



## Ohio Unit Plan of Action

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### Buckeye Girls State

**DIRECTOR**

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**COORDINATOR**

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**REPORTS:**

Mid-Year Report Due  
End of Year Report Due

December 31, 2016  
April 15, 2017

**SEND REPORTS TO :**

**Department BGS Director**  
(address above)

A Board of Directors oversees the Buckeye Girls State Program:

Director	Carol T. Robinson
Department President	Denise Conrad
Department 1st Vice President	Shirley Maurer
Director of Counselors	Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch
Director of Government	Rene' Reese
Director of Health	Deb Patrick, RN
Director of Music & Recreation	Vicky Buck
Director of Public Relations	Shelley Riggs
Department Secretary/Executive Director	Katie Tucker

**SEE BACK SIDE FOR REPORT FORM & NARRATIVE INFORMATION**

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### 2016 – 2017 Department End of the Year Report Form

This form should be attached to each narrative that is submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. If a Unit only completes this form and does not do a narrative, they will still receive credit as having completed a report. However, if the report shows all zero's or blank information this will not qualify as an actual report.

**Please complete the following.** Be sure to give the complete name of your Unit.

District # \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Goal \_\_\_\_\_

Full Official Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit President/Chairman (circle one) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Award Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

#### PROGRAM:

### BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE

**Answer the following Questions or include answers in your narrative and fill in the boxes at the bottom**

- What have you done within your ALA Girls State program to encourage membership?
- What methods does your Unit utilize to recruit the ALA Girls State delegates for membership? Are they effective?
- Does your Unit receive donations or sponsorship from outside of the Legion Family?
- What does your Unit do to solicit successful fund raising outside the Legion Family?
- How has your unit improved your BGS Girls State program this year? In what ways?

#### Program Summation:

Total Number of Volunteers	Total Number of Delegates sent to BGS	Total Number of Volunteer Hours	Total \$ Spent to Promote & Fund BGS Program
			\$

**If you would like to be considered for a Department Citation attach your narrative to this report form. Follow all criteria when composing your Unit Program Narratives. Criteria for narratives are as follows:**

Narrative must be type written in narrative form.

Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates)

Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

Optional-A copy of your Unit ALA Impact Form

**Report Deadline: April 15, 2017**

**Narrative Deadline: April 15, 2017**

**MAIL TO DEPARTMENT BGS DIRECTOR/CHAIRMAN**

Carol T. Robinson

8483 Woodgrove Drive, Centerville, Ohio 45458-1853

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### BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE

The American Legion Auxiliary is working to keep patriotism a part of the education of every child, a patriotism that teaches love of America through knowledge of how our state governments operate. Girls State is a showcase program of the organization.

The Girls State program was organized as a national Americanism activity by the 1937 National Convention. The first Girls State was held in Washington D.C. in 1947. The program is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship. The entire program is a non-partisan, non-political attempt to teach and inculcate in the youth of America a love of God and Country.

American Legion Auxiliary Units in all 50 states proudly host American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship and love for God and country. Students are assigned to mock cities where, divided into the "Federalist Party" and "Nationalist Party," they are immersed in learning about the political process from dedicated volunteers, making sure the program's non-partisan governmental, patriotic and civic objectives are carried out with intense learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and formation of long-term friendships.

Buckeye Girls State is the name given to Ohio's Girls State program. In 1946, the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary chartered the Buckeye Girls State program. The first session of Buckeye Girls State was started in June, 1947 on the campus of Capital University. The purpose of BGS, as written in 1946 was..."to educate young girls of high school age in the duties, privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship; to provide an opportunity for them to live together as self-governing citizens and to participate in the actual functioning of their government..." it is no different today. BGS is one of the largest Girls States in the Nation.

The 2017 BGS session will be held at the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio from June 11 through June 17, 2017. Registration is scheduled from 1:00 – 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The program concludes on Saturday afternoon on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Two girls are selected from each ALA Girls State program to attend ALA Girls Nation. ALA Girls Nation "senators" meet for a week in Washington, D.C., where they run for political office, campaign for the passage of legislation and meet with U.S. Congressmen and Senators from their state. Capping off the week of ALA Girls Nation is a possible meeting with the President of the United States at the White House. This year, ALA Girls Nation will convene July 22 – 29, 2017.

Everyone who is participating in the BGS program needs to be informed and kept up to date on all relevant news, regarding the programming and best practices.

**It is imperative that you read the BGS packet enclosed. All questions may be directed to the BGS Coordinator, Dean Bloxham or the Director, Carol T. Robinson.**

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## What can you do as a member and/or Unit?

### 1. Increase Awareness of the American Legions Auxiliary's Girls State program.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation, is an amazing week of learning for “High School” girls, who are focused on responsible citizenship and love for God and Country. All ALA units should be diligent in spreading the good news about Buckeye Girls State.

The “core” purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State, is to enlighten and educate young women on responsible citizenship, leadership, and love for God and Country. This is accomplished, in part, by immersing the girls in learning the political process of electing officials for all levels of state Government, by allowing them to actively run in a “mock” Government. The girls are assisted in the process by ALA volunteers, who make sure the non-partisan governmental, patriotic and civic objection are carried out through the interactive learning. A significant tool in increasing the visibility of ALA Girls State (and can also be used in recruiting delegates) is to use the internet and social media.

Here are some suggestions:

- Invite the community to a BGS presentation (invite your BGS alumni to participate)
- Submit articles to your local newspaper about the BGS program.
- Use your personal social media accounts, such as Facebook and Twitter to link to any ALA Girls State social media accounts, as well as ALA Girls Nation sites.
- (Twitter - @ALAGIRLSNATION)
- (Facebook - American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation)

If you don't already have one, create a Facebook page, Twitter Account, Instagram and/or other appropriate social media accounts, for your particular unit and promote the sites.

***REMEMBER: Always use social media etiquette***

### 2. Recruiting and Selecting ALA Girls State delegates:

Selecting the right young women to participate in Girls State is a significant part of the success of the entire program. It is each Unit's responsibility to recruit and select a diverse group of girls, who ideally, are active in their community and have a common desire to learn and lead.

Each unit is expected to “assertively” work with High School educators, Community organizers and Church leaders to help identify possible candidates. Key factors in successful recruiting of BGS candidates include:

- Have completed their Junior year of high school
- Have at least one semester left to graduate
- Are interested in government and current events
- Have high moral character
- Possess strong leadership skills
- Be above average in scholastic achievements
- Have a desire to learn

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Once you have identified candidates with the above qualities **ALL** candidates must be interviewed before you select a delegate/alternate. If you need help with this process please feel free to contact Department or BGS Director for assistance.

**NOTE:** Find detailed information about “how” to select great delegates in the 2017 “Guidelines for Selecting Candidates”. Units interview and select the delegates not the school or school counselors.

### 3. Promote the availability of Scholarships/Awards.

Samsung Scholarship – every year, a participant of each ALA Girls State program, who is a direct descendant of a veteran, is eligible to apply for the Samsung scholarship at the state level. One ALA Girls State citizen from each state is named as a department finalist and is guaranteed to receive a scholarship. The amount of this scholarship varies each year. National winners are then chosen from the pool of department finalists, each receiving a \$20,000 scholarship.

BGS Endowment Fund Scholarship – Two (2) \$1,000 BGS Endowment Scholarships will be awarded to two (2) outstanding BGS Citizens.

US Senate Youth Award – 15 delegates will be nominated to the Ohio Department of Education to participate in the US Senate Youth Program. The nominated delegates will compete further in the fall to be one of the two students awarded to participate in the program. Possibility of winning a \$5,000.00 scholarship.

Girls Nation Award – Two Delegates and two Alternates will be selected by the BGS Selection Committee to attend Girls Nation in Washington DC. Delegates attending will play the role of a Senator and introduce a bill to be presented to the Girls Nation Senate. Possibility of winning several scholarships.

University of Mount Union Scholarship - University of Mount Union offers the following scholarships:

- One (1) credit hour to all participants who complete the BGS program and attend the University of Mount Union.
- \$2,000.00 a year scholarship renewal up to four (4) years to Buckeye Girls State graduates who enrolls full-time at the University of Mount Union.
- One internship scholarship at Washington Center in Washington D.C. for 1 year for a BGS alumnus who attends the University of Mount Union.

### 4. How is the program funded?

Girls State Delegates are sponsored through local American Legion Auxiliary Units and Posts of The American Legion. Other interested organizations (co-contributors) in the community may also contribute to this sponsorship. The sponsorship fee covers the full expense of the Delegates meals and accommodations. These contributions and sponsorships are vital to the success of our program.

**Please note:** Co-contributors, **DO NOT** choose the delegates. Units select the delegates, without the input of co-contributors. This point needs to be reinforced, when needed.

The funding process is most beneficial when everyone participates in the effort. Things you can do include, but are not limited to:

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- Ask other veteran, civic or booster organizations to sponsor ALA Girls State delegates.
- Network with schools (charter, private & parents who home school) that have no active units in their communities.
- Ask parents of past ALA Girls State delegates to contribute to the Girls State program.
- Have members to set up a memorial scholarship in memory of a loved one. Your ALA Girls State Chairman or Director can give you more information in this.

### 5. How is the program staffed

Staff comes not only from volunteers of the American Legion Auxiliary but also from the field of education, government, former Girls State participants and people who are interested in furthering the program. Counselors, state and local government, public officials and speakers participate and provide guidance in their respective fields of expertise. If you would like to serve in a staff position please let us know what area you would be interested in and what you feel that you could offer the program. Job descriptions for staff recruitment can be found in BGS instruction brochure included in your BGS packet.

### 6. Membership Recruitment

It is not a requirement that BGS candidates be an ALA member but what a great way to recruit new members! Encourage eligible young women to become involved in volunteering with your unit as you go about assisting the community and the veterans. Explain who we are and what we do... make it fun, interesting and a learning experience ...the next thing you know you have a new member!

#### ALA Girls State Reporting –

**Mid - Year Report** – Each unit BGS chairman is required to submit a narrative by December 31, 2016.

Your narrative should include answers to following questions:

- Have you contacted the High Schools?
- Have you submitted an article to your local newspaper about BGS?
- How many BGS delegates do you anticipate sending to the program?
- Have you had a BGS presentation in your community?
- What have you done to encourage membership from possible BGS Candidates?
- How many BGS alumnae joined your unit after the 2016 session?
- What is the total volunteer hours spent on promoting the BGS program?

**Year -End Report** - Each unit BGS chairman is required to submit a narrative by April 15, 2017.

Your narrative should include answers to following questions:

- How many High Schools did you contact?
- How did you promote the BGS program?
- How many BGS delegates do you send to the program?
- Did you have a BGS presentation in your community? If so, please detail the success of this activity and the number of participants.

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- What have you done to encourage membership from possible BGS Candidates?
- How many BGS alumnae joined your unit after the 2016 session?
- How many of the delegates sponsored this year by your unit were funded by a source outside of your Legion Family?
- What is the total volunteer hours spent on promoting the BGS program?

### **Additional Resources:**

- [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)
  - ALA Girls State Program and Operations Guide
  - Sign up for the ALA In the Know eBulletin and ALA eNews
- [www.buckeyegirlsstate.org](http://www.buckeyegirlsstate.org)
- Department BGS Coordinator or Board of Directors

**SEE THE ENCLOSED MANILA ENVELOPE STAMPED BGS FOR MORE  
DETAILED INFORMATION AND FORMS**

### **DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATE**

One unit certificate will be presented to the unit who best demonstrates how the unit promoted the BGS program based on your year-end report.