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E-mail: alabgs@amlegionauxwi.org ♦ Website: www.alabgs.org

October 2020

Dear High School Principal/Counselor,

The American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State session will be held at the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh campus, Oshkosh, WI beginning Sunday, June 20th and ending Friday, June 25th, 2021. This will be our 77th session of promoting this Americanism program and we sincerely hope that your school plans to participate again this year.

Because of the current COVID-19 Global Pandemic, the ALABGS Committee has come up with three possible scenarios for the 2021 session. **We will not know which option will be chosen until Spring 2021, but we are currently planning all three.** The three options are:

1. The American Legion Auxiliary 77th Badger Girls State Session will be held Sunday, June 20th through Friday, June 25th, 2021, at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh campus, Oshkosh, WI. This is normally what would happen, and we would cap participation at 750 delegates. Both Junior and Seniors would be eligible to attend. The consideration to allow Seniors to participate applies only to the 2021 session since they were unable to attend in 2020.
2. We will host the ALABGS session as stated in #1, but with fewer delegates in order to follow the CDC recommendations of social distancing and other precautions. The session would be capped at approximately 400 delegates.
3. We will move the session completely virtual. We will aim to have the same experience of running for office, creating platforms and legislation, and have the delegates meet not only other women from all over Wisconsin, but also have prestigious guest speakers, as they would have in an in-person session. The session would still be one week-long and adapted for the virtual world. Capacity could be expanded but would be limited to the number of paid reservations received.

Your school's sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Post has been sent the 2021 ALA Badger Girls State Reservation and Informational packet. A representative from that Auxiliary Unit or Post should be contacting you regarding your school's plans to participate. They will then complete and submit a reservation form (with the sponsorship fee) to Department Headquarters in Portage by the deadline date of January 29, 2021. **IF YOUR SPONSORING UNIT HAS NOT CONTACTED YOU BY HOLIDAY BREAK - OR IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO SPONSORS YOUR SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR ASSISTANCE.**

To help you promote the program with ALL YOUR 11th and 12th GRADE GIRLS INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE HOME-SCHOOLED, we've enclosed the ALA Badger Girls State brochure and a publicity poster for you to display. The poster is intended to plant the seed and peak student interest in the program while providing them with contact information and the brochure will give them the opportunity to read about the program, discuss it with their parents and decide whether they would like an opportunity to represent your school. Please feel free to make copies. You and potential delegates can also view a video about ALABGS, located on the homepage of our website (alabgs.org).

Delegates must attend the ENTIRE week of ALABGS session. If they arrive late or leave early, they will not be recognized as having completed the session. They will not be eligible to apply for ALABGS scholarships and should not list ALABGS on their college applications.

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In February, a Registration packet containing full instructions and materials your delegate(s) **as well as alternate(s)** will need to register will be sent to **sponsored** high schools. Please help us update our database, by emailing Carrie Thrasher at alabgs@amlegionauxwi.org, as to who receives registration information for your school.

NOTE: SCHOOLS SHOULD MAKE SURE THEY ARE BEING SPONSORED BY AN AUXILIARY UNIT OR AMERICAN LEGION POST BEFORE STARTING THE SELECTION PROCESS.

It is most important to include your sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit in on the choice of your delegate, so they too have contact information for these delegates and alternates should something happen after the school closes for the summer and before the ALA Badger Girls State Session begins. If you have any questions about registration contact Carrie (at Dept. Headquarters) at 608-745-0124 ext. 114.

Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail if you have questions. If I'm unavailable, direct your call or e-mail to one of the following committee members:

- Danyelle Thompson, Chairman- Ph: 920-379-6489 ♦ email: alabgs.chairman@gmail.com
- Jennifer Grinder, Assist't Exec. Director – Ph: 608-495-2733 ♦ email: bgs.asst.director@gmail.com
- SuAnn Pagel-Rast Vice Chairman – Ph: 715-572-4733 ♦ email: alabgs.vicechairman@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Delores Woolf

Delores Woolf, Executive Director
ALA Badger Girls State Committee
390 S. Court Street, Platteville WI 53818
Telephone: 608-348-7403 ★ Email: dwoolf@centurytel.net

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
BADGER



Girls★
S T A T E

JUNE 20-25, 2021

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH



Open To All Eligible Junior and *Senior High School Girls
***(ELIGIBILITY FOR SENIORS APPLIES TO 2021 SESSION ONLY)**

Learn And Put Into Practice State Government

Strengthen Your Leadership Skills

A Unique Educational & Scholarship Opportunity

A Chance To Meet Awesome Girls From Around WI

**CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR
VISIT THE ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE WEBSITE:**

WWW.ALABGS.ORG



Timetable

ALABGS has its own website: www.alabgs.org

October: Promotional materials: Principal/Counselor letter, Brochure, Promotional Poster, Prospective Delegate form. This mailing gives the school the date of the session and promotional material for their 11th & 12th grade girls. The consideration to allow Seniors to participate applies only to the 2021 session since they were unable to attend in 2020.

January 29: Deadline for the reservation form along with (\$350) Sponsorship fee.

February/March: Registration material is sent to (**SPONSORED**) high schools. This mailing includes everything the school needs to register their Delegates & Alternates.

April 1: Delegate/Alternate Registration Deadline.

2021 Session Information for Delegates: Available online at the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State website (February/March 2021). This online material provides complete session details and all required forms. All forms must be filled out completely, signed by parents if required and presented at registration in Oshkosh.

Delegates **WILL NOT** get packets mailed to their homes – if they don't have internet access at home, they should ask their counselors to print it for them. If they have questions or problems, they should contact headquarters (608-745-0124 x114) for assistance.

April/May/June: Orientations will be held virtually this year. Delegate(s), alternate(s), parents, school personnel and Unit members are strongly recommended to watch the orientation video. There are also plans to have online question and answer sessions in the spring where parents and delegates can ask questions the orientation did not answer. Those dates will be posted at www.alabgs.org.

June: **CONTACT YOUR DELEGATE(S) WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF SESSION** – remind her of the session dates, verify she's still planning on attending and ask her if she has any questions regarding the program. This is the best way to make sure your delegate(s) is still your delegate. Forfeiture of delegate fees and most cancellations happen in the two weeks prior to session.

June: Transportation by bus will be arranged in some areas. Northwestern regions - contact Sherry Brasda at 715-533-6125 or sswestbrasda@triwest.net. For the Oconto Falls area, contact Loretta Shellman at 920-373-5853 or shellmanof@plbb.us. In all other areas transportation is the responsibility of the Delegate.

Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to check the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State website for updates: www.alabgs.org

List all Social Studies classes you have had or are now taking, Scholastic and Honorary Awards and all Extracurricular Activities in which you have participated. Be sure to indicate all offices held.

Grade 9

Grade 10

Grade 11

Grade 12 (if applicable)

At the end of my fifth semester, my grade point average is _____ which puts me in the upper half of my class.

High School Counselor's Signature: _____

Selection Committee: Following is the point system, which we encourage you to use.

Point System:

Interest, Leadership, Character, Fitness.....50%

1. Candidate is a **Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary**, the sponsoring organization of ALA Badger Girls State (automatic 10% of the 50%)
2. Interest (Social Studies classes should indicate interest in government)
3. Leadership (Class/Club Offices, etc.)
4. Character... High standard of conduct (cooperative, considerate, courteous); good reputation; dependable; truthful; fine ideals; punctual; interest in family and school; willingness to follow rigid rules.
5. Good health and physical fitness.

Scholastic (not the prime point)....upper half of class.....30%

Extra-Curricular Activities.....20%

(Athletics, Clubs, Speech, Music, Knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure/Roberts Rules)



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

P.O. Box 140, Portage WI 53901

Telephone: 608-745-0124 ♦ Website: www.amlegionauxwi.org

October 2020

Dear School Counselor:

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) was founded in 1919 to support the work of The American Legion. As the ALA moves into its second century of service, we reflect on the impact we made in serving our timeless mission in the past, but also set a course for the future. The ALA sponsors volunteer programs on the national, state and local levels – focusing on the needs of veterans, the military, their families, and our communities. For more than 100 years, our outreach programs have made a difference in neighborhoods across the country; cumulatively, our volunteer service impact in just one year is worth \$1.7 billion!

ALA members believe that a solid educational foundation is the cornerstone of American freedom. The Auxiliary's Education program promotes and supports students in their desire for continued education beyond high school by offering scholarships. In 2021, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin will award approximately \$25,000 in scholarships to children and grandchildren of veterans. In addition, eligible Wisconsin students may apply for scholarships totaling \$17,000 from the ALA national organization, with additional money awarded to selected participants in the ALA Girls Nation program. Please refer to the actual scholarship applications for qualifications and additional requirements (www.amlegionauxwi.org > More > Scholarships) and provide copies of the applications to eligible students.

Wisconsin scholarship applications should be sent to a local ALA unit by **March 1, 2021** for certification and signature. The unit will then forward all completed applications no later than March 15, 2021 to Wisconsin's Education Chairman Lauren Miller for judging. If you need contact information for the ALA unit in or near your community, please call our headquarters office at 608-745-0124, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

National scholarship applications should also be sent to a local ALA unit by **March 1, 2021**. Each local Auxiliary unit will select one winning application and forward it to Wisconsin's Education Chairman no later than March 15, 2021. She will then judge the unit nominations and select one application for competition at the regional level.

If you or your students have any questions, please feel free to contact Education Chairman Lauren Miller at hurricanel Lauren11@gmail.com. **Please note that failure to meet deadlines or submit all required information will result in applications being automatically disqualified.**

Sincerely,

Executive Secretary/Treasurer