



What is GSAF?

Since 2006, the Girls State Alumnae Foundation (GSAF) has provided support to California Girls State and empowered alumnae through scholarships and networking opportunities.

Run entirely by volunteers, GSAF raises money to further the California Girls State experience and empower the young women who attend.

Every year, GSAF issues scholarships to delegates and matching-grants to local American Legion Auxiliary units for the sponsorship of more participants. GSAF also fulfills other program needs as they arise.



What is Girls State?

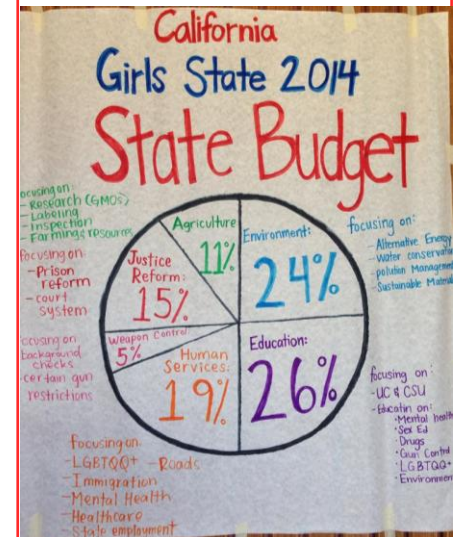
California Girls State is an outstanding, unique, and coveted educational opportunity sponsored by The American Legion Auxiliary. Essentially, it is a leadership program grounded in civics education. The delegates simulate local, county, and state government, from the development of political parties and legislation to elections and jurisprudence. The program also offers a newspaper, choir, orchestra, and talent show.



Girls State Alumnae Foundation

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Are YOU from Girls State?



A 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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Members of GSAF's Board of Directors with our 2014 Matching Grant Recipients.

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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 and is working to restore, maintain, and enhance the California Girls State program.

GSAF is run entirely by volunteers and has previously furthered program by providing materials during the session, scholarships, and matching grants enabling local ALA Unit sponsorship of delegates. GSAF's new goal is to raise \$40,000 in the month of July, which will enable the ALA to:

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Q&A

Q. Who attends Girls State?

California Girls State draws delegates from over 500 high schools across the state. Delegates have completed their junior year of high school and have strong academic records, as well as a demonstrated interest in leadership and community. The program is 50% diverse; and approximately 50% of the delegates are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Q. How is Girls State funded?

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Units across the state raise funds for California Girls State on a yearly basis through small events and donations from local civic organizations and individuals.

Q. Who are the Girls State volunteers?

Women from all over the state and nation donate a full week of their lives and often use vacation days and fly to California in order to serve the program. The staff is comprised of college/graduate students, attorneys, nurses, teachers, legislative assistants, accountants, retirees, business-women, and more. A core group of dedicated volunteers work year round to plan and prepare for the following session.