



Texas Girls State:

Leadership for a Lifetime



Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas every summer, and held at Texas Lutheran University (*pandemic permitting*),

Texas Bluebonnet Girls State

has achieved over 75 years as the premiere leadership learning opportunity for young women. Students are selected and sponsored to attend by a local ALA Unit—to participate in a week of intense, hands-on non-partisan learning about the workings of our state and local government.

Between 500-600 high school seniors from across the state will be invited to attend each year, connecting with other Texas students from every walk of life and background—but attendees always have at least two things in common:

***a proven resume of achievement,
and outstanding potential for leadership.***

Girls will “learn by doing”, about the structure of city, county, state, political party, judicial and legislative government.

“Citizens” will register to vote, run for office, and draft and debate city ordinances and state bills. The week culminates with a trip to

the State Capitol in Austin, to meet elected officials and legislate in the House and Senate chambers.

Texas Girls State citizens also come home with a newfound respect for flag and country, learning the ceremonies, etiquettes and observances with which we honor our veterans and our Texas and American history.



Frisco is home to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 178, which launched a Girls State program in 2016. We work with local high schools and civic partners to send high-achieving talented students from our area, to represent Frisco in this prestigious leadership camp.



Sarah from Centennial HS on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives, June 2018



Texas Girls State:

Once in a Lifetime Learning

High school students in the Frisco area who are interested in attending Texas Bluebonnet Girls State should contact their guidance counselor by

the fall semester of junior year.

The delegate selection process takes place from December - February. It consists of a written online application, an interview with a panel from ALA Unit 178, and superlative references from the student's high school administration. Complete applications will

be considered in one pool from across the Frisco area; there are no delegation spots "guaranteed" by high school. Still, the ALA selection panel does strive to ensure that the delegation represents the best senior girls from all across the community.



2016 GS Citizens Joanna Ringhofer (Wakeland HS), Yolian Ogbu (Lone Star HS) and Josie Murphy (Legacy Christian Academy) are recognized at Frisco City Council with a proclamation for "Texas Girls State Day"

Ideal candidates for Texas Girls State application are young women who demonstrate outstanding academic and extracurricular performance, an enthusiasm for new experiences, and whom have already

established themselves as campus leaders.



Above: The Frisco Girls State Delegation at the Texas State Capitol, June 21, 2019

The weeklong June program is busy and extremely fast-paced. Often, students that thrive at Girls State are those with experience in communicating, public speaking, and competitions — whether through programs like student council, forensics and debate, athletics or performing arts — but these activities are by no means a prerequisite to apply.

We encourage any interested junior to speak to her counselor about this opportunity.



Texas Girls State:

Important Dates to Know

- The 2023 Delegate Selection Process will begin **Thursday, December 1, 2022**.
- The link to the online application page may be provided to any qualifying junior student by her guidance counselor, teacher or campus administrator; or can be found online after December 1, at <https://www.friscoala.org/texas-girls-state>.
- A written application, a short video, and two reference contacts will need to be submitted as part of the process. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- The deadline for interested students to complete their applications online with ALA Unit 178 is **Saturday, January 7, 2023**. Late submissions will not be considered under any circumstances.
- Complete applications will be reviewed by ALA Unit 178 and references will be contacted in **January 2023**.
- In mid-January 2023, Finalists will be invited to interview with the ALA Unit 178 Girls State Selection Committee. Interviews will take place over a series of dates from January 30 - February 17 and are mandatory.
- All applicants will be notified of the Committee's decisions no later than **March 10, 2023**.
- ALA Unit 178 will present a **mandatory Girls State orientation** for all selected delegates and their parents in **May 2023**.
- 2023 Texas Girls State is projected to start **Sunday, June 18**, and end **Saturday, June 24, 2023**. Final camp dates will be announced in February 2023.

Contact the ALA Unit 178 Girls State Committee
at alatxunit178girlsstate@gmail.com with any questions.