

## 2023 American Legion Auxiliary Tar Heel Girls State June 11-17, 2023 – Location TBA

### IMPORTANT NEWS and UPDATES:

- We are in the process of signing a contract for a new location for the 2023 session. This is not finalized at this time, as soon as we are official, we will make an announcement!
- All information for Units, Counselors, and Participants can be found on our website: ALATHGS.com
- If you wish to register more than 10 participants, please email us (ALATHGS@gmail.com) for availability.
- The registration form will be available on our website by January 15, 2023 – this will help us to ensure we have the most accurate information needed by our host site.
- We will host a Zoom meeting on Sunday, December 11 at 3pm to answer questions you may have. To access the meeting, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ALATHGSZoom>

### Participation Requirements:

- Participants should be: a member of the **current junior class** of her high school and should be graduating in 2024, in the top 1/3 of her class (use your best judgement for students who do not have class rankings).
- Seek potential participants from public, private, and military schools as well as homeschool students in your area. Don't forget your local Early College High Schools!
- Participants **do not** have to be members of a JROTC program to be eligible to attend. Participants should have an interest in government and parliamentary procedure.
- The cost for the program will be **\$400 per participant**. Tuition checks should come directly from Units and should accompany the enclosed Endorsement Form! No personal checks should be sent to Department Headquarters.

### Application at the Unit Level & Program Registration:

- Recruit and select participants via an interview process of your choosing. Remember we are a nonpartisan program. Please ask students about their ability and willingness to be away from home for a week as we had more than the usual number of students go home after the first day in 2022 due to this issue.
- We are asking that you verify GPA and Class Rank **BEFORE** giving the delegate the password to complete the online registration form. You can contact counselors directly or verify on a delegate's transcript.
- After she is selected by your unit, she must register with Department. Please try to avoid using the word application after this point, as they have already been vetted and accepted by your Unit. At this time, funds are collected from the girl, if necessary, and the delegate should be given the password, your Unit Number, and your contact information. She will contact you after she has completed the online registration.
- After all chosen delegates have notified you of their completion of the registration form, please mail your check to Dept. Headquarters with the 2023 ALA THGS Endorsement Form. We recommend providing the delegate with a time frame to complete the registration form – this allows time to verify that she has completed it with the ALATHGS committee before mailing your check to Headquarters.
- **Registration PASSWORD:** inspire2023 – (This should be used only by delegates to complete the registration form.)
  - Visit ALATHGS.com, Click 2023 Participants, and type in the password. The registration form will be available on this part of the website after **January 15, 2023**.

### 2022-2023 Timeline:

- Now: Begin contacting your local schools! A printable flyer to give to guidance counselors is available on our website under "Unit Information."
- January 15, 2023: Delegates can begin filling in their information via the online registration form.
- Completed registrations (online) and Endorsement Forms (paper copy) with all monies, are due to Department Headquarters by **May 1, 2023** - this is also the non-refundable tuition deadline. Any cancellations after this date will not be issued a refund.

Please contact the Girls State Commission ([alathgs@gmail.com](mailto:alathgs@gmail.com)) with any questions you may have.



## Suggestions for the ALA Unit's Interview/Selection Process for ALA Girls State -Citizens



- Whether you work with school guidance counselors, civics and social sciences teachers or AP History instructors, please make sure that anyone involved in the selection process is knowledgeable about ALA Tar Heel Girls State by providing them with the gray brochure "ALA Tar Heel Girls State," and background information on the program. Supplying them with accurate information is crucial to their ability to make the best selections.
- When a candidate has met the basic program qualifications like class rank, age, enthusiasm, and NC residency, you must then determine if she has a genuine interest in government and leadership and if she has the desire to improve her understanding of her civic responsibilities. Here are some questions you might ask to make that determination:
  - Ask candidates to prepare a 250-word essay on why they want to attend ALA THGS
  - and what they hope to learn by participating in the program.
  - Ask candidates questions pertaining to their government like what type of government their city has or if they can name their US congressmen, state legislators (do they know they know difference?), mayor, or governor.
- It's important to get to know a candidate beyond her list of extracurricular activities. Ask her questions that will provide insight into her critical thinking skills and how well she may present herself at ALA THGS. Does she have the self-confidence to nominate herself to run for office? Get a better sense of her personality by asking questions like:
  - What do you think is the most pressing problem facing our country today?
  - What do you want to be doing in ten years?
  - Share an example of when you have taken an unpopular stand on an issue.
  - Describe your biggest mistake and what—if anything—you learned from it.
  - Why should we select you to represent our unit at ALA THGS?
  - What is your favorite flavor of ice cream—and why? (see if this throws her)
  - How and with whom will you share your knowledge gained at ALA THGS?
- Please remember that the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution and Bylaws states, "the American Legion Auxiliary shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for any promotion of candidacy of any person seeking public office."
- If your unit is planning on covering the tuition for any girls you endorse, you might consider paying half or seventy-five percent of the tuition on the front end and asking the girl to cover the remaining cost at the time of application. When the citizen returns to your unit to report on her experience (which should be a condition of her selection and told about up front), your unit could present her with a check for the tuition she paid. If a student invests some of their money in the program, they are usually more committed.
- Whether you select citizens through personal interviews or you have schools nominate girls, you should meet with the selected girls—and their parents if possible—to review forms in the application packet to make sure they know how to complete the forms and when they are due back to you. Take this time to discuss the ability to pay the tuition by the due date if your unit is not covering the cost of tuition. Be sure the girl has transportation to and from the College on the Sunday and Saturday of ALA THGS. Select one or two alternates to make sure that you will be able to send a qualified girl if a citizen drops out.
- Good luck and remember to call on the ALA THGS Commission members if we can assist you!



American Legion Auxiliary Tar Heel Girls State
2023 Unit Endorsement Form

PLEASE PRINT

Unit Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Girls State Unit Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact's Phone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

List of Girls Being Endorsed by the Unit (Please Print First and Last Name Only):

Multiple horizontal lines for listing names of girls being endorsed.

Total number of participants: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$400 = \_\_\_\_\_ (Total amount of check)

Check number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember all checks must come from ALA Units or AL Posts, not individuals and should be made to ALA Department of NC with Girls State written in the memo line.

Please return form as soon as your participants are chosen and send all monies by May 1, 2023.

to: NC ALA Department Headquarters
PO Box 46315
Raleigh, North Carolina 27620-6315