

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

TEXAS BLUEBONNET GIRLS STATE

PROGRAM ACTION PLAN **2020 - 2021**

ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State is an outstanding, unique, and coveted educational opportunity to the young women of Texas that instills the basic ideals and principles of government through the citizenship and leadership training programs of ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State.

TEXAS GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR: Lori Swann

TEXAS GIRLS STATE CO-DIRECTOR: Connie Bridges

TEXAS GIRLS STATE COMMITTEE

Ann Doan, Division I, Chairman

Karen Rodriguez, Division II

Phyllis Janke, Division III

Open, Division IV

What is the program and why do we have it?

ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State is a nonpartisan program that teaches the young women of our state responsible citizenship and love for God and Country. This mythical 51st state affords these young ladies (finishing their 3rd year of high school) the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local governments operate. The citizens of Girls State are assigned to a City, the House or the Senate, and the National or Federal Party. Within this framework, the young women elect city, county, state, and party officials and assume the responsibilities of their roles as senators and representatives.

What can we do?

1. Instill an awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission in all ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State Citizens.

- Educate Texas Bluebonnet Girls State Citizens about the programs and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Stress the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community.
- Invite all Texas Bluebonnet Girls State alumnae to join the ALA and/or participate in the organization's service projects.

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

- Have membership applications and information on the American Legion Auxiliary

available during the ALA Girls State session.

- Invite eligible ALA Girls State citizens and family members to join a unit in their community or our current e-unit.
- A long-time Auxiliary member speaks to our counselors/staff members (during orientation) and our citizens (during the session) showcasing the ALA mission, history, and relevance to current issues affecting our military and their families.
- Promote opportunity and benefits of membership as a resource for volunteerism.

3. Increase participation by highlighting college scholarships and funding possibilities for ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State.

A. Girls State participation scholarships

- Solicit donations from veteran, civic, or booster organizations to sponsor ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State citizens.
- Ask schools/school districts (public, private, charter, home schools) to provide funds to send young ladies from their educational community to participate in ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State.
- Texas has been blessed with Auxiliary members who designate a portion of their estate to the ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State Program. Many Auxiliary members' families ask for memorials to the ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State program on the death of their loved one.

B. College Scholarships

- Advise ALA Units and Girls State citizens about the Samsung Scholarship opportunity.
- The Cindy Mae Scholarship is awarded to a deserving citizen of ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State each year.
- Both scholarship winners are acknowledged in end-of-the-year reports, convention reports, and social media.

4. Utilize the internet, social networking sites, and written media to increase awareness and visibility of ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State.

- Maintain the current ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State Website (www.girls-state.org)
- Maintain the current ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State Facebook page.
- Maintain the ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State Instagram Account.

- Utilize filters on Snapchat to promote positive images of ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State.
- Utilize on-line access to information and activities of the current session.
- Increase social networking potential for former and future Texas Bluebonnet Girls State citizens by participating in Facebook groups (already established).
- Solicit ALA e-Unit membership of former and current ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State citizens.

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

- Regular communication between units, Girls State program leaders around the country, and selected Girls State citizens is essential to the success of the Girls State session.
- Ad hoc committees are being formed to explore fundraising, diversity of citizens/staff, and advanced use of technology for the ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State session.