



## Ohio Unit Program Action Plan

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### American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State

**DIRECTOR**

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**Mid-Year Report Due :**

**Year-Report Due:**

**SEND REPORTS TO :**

**COORDINATOR**

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Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760  
(740) 452-8245 (work)

Email – dean@alaohio.org

**December 15, 2018**

**May 1, 2019**

**Department BGS Director**  
(address above)

**A Board of Directors oversees the American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State Program, which includes:**

**Director**

**Rene' Reese**

**Department President**

**Kathy Heichel**

**Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**Kristen Little**

**Director of Counselors**

**Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch**

**Director of Government**

**Diann Long**

**Director of Health**

**TBD**

**Director of Music and Recreation**

**Vicky Buck**

**Director of Public Relations**

**Linda Close**

**Department Secretary/Executive Director**

**Katie Tucker**

**Please carefully read the information enclosed in the manila envelope stamped American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State!**

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## 2018– 2019 Department 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.

Department 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. A Unit must submit a narrative in order to receive credit for an award submission or Citation of Merit. Narrative - there is no word count requirement. Simple or elaborate stories will be accepted as a report.			
<b>Please complete the following.</b> Be sure to give the complete name of your Unit: _____			
District _____	Unit # _____	Membership Goal _____	Membership Total As of Report _____
Name of Person Completing Report: _____		Unit Chair. _____	Unit Pres. _____
Phone # _____	Email _____	Membership ID (if available) _____	
Specific Award Name(if applicable) _____			

### Answer the following Questions or include answers in your narrative

- How many delegates did your Unit sponsored at ALA Buckeye Girls State?
- How did you promote the ALA BGS program?
- Did you have an ALA BGS presentation in your community? If so, detail the success of this activity and the number of participants.
- How many unit volunteers worked at ALA Buckeye Girls State?
- Did your unit donate to the ALA Buckeye Girls State Endowment Fund?
- How did your unit recognize your 2019 delegates to ALA Buckeye Girls State?
- 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?

**The National Cover Sheet is included on the backside of this form.**

**Please fill out the Unit or Member Portion and send with the Narrative this sheet, the back of this sheet and your Narrative to your District or Department Chairman**

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## American Legion Auxiliary National Report and Award Cover Sheet

Please note, your report will also be viewed as an award entry.

**Complete the following if you are applying for a member award.** Be sure to give the complete name of the member. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Full official unit name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of state where you are a member: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ALA member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Member (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

National committee sponsoring award: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Award:       Department       Unit       Member

Name of the award you are applying for: \_\_\_\_\_

**For a unit award or to submit a year-end unit narrative report, please complete this section.**  
Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Full official unit name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of department: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Above listed person's ALA member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**For a department award or to submit a year-end department narrative report, please complete this section:**

Name of department: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of department chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ALA member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please see your committee's Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan to determine where to send this form.*

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### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 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 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 nonpartisan 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 2019 BGS session will be held at the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio from June 16 through June 22, 2019. Registration is scheduled from 1:00 – 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. The program concludes on Saturday afternoon on June 22<sup>nd</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 20 – 27, 2019.

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 instruction packet enclosed. If you have any questions please contact the BGS Coordinator, Dean Bloxham or the Director, Rene' Reese.

#### **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 County. All ALA units should be diligent in spreading the good news about Buckeye Girls State.

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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

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

**IMPORTANT: Only** the American Auxiliary Unit can choose the ALA Buckeye Girls State Delegate. The school counselor, principal or co-contributor **cannot** choose the delegate.

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**NOTE:** Find detailed information about “how” to select great delegates in the 2019 “Guidelines for Selecting Candidates”

### 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. Ten national winners and 10 national runners-up are then chosen from the pool of department finalists, each receiving a \$10,000 and \$5,000 scholarship, respectively. The remaining department finalists are guaranteed to receive a scholarship of \$1,250.

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 alumna who attends the University of Mount Union.

### 4. How is the program funded?

Girls State Delegates are sponsored through local American Legion Auxiliary Units. 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.

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

- 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.

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## 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. ALA staff inquiry and job descriptions for staff recruitment can be found in ALA 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 15, 2018.

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 2018 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 May 1, 2019.

Your narrative should include answers to following questions:

- How many delegates did your Unit sponsored at ALA Buckeye Girls State?
- How did you promote the ALA BGS program?
- Did you have an ALA BGS presentation in your community? If so, detail the success of this activity and the number of participants.
- How many unit volunteers worked at ALA Buckeye Girls State?
- Did your unit donate to the ALA Buckeye Girls State Endowment Fund?
- How did your unit recognize your 2019 delegates to ALA Buckeye Girls State?
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**Department Unit Award:** Due to the ALA BGS Director no later than May 1, 2019.

**Award:** Citation Plaque

**Criteria:** Presented to one unit who submits the most outstanding report that best describes how the unit promoted and participated in the American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State Program. This report must be in narrative form (as part of your narrative include the answers to the mid-year questions), not to exceed 1,000 words and may include photographs, newspaper articles and etc.

**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
- Your National ALA Girls Nation committee members (see ALA Girls Nation program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information).
- Facebook:
  - @AmericanLegionAuxiliaryGirlsState
  - @ALAGirlsNation
- Department BGS Coordinator or Board of Directors