same, accurate information.

An orientation registry will be available in the spring at www.alaigs.org to assist Units in determining orientations available in their area. If your units would like to host an orientation, please reach out. You may be as fancy or as simple as you would like to be. We will need dates and contact person so the delegates can register with you for planning. It is the Units responsibility to ensure delegates attend an orientation. Delegates unable to attend an orientation can attend one by Zoom. We host 2 to 3 Zoom orientations in May and early June. Dates will be posted on website and social media pages.

The **2026 ALA IGS fee will be \$400 per citizen.** It is a very exciting week, and we would like to give as many girls as we can the opportunity to participate. You may find another organization, business or family willing to help pay the fee for any citizens you would like to send, but remember, the Auxiliary Unit is the sponsor and must be involved in the selection. If funds are available to send a citizen, but you do not have a candidate, please contact other area Units or Department Headquarters as there may be Units who have a candidate but no funds.

Also, we do not want to turn any candidate away, notify the Department office or the Director and the ALA IGS Committee will find a sponsor.

If you know of a delegate that your Unit will sponsor you can simply direct her to the ALA Illini Girls State website at www.alaigs.org to download an application or give her a copy of the enclosed application. Please make as many copies as you wish of the enclosed application.

We continue to ask Units to send contributions to help defray the cost of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. In order to keep the fees down, we rely on your generosity to contribute anything you can to assist the operation of this program. It is our goal to provide a quality program at a reasonable cost to all future citizens. The ALA Illini Girls State Committee will share our Amazon Wish list in the late winter of items that units and members are welcome to purchase for the session. The list will be shared on social media and in the ALA Today.

UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Send in the \$400 fee now to Department office and select the most qualified candidate or candidates
2. Host an orientation at the Unit, County, or District level. The orientation must be given by a committee member. Orientations will also be offered on Zoom.
3. Please contact your school as soon as possible for candidates.
4. Check into transportation needs for your delegates. Help coordinate carpooling for delegates or offer to transport your delegate to ALA IGS.
5. Publicize! Let your community know about your selection and their return.
6. STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CANDIDATE UNTIL SHE ARRIVES AT ALAIGS.
7. Invite your citizen(s) to report when she returns from ALAIGS.
8. Invite her to become a member if she is eligible. Many delegates are interested in joining and volunteering at Unit activities. Reach out as these would make amazing ALA members.

IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR UNIT TO KNOW

Once the Unit has sent the fee and application to Department Headquarters, the candidate AND parent/guardian will receive an email link to a packet of information by mid-May. These must be filled out entirely and emailed back to the ALAIGS email address provided by June 1st. We try very hard NOT to house citizens from the same school together. Please be sure your candidate knows this in advance.

Citizen Dress Code: skirts, dresses, or dress slacks/capris are required for all sessions and meals. The dress code required is easy to follow once your candidate reads the information. All clothing

is expected to be modest. Dresses and shirts should cover the cleavage and midriff. Skirts and dresses should be modest and not form fitting. Rompers are not allowed. Remind your citizen that she will be walking significant distances on campus daily and will need appropriate shoes. NO jeans or shorts may be worn at any time except recreation. A special or semi-formal dress is appropriate for the banquet. Many girls bring their prom or homecoming dress. Please communicate with your delegates to see if they have any dress code concerns.

Many delegates arrive and do not know this is an American Legion Auxiliary Program. Please make certain your delegate knows who has sponsored them. Keep in contact with them until they arrive at ALAIGS.

The American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State Alumni Association is still seeking anyone that has been involved with or attended American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. If you know anyone who is interested in joining, please have them contact me for additional information.

The 2026 American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State committee is looking forward to a successful 85th session. We know we will have a great group of young ladies in attendance thanks to your efforts.



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