

# BADGER GIRLS STATE

## 2011 Plan of Action

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**Purpose:** To provide an outstanding, unique and coveted education opportunity for the young women of Wisconsin that instills the basic ideals and principles of American government through the Badger Girls State citizenship training program.

**Objective 1:** Utilize our internet and social networking sites to increase visibility of our program and obtain more Girls State Facebook fans by July, 2012.

### Action Steps:

- a. Increase the visibility of the BGS and ALA websites.
  1. Add a "Twitter" account.
  2. Include that information in mailings to schools, Units and our website.
  3. Each session day post pictures/articles of the day's highlights.
- b. Encourage Department to electronically keep registration information in hopes of creating an alumna group.
- c. Educate BGS committee on using Facebook.
- d. Encourage session attendees to join the BGS Facebook site.

**Objective 2:** Instill in our citizens a commitment of volunteerism and an awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission.

### Action Steps:

- a. Continue including ALA brochure "Auxiliary Facts" in citizen tote bags.
- b. Put "blurbs" of Auxiliary facts in "Badger Tales" (daily newspaper).
- c. Continue POW/MIA ceremony presentation by local Legionnaires.
- d. Continue presentation of Blue Star Banners to citizens who have a sibling or parent currently serving in one of the Armed Forces.
- e. Continue with Flag Retirement Ceremony presented by local Legionnaires and Riders Club.
- f. Continue with citizens bringing non-perishable items for local food pantry.
- g. Americanism and Community Service Interest Group will include discussions on how they can assist in their community, importance of volunteering and possibly a brief Field Service Orientation.

**Objective 3:** Continue to attract participants and grow our program by keeping them relevant and current and by encouraging Units to increase scholarships/funding for BGS.

### Action Steps:

- a. Fall Forum and Unit Mailing:
  1. Encourage Units to solicit funding or donations from other organizations or have a fund raiser so they can sponsor a girl(s).
- b. Apply for grants
- c. Work with colleges to award college credit to participants.
- d. Network with schools (charters, private, home-schooled) that have no active unit in their community.

- e. Continue to provide timely school mailings and rack cards with contact information.
- f. Enlist former Girls State alumnae as counselors and speakers to motivate and inform citizens of opportunities to be pursued.

### **Programs and Activities:**

**Girls State Core Program.** This is a nonpartisan program that teaches young women responsible citizenship and love for God and Country. Since its' inception in 1937, nearly one million young people have had the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local government works. The program has grown from a few hundred participants to nearly 20,000 annually. High School girls who have completed their junior year spend an intensive week of study, working together as a self-governing citizens. These young women learn government by actually creating a mythical state through the election of public officials on local, county and state levels and then by carrying out the duties of these respective offices.

Units should make every effort to sponsor eligible young women to participate. The Unit Chairman should inform school districts and individual schools about the benefits of the program, explain the eligibility requirements and distribute information and applications to the schools.

To recruit citizens with the appropriate commitment of participation, Units must make wise selections of delegates, provide them with informative orientations before the session beings, and then give them recognition when they return home. Even though Units may seek financial support from outside the Auxiliary, always remember that it is the ALA that sponsors each participant and it is the ALA that decides who participates.

**Samsung Scholarship:** The Samsung Group, an international electronics company, has endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by the American Legion.

Eligibility - Student must be a high school junior and a direct descendent (i.e. child, grandchild, great-grandchild or a legally adopted child of a U.S. veteran who served during a period of war). Student must participate in and complete either a BBS or BGS program.

An application should be given to each participate. One winning application must be forwarded to the American Legion National Headquarters. National winners usually receive a \$20,000 scholarship. Each State winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship if he/she is not selected as a national scholarship winner.

**Girls Nation:** Two girls are selected from each Girls State program (with the exception of Hawaii) to attend Girls Nation. They meet for a week in Washington D.C. where they run for political office, campaign for the passage of legislation and possibly meet with state representatives and senators. Capping off the week is a meeting with the President at the White House.

The dates are July 20 - 28, 2012 at the National 4H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Director is to work with the two senators to help them prepare legislative initiatives to be presented at Girls Nation and inform them about campaign rules and running for elected office.

### Resources:

1. [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
2. [www.boysandgirlsstate.org](http://www.boysandgirlsstate.org)
3. [www.leadershipcredit.org](http://www.leadershipcredit.org) (College Credit)
4. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Facebook Page
5. American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation Facebook Page

See program page on [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) for additional resources.