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## What is Dirigo Girls' State?

Dirigo Girls' State is a non-partisan, hands-on opportunity for young women to learn about responsible citizenship in a democratic society. The Girls' State program is a government simulation in which delegates role play campaigns and elections for local, county and state government. Once elected, delegates learn the operational processes under which our government functions. The bill writing process, the role of lobbyists, and the judiciary are also explored.

## Who is eligible to attend?

A prospective Girls' State delegate must be a legal inhabitant of the United States, have completed her junior year in high school and have at least one semester remaining before graduation, be keenly interested in government and current events, have high moral character, show strong leadership abilities, and demonstrate above average academic achievement.

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**For more information, including application requirements and deadlines, please visit our website at [maineala.org/resources](http://maineala.org/resources), or contact Director Brenda Stevens at 207-628-4201, or by email at [alderswamp@gmail.com](mailto:alderswamp@gmail.com)**



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# Dirigo Girls' State



**The American Legion  
Auxiliary  
Department of Maine**

**The program meets for one week  
annually in June from Sunday to  
Friday at Husson University in  
Bangor, Maine.**

## Who sponsors the program?

Any Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary may sponsor delegates. Any civic, fraternal, patriotic, business, or professional group that has the approval of the ALA Unit may contribute all or part of the fee. Family members of a delegate may not serve as contributors. After the Girls' State session, each girl is expected to appear before her contributing organization, the local Auxiliary Unit, and her class or student body to report on her Girls' State experience. It is recommended that her school's Board of Directors be invited to attend one of these appearances.

**In a 2017 survey of delegates, 97% said they learned about citizenship and government and nearly 9 out of 10 delegates said they would recommend the program to other girls.**

## What do former delegates say about the program?

"Unlike my grandmother, I was born in an era when women are leaders in every level of government. I view Girls' State as an opportunity to be an educated and active participant in America's future....If our democratic republic is to endure, young people need to understand that politics can be contentious, but the best decisions are born of struggle. Although Girls' State is fun, it is also preparation for my civic involvement as an active and informed participant in the future shaping of America."

**Alexa Petrovic, 2017 Girls' State Delegate**

"I joined the Obama Administration and was an Assistant Press Secretary at the Department of Energy. It was such an incredible experience seeing our government up close....There is no doubt in my mind that I wouldn't be where I am or this involved in politics and public service if it weren't for my Girls State and Girls Nation year in 2009."

**Katie Walsh, 2009 Dirigo Girls' State Delegate**

