**American Legion Auxiliary, West Virginia Rhododendron Girls State**

**An Americanism Project in Citizenship, Leadership, and**

**Practical Training in Government**

**Delivered on the campus of Davis & Elkins College**

**June 11-16, 2023**

**PROCEDURAL OUTLINE**

**Introduction**

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, sponsors Rhododendron Girls State as evidence of its faith in American democracy and in the value of responsible citizenship.

1. **Purpose**

Rhododendron Girls Sate will train its citizens:

1. To know the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship;
2. To recognize the need for honesty, integrity, and responsibility in private and public life;
3. To understand that the very life of democracy depends upon informed and concerned citizens;
4. To realize the increasingly important role of women in public life;
5. To be responsible, active participants in the communities in which they live.
6. **Eligibility**
7. Be a member in good standing (**minimum of 2.75 GPA**) in the Junior Class of a West Virginia high school;
8. Be a resident of West Virginia;
9. Be single;
10. Be on the Principal’s Approved List of girls eligible for attendance;
11. Be in attendance for the full week of the program;
12. Be attending Girls State for the first time.

Any applicant may be rejected for what the American Legion Auxiliary considers just cause.

1. **Method of Selection**

Candidates for Rhododendron Girls State shall be selected in the following manner:

1. Each High School Principal shall receive from the Girls State Registrar, Ann C. Buchanan, information regarding selection of candidate from Registrar.
2. Principal’s Approved List: The high school faculty, or such part of it as the Principal shall designate, shall select a list of candidates equal to ten times the indicated number of delegates requested by the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit, The candidates shall be chosen from the Junior Class on the basis of:
3. Leadership
4. Good moral character
5. Good academic record (minimum of 2.75 GPA)
6. Cooperation and dependability
7. Community participation and service
8. The Principal’s List under his/her signature shall be given to the local American Legion Auxiliary President of Girls State Chairman for submission to contributing organizations. If there is no American Legion Auxiliary Unit near a school, which desires to be represented at Girls State, the Principal may register the girl(s) directly with the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia for verification. A contributing organization is any civic or fraternal organization, school group, or business (or a combination of them), which finances a student to Girls State,

Due to financial limitations placed on contributing organizations during the pandemic, it was decided that an individual **CAN** be a direct contributor for the 2023 Session.

The **$350 sponsor fee** must be mailed to:

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of West Virginia

Rhododendron Girls State

2172 Grandview Road

Moundsville, WV 26041

After processing the payment, information will be sent to the Registrar, who will email the needed information for the selected girl(s) as soon as possible to complete the Online Registration and the forms needed to submit the registration process,

1. **American Legion Auxiliary Unit Responsibilities**
2. The local American Legion Auxiliary Unit will secure the contributing organizations to send delegates to Rhododendron Girls State. A contributing organization is any civic or fraternal organization, school group, or business (or a combination of them) which finances a student to RGS. As stated above due to pandemic limitations, individuals CAN be a contributor or they may make a donation to a qualifying organization.
3. It is the responsibility of the ALA Unit to see that the sponsor fee of $250, along with the name, telephone number, and email address of each girl being sponsored by their unit is sent to ALA Department of WV by May 1, 2023. After the Department Secretary processes the sponsor fees, the names, telephone numbers, and emails are sent to the Registrar, who will send the needed information to the selected girl(s). **No fees will be returned after April 15, 2023**; but an alternate may be used to replace a girl unable to attend.
4. The participating girls are responsible for completing the Online Application Form and completing the Online Orientation; she is also responsible for getting the appropriate forms properly completed, scanned, and submitted no later than May 30, 2023.

**The Experiences of Girls State Citizens**

As each citizen of Rhododendron Girls State registers, she becomes a citizen of a city, county, and state. She has an active role in making ordinances and laws, in their enforcement, and in the administration of justice. She is a member of a political party and, as such, will help develop its platform and actively campaign in support of its candidates. As a voter, she will participate in primary and general elections. As an official, she will perform the functions of that office. Throughout the week, she will attend seminars, which address citizenship, leadership, and governmental topics.

**General Information**

1. After the Registrar receives the confirmation that fees have been paid, the selected girl will receive an email with the instructions for completing the Online Registration, as well as how to the scan the forms. The following five (5) forms must be completed and submitted by the applicant prior to attending RGS: Parental Waiver (must be notarized), the ALA Waiver and Consent (must be notarized), the Pledge, the Press Release, and a Medical Form dated after July 30, 2022.
2. Registration will be completed by Sunday, June 11th at Davis & Elkins College. RGS will be in session during designated time Sunday, June 11 through Friday, June 16.
3. The Director of Girls State may dismiss any girl for just cause without the consent of the contributing organization.
4. The Samsung Scholarship application must be completed online. Please go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), select **Programs** then select **Scholarships.** Scroll down and select Samsung Scholarship. If applicants meet eligible requirements, they will need to create a username and password to complete the

Online process. The application is also on our website: <http://wvgirlsstate.org>. **The application must be competed online before arrival on Sunday, June 11.**

1. You may contact Ann Buchanan (304-654-9932) or [AnnBuch@aol.com](mailto:AnnBuch@aol.com) for additional information. Calls will be returned and emails will be answered ASAP.