

80th session of Keystone Girls State

2026 Citizen Application

Shippensburg University, 21 – 26 June 2026

Application Deadline: 30 April 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The American Legion Auxiliary's Keystone Girls State is a week-long program designed to educate Pennsylvania's young women on our nation's government and its foundation in Americanism, leadership, and moral character. Throughout the week, citizens will hold elected positions at the city, county, and state levels along with writing, debating, and voting on legislation in House and Senate sessions. Within their cities, citizens create ordinances, and in turn, prosecute any lawbreakers in a mock trial format. As a city business manager, citizens have the opportunity to develop entrepreneurialism and gain personal experience with a free market economy. Moreover, citizens will travel to the state Capitol to meet the Governor or a State Representative and sing the national anthem. Most importantly, citizens will develop relationships that will last a lifetime!

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:

High school girls eligible to participate in the ALA Girls State/Girls Nation programs must have completed their junior year of high school. They must also be a United States citizen or legal resident of the United States as evidenced by a current and/or valid birth certificate, visa, passport, Green Card, or other United States government-issued documentation verifying a legal presence in the United States for at least the duration of the ALA Girls State program. Note, young women who have completed their senior year of high school are ineligible to run for the position of Governor or Girls Nation Senator.

Auxiliary Units will sponsor the \$200 payment unless a citizen is self-sponsoring. If you are involved with your local Auxiliary Unit, please speak with them about your desire to attend the program and if they are willing to sponsor your week at KGS. If you are not aware of your local Unit, you may email us at kgsalapa@gmail.com and we will match you up with an Auxiliary Unit in your region. However, if you would like to bypass the process of obtaining an Auxiliary Unit sponsorship, you may directly pay your \$300 fee.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

(LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL)

Mailing address: _____

(STREET)

(CITY)

(STATE)

(ZIP)

Citizen's Email: _____

Name of High School: _____

GPA: _____ Current Grade (circle one): Junior Senior

Circle your preferred T-shirt size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Do you have someone currently serving in the military (circle one)? Yes No

How are they related to you? _____

Your PA Senator: _____

Your PA State Representative: _____

**Information on Pennsylvania State Senators and Representatives can be found at:
www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/**

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Is this contact the emergency contact (circle one)? Yes No

If not, please provide emergency contact information:

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Emergency Contact Phone #: _____

Travel/Transportation Plans for Students to Attend:

Please check one option below:

☐ Personal transportation via parent/guardian

☐ Citizen will be driving herself

☐ Other: _____

PARTICIPANT AND PARENTAL ACCEPTANCE:

Keystone Girls State participants along with your parent or guardian(s), please read, date, and sign this form. Please note no application will be accepted without this completed and signed form.

We understand and accept the following eligibility requirements:

- ☐ I understand that my participation in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is a privilege, and I will actively participate in all activities and fulfill my responsibilities at ALA Girls State in every capacity to which I may be assigned.
- ☐ I will abide by the rules of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. I will abide by the code of conduct of the facility where ALA Keystone Girls State is held and conduct myself professionally at all times and at all program venues.
- ☐ I will be fair, honest, and cooperative in all interactions with my fellow ALA Girls State citizens and staff. I will respect the judgment and authority of the ALA Keystone Girls State staff. I will participate in all flag and patriotic ceremonies conducted during ALA Keystone Girls State.
- ☐ I understand that I will not be able to arrive late or leave early at ALA Keystone Girls State for any other reason than a medical emergency.
- ☐ I hereby authorize the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) to publish my name, state, and/or any photographs/video taken of me individually or in groups for use in ALA publications, ALA print, online, and video-based marketing materials, and ALA social media. I hereby release and hold harmless the ALA from any reasonable expectation of privacy or confidentiality associated with any images of me as described above that may be used in ALA print, web-based, and social media.
- ☐ I acknowledge that I will not receive financial compensation of any type associated with the taking or publication of any images of me as described above that may be used in ALA print, web-based, and social media. I acknowledge that publication of any images of me as described above confers no rights of ownership or royalties from any image/photographs/videos whatsoever.
- ☐ I understand that I must enclose a \$100.00 check payable to the sponsor within this application, which is non-refundable.
- ☐ I understand that if my daughter fails to complete her week at the American Legion Auxiliary Keystone Girls State program, I must provide her sponsors with a refund of her sponsorship, amounting to \$200.00.

I confirm that I have read and agree to these terms and conditions, required of all participants in American Legion Auxiliary Keystone Girls State.

Citizen Name (printed)

Date

Citizen Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

IN SUMMARY, I UNDERSTAND THAT:

Citizen:

An American Legion Auxiliary Unit and/or other sponsors have paid the fees for me to attend Keystone Girls State. I will enclose a check of \$100.00 payable to the sponsor or a \$300.00 check to the Department of PA. This is not a camp, but rather a simulated government immersive learning experience. I do hereby agree to be in attendance the entire session and to conduct myself according to all rules and regulations established for the governing of the Keystone Girls State. I certify that all information above was thoroughly read and understood, and all the information provided about the student and parent/guardian is correct. In signing below, I verify that all statements checked above hereby declare my consent to the stipulations and guidelines set by the American Legion Auxiliary Keystone Girls State.

Parent/Guardian:

I understand that the fee is non-refundable, and I must provide a refund of the sponsorship amount (\$200.00) to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit that intends to sponsor my daughter if she does not complete the ALA Keystone Girls State program. I give permission for my daughter's name, picture, and/or voice to be used in the promotion of this program in video, in print, and on the internet. I certify that all information above was thoroughly read and understood and that all information provided about the student and parent/guardian is correct. In signing below, I verify that all statements checked above hereby declare my consent to the stipulations and guidelines set by the American Legion Auxiliary Keystone Girls State.

Citizen Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

BIOGRAPHY & PHOTO:

Please include a brief (3-5 sentences) biography and a photo of yourself in your application.

PROGRAM PAYMENT:

If you are going to be sponsored by a unit, please send/provide your application to your sponsoring unit. The Unit will then send a \$200 check and the citizen's application to the American Legion Auxiliary Department office. If you are not aware of your local Unit, please email kgsalapa@gmail.com to receive contact information about your local Unit.

- ☐ I am aware of my local Auxiliary Unit and will send them a \$100 check with my application
- ☐ I have opted to pay the \$300 fee in full. Enclosed is my completed application with a \$300.00 check payable to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of PA (the address is written below in the sponsor section)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR

The Unit, Council, District, Post, other

Name and Number of Sponsor: _____

Address: _____

President/Commander: _____

Unit Girls State Chair: _____

Make Citizen fee of \$100.00 payable to the sponsor, sponsor fee is \$200.00. PLEASE send only one check for \$300.00 payable to:

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of PA
P.O. Box 1285
Camp Hill, PA 17001

TO BE COMPLETED BY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OFFICE:

Sponsor: _____ Section: W _____ C _____ E _____

Council: _____

Party:

NATIONALIST _____ FEDERALIST _____ Date Received ____ / ____ / ____

APPLICATION DEADLINE/POSTMARKED **30 April 2026**

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SPONSOR OR WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR YOURSELF:
PLEASE EMAIL: kgsalapa@gmail.com

For questions or more information, email us at kgsalapa@gmail.com.

If you cannot attend the program, you must notify your sponsor and the Keystone Girls State Chairperson *as soon as possible and no later than two weeks prior* to the start of the 2026 program on 21 June 2026. Failure to do so will result in reimbursing your sponsor \$200.