

## FILING APPLICATIONS

Please complete the application, parental consent and medical authorization form for each student's name submitted. All forms may be reproduced as needed. Applications can also be obtained through our website at <http://www.maineala.org/dirigo-girls-state.html>

All applications must be accompanied by a check in the amount of **\$320.00**. Checks shall be made payable to Dirigo Girls State. **MAIL APPLICATIONS, CHECKS, MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORMS** to:

American Legion Auxiliary  
Dirigo Girls State  
5 Verti Drive, Suite B  
Winslow, Maine 04901

Applications sent without parental consent forms or medical authorizations will not be processed. **Deadline for submissions is June 1, 2020.**

Questions and information pertaining to Dirigo Girls State can be obtained by contacting the American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Maine at 207-465-4966, via email at [mcrae.mls@gmail.com](mailto:mcrae.mls@gmail.com), or by visiting <http://www.maineala.org/dirigo-girls-state.html>



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Dirigo Girls State**

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# 2020

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Maine**

**Announces  
The 73rd Annual  
Dirigo Girls State**

<http://www.maineala.org/dirigo-girls-state.html>

## June 21-25, 2020

### **NEW LOCATION**

**Thomas College  
180 West River Rd.  
Waterville, Me. 04901**

## **FORWARD:**

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maine, believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic and state than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American Government. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate the basic principles involved in the successful management of a democratic society, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations.

The American Legion Auxiliary, through its youth activities programs, plays a leading role in the development of tomorrow's informed, responsible citizens. Programs such as the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation are our finest examples of citizenship instruction for youth. American Legion Girls State is a unique summertime educational program that does not emphasize classroom lecture and textbook learning. Instead, it focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of the State of Maine.

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of Girls State is to provide Maine high school juniors with the opportunity to participate in a program that supplements their high school courses in government and its functions. In this program young women role-play as they learn to campaign for local, county and state offices and then organize and carry out the functions of the state government.

## **SPONSORS:**

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maine sponsors the Girls State program and encourage all other groups and organizations to join in promoting the program through sponsorship of candidates.

Sponsors of Girls State delegates are traditionally veterans' organizations, financial institutions, businesses, patriotic, civic, fraternal, labor, student, parent, teacher or religious groups. It is acceptable for a Girl Stater to be co-sponsored by more than one sponsor.

Last year nearly 200 high school juniors attended this outstanding program, but we are attempting to expand that number. Whatever you can do to assist in this effort will be appreciated. There is no limit to the number of girls a school may send.

## **INSTRUCTORS:**

Every effort is made to provide qualified instructors for this program. These include town and city managers, town selectmen, judges, attorneys, members of the Maine House of Representatives and Maine Senate, teachers, guidance counselors and others familiar with local, county and state government.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Three scholarships will be offered this year. Two of the scholarships are from The American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Maine. The third is the Samsung Scholarship offered through our National HQ for \$1250.

## **BAND:**

Annually, Girls State has a 40-50 piece pep band under the supervision of a qualified musical director. School principals are asked to recommend band members. Band members must bring their own instrument to the program. A space is provided for this on the application. The Band Application will be included in with the Girls State packet that's sent out to each delegate upon selection or can be obtained online by visiting <http://www.maineala.org/dirigo-girls-state.html>

**Band members only are to arrive at Thomas College on Sat., June 20 at 2:00 p.m.**

## **SELECTION PROCESS:**

Any junior, who is interested in learning about town and state government, qualifies for Girls State. Information pertaining to the program should be made available for all girls in the junior class; giving students at all scholastic levels the chance to apply. Priority should be given to attitude versus scholastic achievement, although both qualities are desirable. Involvement, interest and participation should be the main focus during the selection process. All applicants chosen should be informed that they are being recommended to the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit and each individual should commit to attending prior to an application being submitted.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Due to the intensity of the program, late arrivals, early departures and any request for a delegate to be released temporarily and returning on the same day will be handled on a case by case basis with the American Legion Auxiliary and will be supported by the parent (s) of the delegate. Therefore, all delegates should be prepared to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the program.

## **CANCELLATION:**

In previous years several girls have failed to notify us that they could not or would not attend Girls State. This causes many problems within the program as well as wasting the tuition money of a sponsor. We do hope that the girls selected this year will give some assurance to their high school officials that they will attend. If there is a cancellation and another girl is available from the list of eligible girls at the school, principals may write a letter to accompany a replacement stating that fact and the name of the girl she is replacing. This can even be done as late as the first day of the program, if necessary.

**TIME AND PLACE:** The 2020 session of Dirigo Girls State will be held at Thomas College, 180 West River Rd., Waterville, Me. Visit [www.thomas.edu](http://www.thomas.edu) for directions or for those without a computer: From Interstate 95, turn off at Exit 127 (formerly 33) onto Kennedy Memorial Drive (Route 137). If you are coming from the North, it is a left turn off the exit and a right turn if you are coming from the South). In approximately 1.5 miles, turn right onto West River Rd. (Route 104 South). Thomas College is 1.5 miles on the left.

**Registration will be 1:00 p.m.  
Sunday, June 21, 2020**

**Graduation will be 3:30 p.m.  
Thursday, June 25, 2020.**



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