



July 2014

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As a counselor at California Girls State, a program of The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), I am asking for your financial support of this incredible experience.

California Girls State delegates come from across the state of California to learn about governance at the city, county, and state level. Each delegate is sponsored by a local ALA Unit and is only required to submit a small registration fee, though the sponsoring Unit may even cover that fee when there is hardship. The low cost of attendance and geographic reach of the Units ensures diversity and opportunities for young women who would otherwise not be able to attend a summer program far from their homes.

Historically, the money raised by each ALA Unit for each Girls State delegate was enough to cover the cost of the program. However, in 2012, for the first time, the cost of the program exceeded the money raised. Girls State is run by the ALA Girls State Committee, which has decided not to increase the per-delegate cost at the Unit level. Therefore, while the program costs continue to rise, the money raised by the Units remains the same.

These constraints have made it difficult for Girls State to maintain its current format. To account for the cost differential, a full day was cut from the formerly week-long program in 2013. GSAF is concerned that this trend will only continue, which is why I am seeking donations to restore, maintain, and enhance the California Girls State program.

GSAF, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization based in San Francisco, CA, is run entirely by volunteers. GSAF has previously furthered program by empowering the young women who attend, providing materials, scholarships and matching grants to local ALA Units. GSAF's new goal is to raise \$40,000 in the month of July, which will enable the ALA to #cagsGetOurDayBack!

I firmly believe in this program and its potential to change lives. After experiencing Girls State first hand, I can tell you this program has changed my life. I invite you to make a tax-deductible donation to the Girls State Alumnae Foundation. Please know that your contribution, in any amount, will have a significant impact in making California Girls State the best it can be.

Sincerely,