



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
Badger Girls State
2018-2019 Plan of Action**

Danyelle Thompson, Department Chairman
201 S Copeland Avenue #122
Jefferson, WI 53549
920-379-6489
alabgs.chairman@gmail.com

Norma Tramm, National Chairman
Department of Minnesota
320-685-8510
ntramm@juno.com

SuAnn Pagel-Rast, Vice Chairman
PO Box 176
Almond WI 54909
715-572-4733
alabgs.vicechairman@gmail.com

Kathy Cisna, Central Division Chairman
Department of Illinois
217-246-5795
kfcisna@gmail.com

Dee Woolf, Executive Director
390 S Court St
Platteville WI 53818
608-348-7403
dwoolf@centurytel.net

Jennifer Grinder, Assistant Director
215 S Musket Ridge Drive
Sun Prairie WI 53590
608-495-2733
bgs.asst.director@gmail.com

What is this program and why do we have it?

American Legion Auxiliary units in Wisconsin host American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship, leadership, and love for God and Country. Participants are assigned to mock cities and to either the “Federalist Party” or “Nationalist Party.” They are immersed in learning about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and allowing them to actively run a mock government. Assistance from dedicated ALA volunteers make sure the program’s nonpartisan governmental, patriotic and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships. Badger Girls State will be held on the UW Oshkosh campus, June 16-21st, 2019.

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 and debate for the passage of legislation and meet with U.S. Congressmen and Senators from their states. Capping off the week of ALA Girls Nation is a possible meeting with the President of the United States at the White House. ALA Girls Nation will convene July 20-27, 2019.

What can you do?

- 1. Instill a commitment of volunteerism and an awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission in all ALA Girls State citizens.**

IDEAS:

Members

- Encourage eligible young ladies you know to become involved in volunteer projects in their communities that involve veterans, active military or the American Legion Auxiliary.

Units

- Invite your ALA Girls State delegates, both past and present, to participate in service projects with your unit, even if they are not ALA members.
- Encourage unit members to solicit sponsorship/fundraising or donations from other organizations or businesses to sponsor ALA Girls State delegates.
- Increase networking with schools (including charters, private and home schools) that have no active units in their communities.

Departments

- Educate ALA Badger Girls State citizens about the programs and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary by including “Auxiliary Facts” in the ALA Girls State program agenda.
- Incorporate a veterans program to bring more emphasis to the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission.
 - POW/MIA ceremony with table and accessories; include citizens in the program
 - Present Blue Star Banners to staff and citizens who have a loved one in the military.
 - Invite veterans and/or active military to be guest speakers during the session (possibly someone who has benefited from the ALA’s mission).
- Stress the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community.
 - Incorporate a mission-based service project during our session that all citizens can participate in.
- Invite alumnae to join the American Legion Auxiliary or participate in the organization’s service projects.

2. Actively encourage all eligible ALA Badger Girls State citizens (past and present) to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

IDEAS:

Members

- Ask ALA Badger Girls State citizens who have become members to pass on the benefits of membership to other eligible family members.
- Prepare an “elevator speech” about joining the ALA and use it when you are talking to ALA Badger Girls State delegates and their families.
- Promote opportunities and benefits of membership as a source for volunteerism.
- Coordinate your efforts with other members so recruitment doesn’t become a nuisance to participants.

Units

- Invite eligible ALA Badger Girls State delegates you sponsor to join your unit.
- Actively engage ALA Badger Girls State citizens (past and present) to pass on the importance of membership to other eligible family members.
- Develop a very brief, mission-focused presentation to showcase the ALA mission, our history, and relevance to current issues affecting the military and their families.
- Promote opportunities and benefits of membership as a resource for volunteerism.

Departments

- Have membership applications, E-Unit information, and information on the American Legion Auxiliary available during the ALA Badger Girls State session.
- Encourage ALA Badger Girls State volunteers that joined the ALA after attending Badger Girls State as a citizen to discuss their reasons for joining and what opportunities and benefits they have gained as members. (i.e.: have your members share at a program fair or in their city meetings).

3. Increase scholarship/funding for ALA Girls State programs.

IDEAS:

Members

- Make a donation to your local ALA Badger Girls State program.
- Ask other organizations you volunteer with to donate to ALA Badger Girls State.

Units

- Solicit donations from other veteran, civic, or booster organizations to sponsor ALA Badger Girls State delegates.
- Network with schools (charter, private, home schools) that have no active units in their communities.
- Ask parents of past ALA Badger Girls State delegates to contribute to the ALA Girls State program.
- Invite members to set up a memorial scholarship in memory of a loved one. Contact your department ALA Girls State chairman or director for information.

Departments

- Have fundraisers to increase scholarship funds available to participants.
- Encourage ALA Badger Girls State alumnae to consider providing a scholarship yearly privately or through their business.
- Apply for private grants to increase scholarship funds available to participants.

- 4. Promote the availability of the Samsung Scholarship, a scholarship opportunity available to all ALA Girls State participants who are a direct descendant of a veteran. Each year, one girl from every ALA Girls State program will win a \$1,250 scholarship. National winners may be awarded up to \$10,000.**

IDEAS:

Members

- Write an article for your local paper with Samsung scholarship information.
- Take a photo of a past/present Samsung scholarship winner for the inclusion in department publications.

Units

- Include a flyer promoting the Samsung scholarship in your ALA Girls State packets to the schools.
- Identify eligible Samsung scholarship recipients during the interview process.

Departments

- Include a flyer promoting the Samsung scholarship in the bulk mailing to units.
- Include the link to the Samsung scholarship on the department and ALA Badger Girls State websites as well as in the ALA Badger Girls State packets sent to delegates.
- Announce the recipient of the Samsung scholarship during your ALA Badger Girls State program.
- Share a photo of the recipient along with a short article in department publications and the recipient's local newspaper.

- 5. Utilize the Internet, social networking sites, and written media to increase awareness and visibility of ALA Badger Girls State.**

IDEAS:

Members

- Use your personal social media accounts and link them to any accounts your ALA Girls State program may have, as well as ALA Girls Nation sites.

Units

- Ask an ALA Junior member or other tech-savvy member to do a presentation using different types of social media. Have her explain how to set up various accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or any current sites being utilized and how to maintain them on a regular basis.)
 - Be sure to discuss social media etiquette.
 - Be sure to discuss safety when using social media sites.
- Create a Facebook page for your unit and "like" the ALA Badger Girls State program page and the ALA Girls Nation page.
- Create a Twitter account and promote your unit's sponsorship of ALA Badger Girls State delegates.
- Ask your local newspaper to run an article about your ALA Girls State delegates.
- Share the link on your social media sites.

Departments

- Link the ALA Badger Girls State website with other relevant programs in your state and the ALA Girls Nation website.
- Invite previous participants to join any social media sites the ALA Badger Girls State program manages.
- Create and use hashtags on Twitter and Facebook.
- Encourage Girl State citizens to start a closed Facebook group with their cities at Badger Girls State session.

6. Stay up to date on the latest ALA Girls State programming news and best practices.

IDEAS:

Members

- Sign up to receive the *In the Know eBulletin* and the *ALA eNews* from ALA National Headquarters. (www.alaforveterans.org/Media/ALA-eNews)

Units

- Maintain regular contact with your ALA Girls State department leaders.

Departments

- Send at least one person to the ALA Girls State Leadership Conference held in Indianapolis, Ind., September 28-30, 2018.
- Read and implement the ALA Girls State Program and Operations Guide.
- Maintain regular contact with the units in your department.

ALA Girls State Reporting

Mid-Year Reports

Each department ALA Girls State chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **December 15, 2018**, to her respective division ALA Girls State chairman and copy the national ALA Girls State chairman.

Annual Reports

Each department ALA Girls State chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **May 1, 2019**, to her respective division ALA Girls State chairman and copy the national ALA Girls State chairman. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- What have you done within your ALA Girls State program to encourage membership?
- What methods do you utilize to recruit ALA Girls State delegates for membership? Are they effective methods?
- Does your ALA Girls State program initiate a mission-based activity during your session? If so, please detail the success of this activity and number of participants that benefited from this activity (this does not include the delegates or staff).
- Discuss the success of your ALA Girls State alumnae Facebook page or other social media.
- Discuss successful solicitation of funding outside of the Legion family.
- How have you improved your involvement and understanding of all aspects of the program? Has program participation increased because of this?

Additional Resources:

- www.ALAforVeterans.org
- www.amlegionauxwi.org
- www.badgergirlsstate.org
- ALA Girls State Program and Operations Guide
- Sign up for the *ALA In the Know eBulletin* and *ALA eNews*
- American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin Red Book
- www.BoysandGirlsState.org



American Legion Auxiliary 2018-2019 National Award Cover Sheet

Send completed form to: ALABGS Chairman: Danyelle Thompson, 201 S Copeland Avenue #122 Jefferson WI 53549.

This cover sheet should be attached to each narrative submitted for a national award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible.

Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please write carefully. All awards will be mailed to the department office after national convention. Department presidents may wish to recognize award recipients by presenting them at a department function.

National committee sponsoring award: ALA GIRLS NATION

Type of Award: Department Unit Member

Name of the award you are applying for: _____

Complete the following if you are applying for a department award:

Name of department: _____

Name of department chairman: _____

Chairman's phone number: (____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Chairman's email address: _____

Please complete the following if you are applying for a unit award. 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: _____

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Phone number: (____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Email address: _____

Please 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: _____

Member Name: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Nominating Member (if different from above): _____

Nominator's Phone number: (____) _____

Nominator's Email address: _____