



GIRLS STATE ORIENTATION INFORMATION FOR 2019

The ALA/GS Program

- The American Legion Auxiliary Sponsors ALA Utah Girls State. Our organization believes in God and Country and respects all religions. There will be a prayer and we recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily.
- ALA Utah Girls State is a week of education where you will learn about our government. You will experience mock City, County, and State level government. You will be assigned to 1 of 2 parties- the Nationalist or the Federalist.
- You will also be assigned to 1 of 12 cities which are named after past governors of Utah. You will have amazing city counselors to help you all week long. You will receive information about ALA Utah Girls State by e-mail, so please check your e-mail daily.
- There's more...you will hear speakers, campaign for offices, build patriotism, experience fun activities, and create lasting friendships. We encourage you to get involved in everything you can while at ALA Utah Girls State. The more you get involved, the greater the experience.

Attendance

- **Remember you must attend the whole session of ALA Utah Girls State!** If for any reason you cannot attend ALA Utah Girls State, please notify your local contact person and the Director of Girls State immediately.
- Full attendance is required to graduate and to receive your WSU Credit (Political Science 2920, 3 credits).

Dress Code:

Our dress schedule is based on the activities planned and guest speakers. For all daily meetings you are required to wear a dress or skirt/shirt. Dresses and skirts cannot be shorter than 4 inches above the knee. You may wear leggings under your dress or skirt, but the dress/skirt must still be the required length. The sleeve of your shirt or dress must be as wide as your hand or you must wear a jacket with it. Please address all questions regarding dress code to alautgirlsstate@gmail.com

On **Monday**, you are welcome to arrive in casual attire; you will be given time to change before the meetings begin.

For the **Wednesday** night BBQ and the **Thursday** night Song Fest you are allowed to wear pants or capris that measure at least 2 inches below the knee.

For the **Friday** night banquet and **Saturday** graduation many girls wear a formal/prom dress but this is not required. You are allowed dresses with spaghetti straps or strapless tops at the banquet/graduation.

On **Friday** we encourage everyone to wear something red to Remember Everyone Deployed (RED).

Comfortable shoes are strongly recommended! You will be walking from the dorms to the student union building. Flip flops can only be worn in the dorms and on Wednesday and Thursday evening activities.

Shorts, pants or pajamas to wear in the dorms at night.

A jacket or sweatshirt. Due to the temperature in various facilities on the campus beyond the control of ALA Utah Girls State, a sweater or cover-up is recommended. Sometimes the evenings are cool as well.

Additional Items to Bring:

- **Hangers**
- **Extra towels.** You will be provided with 1 small bath towel and 1 washcloth and we will do a towel exchange on Wednesday.
- **Blanket and pillow.** One will be provided for you, but they are thin. We recommend you bring both items.
- **Personal care items.** (shampoo, soap, make-up, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, etc.)
- **Spending money.** There is a snack shop and a book store in the Student Union building. Regular meals are provided each day.
- **Medications**
- **Backpack** or bag to carry items for the entire day. We leave early and do not return until late each day. You are not allowed to return to your dorm during the day.
- **Notebook, pen, pencil, highlighter and colored pencils.**
- **Optional Snacks** if wanted. There are vending machines in the dorms.
- **Water bottle**
- **(Optional) Postage Stamp** to mail your graduation announcement if desired. The bookstore has a post office.
- **Samsung Scholarship** must be **completed on-line before** Girls State. You don't need to bring a copy of it.
- **Updated medical form** if anything has changed.
- **Optional Donation**
- **Optional Picture of your Veteran(s).** (Can be family or friends, please do not bring originals!) This will hang on our Wall of Heroes for the week.

Samsung Scholarship:

Instructions on how to apply for this scholarship are on the ALA Utah Girls State Weber State University website at the following link <http://continue.weber.edu/girlsstate/scholarships.aspx> or at The American Legion website <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung> This must be completed on-line before the week of ALA Utah Girls State. You will need the Discharge Papers or DD214 for the military member you apply under. If you need a copy of the DD214, it must be requested 4-6 weeks in advance from <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/>).

Medical:

- If you have had medical problems or have new/different medication since you submitted your original registration forms, please have your completed Updated Medical Form with you when you check in on Monday morning. Find it online at <http://aladeptutah.org/index2.html> or <https://apps.weber.edu/girlsstate/> The nurse will go over this with you when you check in.
- If you become ill at ALA Utah Girls State, you will be directed to our nurse.

University Credit Requirements:

To receive the 3 Political Science 2920 credits from WSU you must:

- Attend the full session of ALA Utah Girls State.
- Participate in activities as an ALA Utah Girls State citizen.
- Vote in all ALA Utah Girls State elections.
- Make a minimum of 1 public speech or presentation.
- Be appointed or elected to a minimum of 1 ALA Utah Girls State position.
- Maintain standards of honesty integrity, and abide by ALA Utah Girls State and WSU regulations
- Complete the Citizen Workbook pages as you participate through the week. Must be signed by your counselor.
- Provide a written essay of your personal opinion regarding 2 ALA Utah Girls State speakers.
- Provide a written essay of your personal opinion regarding 1 of the following:
 - ▲ Obligations of citizenship
 - ▲ Power of the vote
 - ▲ What democracy means to me
 - ▲ The two--party system
 - ▲ You may substitute a bill you have written for one of the essays listed above.
- Provide a written statement that expresses how this week at ALA Utah Girls State will influence your life.

NOTE: The fee for the credits was included in your registration fee. Also, we will give you time to complete the essays while at ALA Utah Girls State.

Check-In & Housing:

- Check in times are from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Your first meeting with your city and counselors is at noon.
- Your parent or driver may park and come in with you to register and then help take your luggage to your assigned dorm.
- You will check in Monday morning at Wildcat Village in the Stewart Wasatch Hall (It is the East building of the 3 in Wildcat Village). The address is **1375 Village Loop Road, Ogden**.
- You may park behind the building on the east side and go to the lobby to check in. We recommend you leave your bags in the car until you know to which building you are assigned.
- Only the counselors will have room and dorm keys for the protection of the girls.
- There will be 2 girls per room and 4-6 girls per bathroom. The ALA Utah Girls State staff makes the room assignments.
- You do not need to wear a dress to check in. You will have time to change after your City lunch meeting.

Vehicle Info:

We recommend that you arrange to be dropped off on Monday and picked up on Saturday. If you drive your own vehicle to ALA Utah Girls State, you must park it and turn in your keys to our staff on Monday. You will get your keys back after meetings conclude on Saturday.

Sweatshirts:

You will all receive an ALA Utah Girls State t-shirt, but if you would like to order a sweatshirt, there are 3 ways this can be done.

1. You would have already filled out the form and paid the \$35 and sent it in with your registration.
2. You may fill out and turn in the form today at orientation. Be sure to include your \$35.

3. You may mail in your form and \$35 directly to the office. Your order must be received by May 15th.
4. The order form can be found here: <http://aladeptutah.org/index2.html> or <https://apps.weber.edu/girlsstate/>

Convocation:

This is a VERY large part of ALA Utah Girls State. Each day we set aside time for the Pledge of Allegiance, a thought, stories, prayers, and songs. You may bring ideas for these with you, since each City has a time to participate. Instruments are optional. Bring at your own risk. Pianos will be available for our use.

Junior Members:

Junior Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, who are attending ALA Utah Girls State will be asked to help with the Evolution of the Flags Presentation and Flag Retirement Ceremony. You will be given information after you arrive. If you would like to join our American Legion Junior Girls, you can join on-line at <https://www.alaforveterans.org/>, get an application from your counselor or staff member at this orientation.

Campaigning:

- You do not need to bring supplies for campaigning. We will provide them.
- Some of the offices you may run for will require you to give speeches and answer questions, so come prepared to participate in those activities.
- Red & Green Offices: There are 2 types of offices for which you can run. Green is the "party" offices and you can hold as many as you are elected or assigned to. Red offices are elected by ballot. If you run for and get elected to a Red office that is the only Red office you can hold. It is hard to describe how many offices you could run for, but if you look at it as your own journey the possibilities are numerous!
- ALA Girls Nation: At ALA Utah Girls State, two girls are selected to go to Washington, DC this summer (July 20-27, 2019) to represent Utah at ALA Girls Nation. They are called ALA Girls Nation Senators.

Two girls from each city will be nominated by the girls in their city. The nominees will write a bill and take an essay style test. Once the Directors staff reviews the bills and tests, 8 girls will be selected to "run" on their party's ballot. The ALA Utah Girls State citizens will vote to select the 2 who will go to ALA Girls Nation.

- **IMPORTANT!** You cannot announce your plans to run for any office prior to filing for that office. This means that you cannot talk about a specific office you are planning to run for prior to ALA Utah Girls State or even at ALA Utah Girls State until you have filed. We call this pre-campaigning.

➤ **What you CAN do:**

- Discuss what offices there are available to run for at ALA Utah Girls State. You should ask about several offices so that you truly know what is available and to avoid someone interpreting this as indirectly pre-campaigning.
- Discuss what is required to run for the office(s).
- Discuss what is required if you are elected to an office.
- Ask previous ALA Utah Girls State citizens about their experiences.
- Research current events and political offices to find out more about the office or those who hold those offices in Utah and in the Nation.

- You may encourage others to run for certain offices, but do not ask them to tell you if they will or will not be.

Graduation:

- Flag Advancement and Retirement. If you have a white or mostly white formal, you may bring it: 10-15 girls with white formals will have the opportunity to help carry the flags for graduation. Your counselor will ask you if you have one, once you arrive.
- Graduation is Saturday June 8th at 1:00 pm at WSU's Shepherd Union Building Ballroom (upstairs). Your parents/guardians are invited.
- Following graduation, you may leave **ONLY AFTER YOU HAVE CHECKED OUT WITH YOUR COUNSELOR**. You will be able to return to the dorm and change and pick up your luggage.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:

- **Cell phones and electronics are prohibited during meetings.** You will have short periods of time at lunch and in the evening to use them. We strongly encourage you to disconnect from friends and family as much as possible so that your experience will be better. We realize you will use them for your alarm clock and flashlight and to check in with your parents, but please limit your use. You have very little free time this week. Please come prepared to learn, enjoy and meet new friends. ALA Utah Girls State is a wonderful opportunity—make the most of it!

Code of Conduct for ALA Utah Girls State

The following rules will help us maintain an orderly ALA Utah Girls State session and provide you an exceptional learning experience. Any ALA Utah Girls State Citizen breaking the rules could be **denied** the privilege of receiving her **ALA Utah Girls State pin, Graduation Certificate and WSU credit.**

Girls are required to attend the full session of Girls State. If you cannot do this, please contact your sponsoring Unit and the ALA Utah Girls State Director (alautgirlsstate@gmail.com) so an alternate can be allowed to take your place.

1. Citizens are required to attend all meetings, be on time and dress appropriately.
2. No candy, gum or drinks allowed in meetings, you can have bottled water.
3. **ALA Utah Girls State citizens may not leave campus.** Written permission will be given by the Director in extreme emergency.
4. Be neat and respect others' property in your dorms. Observe campus rules - Don't move bedding or furniture from one room to another. Please don't attach anything to the walls. Citizens and staff are responsible to keep their areas clean.
5. Wear name tags when you leave the dorm (except for song fest, outdoor dinner, Friday night banquet and graduation). Your name tag is your meal ticket. Your name tag will also be used as your credential to vote in all elections.
6. Make sure you have your ALA Utah Girls State Manual with you at all times (you will not be allowed to return to the dorm to get your manual or name tag). Your manual gives you instructions in procedures, meeting locations and contains information which will be of value to you during your week at ALA Utah Girls State.

7. If you become ill, please let your counselor know, so medical attention can be given to you. Your counselor will have a staff member take you to the nurse.
8. **Use of cell phones, tablets and laptops is not allowed in meetings. Texting is not allowed in meetings!** Phone use will be allowed at certain times in the dorms and on campus as permitted by your counselor and the staff, the Director will set the rules about cell phones. Do not use these devices to take inappropriate photos or videos, play loud music in the dorms or to disrupt others.
9. **No campaigning until you have filed for office.** You will need to ask a delegate to nominate you for an office, but you cannot campaign until you have filed.
10. After returning to the dorms at night you are not permitted to leave your city. No food can be ordered from off campus, no food deliveries period. Visitors are allowed only at graduation on Saturday.
11. No bullying of any kind is allowed. Bullying is inexcusable; ALA Utah Girls State has a firm policy against all types of bullying including teasing, taunting, gossip, attempts to hurt another, etc. Indirect methods through the internet, social media, etc will not be tolerated.

You can check us out at the following websites:

<https://apps.weber.edu/girlsstate/>

<http://aladeptutah.org/index2.html>

<https://www.alaforveterans.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/utahgirlsstate/>

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