



Participant and Parent Information Packet

86th Session
Campbell University
Buies Creek, NC
www.alathgs.com

June 21 – 27, 2025

Objectives

- To improve citizenship for present and future generations of Tar Heels.
- To become familiar with political processes and the structure of North Carolina's government.
- To develop civic leadership and pride in American citizenship.
- To instill in the citizens of Tar Heel Girls State an appreciation for American traditions and belief in the United States.
- To develop a sense of individual obligation to community, state, and nation.
- To ensure the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy will continue for posterity.



The American Legion Auxiliary

In the spirit of "Service, Not Self," the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

For more information on the American Legion Auxiliary, visit www.alaforveterans.org

ALA Tar Heel Girls State

- Began in 1940 and is the longest continuously running ALA Girls State program in the country.
- Rising seniors from across the state will spend a week creating city government, political parties, and a state government. They will elect officials, write and debate bills, create working government and attend various workshops to prepare them for their senior year and beyond.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a junior in high school at the time of her selection because girls attend the program during the summer between their junior and senior year.
- Must be between the ages of 16 and 18 years.
- Must be ranked in the top 1/3 of her class or have an unweighted GPA of at least a 3.0.
- Must be a resident of North Carolina for a minimum of 1 year prior to her selection for the program and be attending high school in North Carolina.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or a legal resident of the United States.
- Must be a mature individual, capable of setting priorities, and be in good physical condition to withstand the week's intense activities and demanding schedule. If there are concerns, please contact alathgs@gmail.com
- Preference will be given to children of veterans of the U.S. Military.

Endorsement by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit

Tar Heel Girls State is one of the many programs sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Carolina. While not all Units are able to pay the \$400 application fee for participants, **American Legion Auxiliary Units must endorse and approve the selection of all participants** to this program. American Legion Posts may also endorse and approve selection of participants when there is no associated Unit.

The Week at a Glance

The program begins on Saturday, June 21. All citizens will arrive on campus between 1 and 3pm. During the opening ceremony, participants will be introduced to the advancement and posting of the colors, which will occur daily at ALA Tar Heel Girls State. The opening ceremony will also include words of welcome from local dignitaries, introduction of the staff, and our participants being sworn in as citizens of ALA Tar Heel Girls State. Throughout the week, citizens will hear from state and local government leaders as they reflect on their pathway to leadership. All speakers take time to answer questions from citizens.

Citizens will begin forming their mock government by nominating and electing candidates for city positions. Upon arrival, each participant is assigned to a city, as well as a political party. City offices in which citizens may be elected include City Mayor and City Recreation Chair. State government offices include governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, speaker of the House of Representatives, etc. There are many other offices not listed, but all nominations for offices are taken by self-nomination only. A citizen must nominate herself for the office she wishes to pursue.

After our city government is established and our General Assembly is formed, citizens will have the opportunity to act as a senator, representative, or lobbyist. Citizens will have the opportunity to do research for drafting and debating bills.

During downtime, citizens may be able to participate in sports (depending on the availability of on campus facilities), work on their act for our talent show, and other team building games. Citizens should also bring any necessary equipment to participate in these activities, including swimwear, tennis racquets, dance costumes, instruments and sheet music, etc.

Special Features

- **Patriotic Showcase of Stars:** Our talent show! Be sure to bring any equipment you will need to participate. Special preference is given to acts which are patriotic in nature.
- **Flag Day Ceremony:** Citizens will work together to create a ceremony for Flag Day. Past participants have played music and performed readings.
- **ALA Girls Nation:** Two exemplary citizens will be selected to represent ALA Tar Heel Girls State as Senators to ALA Girls Nation held in Washington, D.C in late July 2025. This all-expense paid experience allows for citizens to meet participants from other ALA Girls State programs as well as study our national government. More information can be found at <https://www.legion-aux.org/ala-girls-nation>
- **Closing Ceremony:** More information will be provided at orientation. Participants will move out of the dorms following completion of the ceremony.
- **Samsung American Legion Scholarship:** This scholarship is available to students who attend a 2024 session of The American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program AND are a direct descendant of a wartime US military veteran who served during a period of war. Participants who are interested must apply online (visit our website for more information and the link) **BEFORE** ALA Tar Heel Girls State begins.
 - **It is important to note that proof of service is required for this scholarship.** There is often a delay in the request and the government providing these documents. Please begin applying for this scholarship as soon as possible!

Rules – Regulations – Expectations

1. Participants are expected to remain on campus for the **entire session**. You will not be permitted to leave campus after registration on Saturday until Friday morning's closing ceremony. If a need to leave arises prior to closing ceremony, you will not be issued a certificate of completion, nor will they be able to return.
 - a. Registration will be held on Saturday from 1-3pm. Late arrivals cannot be accommodated as the program begins promptly after registration closes.
2. If the participant is driving themselves to ALA THGS: Keys must be turned in to the housemother after parking in the designated parking area. There is a **\$35 cash-only, non-refundable parking fee**. Unregistered cars will be towed at your expense.
3. Name tags are to be worn at all times. This tag is your identification as an ALA Tar Heel Girls State Citizen.
4. Attendance and participation are expected at all scheduled meetings. If you become ill, you must contact your counselor and housemother immediately.
5. Alcohol, tobacco or vaping products, or other illegal drugs of any form will not be tolerated.
6. Bullying or harassment of other participants, campus staff, or our volunteers will not be tolerated.
7. For your safety, do not wander on campus and never walk alone. Dorm doors automatically lock at 10pm and no one is allowed to leave after the doors are locked.
8. Respect your roommate and her property as you want yours to be respected. A before and after inspection is made of each room. Citizens are responsible for any damages and should alert a staff member if there is a problem with her room as soon as the problem arises.
9. Each citizen is responsible for her room key and meal card. Failure to return your key or meal card will result in a **\$50 replacement fee for each item that is lost**.
10. All electronic devices must be turned off during sessions.
11. Participants are not allowed to order food for delivery. This is for your safety as we do not want strangers interacting with our participants on campus.
12. We are housed at Campbell University and as guests must leave their grounds and facilities better than we found it! We must also be respectful of and follow any directives given by their staff during the week.
13. We closely monitor infectious diseases and default to campus and state requirements. Any updates to these procedures will be provided closer to the session.

Dress Code

Informal dress is fine around the dorm, in the dining hall, and during free time.

The dress code for all meetings is business casual. This includes dresses and skirts/pants with a blouse or top.

- Skirts and dresses must be at least fingertip length. Pants must be mid-calf or longer, no shorts.
- No midriff baring tops or tube tops.
- No spaghetti straps unless worn under a jacket or sweater.
- No denim pants or logo T-shirts.
- Make sure proper undergarments are worn under your outfits.
- Dress shoes or sandals are required for all meetings. No athletic shoes or flip-flops will be worn during meetings.
- A white dress (or skirt and blouse) and white shoes are needed if you wish to serve on a flag honor guard or as a speaker escort.

If a participant fails to observe the rules, regulations, and expectations the Director's course of action, depending on the severity, could include any or all of the following: 1) Call the participant's parents; 2) Call or write the endorsing American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Post; 3) Notify the principal of the participant's high school, in writing; 4) Take other appropriate action, including dismissal from the program.

Orientations

Orientations will be held virtually. All participants **MUST** attend one orientation in order to attend ALA Tar Heel Girls State. Check our website for an updated list of orientation sessions. Please have a parent or guardian attend the orientation session with you. There is a lot of information given during these sessions. The sessions will last about an hour. If for some reason you cannot attend an orientation session at the times provided, please send an email to ALATHGSChair@gmail.com. Please plan to attend one of the earlier sessions, just in case life gets in the way!

Fees

The fee for each participant to attend is \$400. This fee covers room and board for the week as well as other program expenses. All participant tuition checks must be written by the endorsing ALA Unit or American Legion Post who will in turn write a check to the Department. The Department will **only accept checks** from an American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Post.

Registration Forms

The registration form (Google Form) must be completed in its entirety along with uploading the Participant/Parent Signature Page, and Social Media/Photo Release Forms. Please make sure the submitted copy of these documents are clear and free of shadows. If they are not legible, we cannot finalize the participant's registration.

The medical form will be distributed in May, 2025 – more information to follow. The non-refundable application deadline is June 1, 2025.

Participant Registration at Campbell University

Upon arrival at Campbell University on Saturday, June 21, 2025, the participants should follow signs to the registration location.

Participants **are not** encouraged to drive themselves to Campbell University. However, if a participant must drive herself, there is a **\$35 cash-only, non-refundable** parking fee. After moving into the dorm, the housemother will direct the participant to designated parking where the car will remain for the week. Unregistered cars will be towed at your expense.

What do I need to bring to ALA THGS?

Below are some suggestions of the types of items to bring. More information will be given at orientation.

Dorm Items:

Set of Twin XL Sheets or Sleeping Bag
Pillow and Pillow Case
Trashcan or trash bag

Bath:

Bath Linens
Bath Toiletries
Shower shoes
Hand soap

Art Supplies:

Construction paper
Markers
Scissors
Pens/Pencils

****Note:** Campaign Materials must be made while at ALATHGS, nothing pre-made!

Clothing:

Light sweater
Comfortable Shoes
Dress Code Approved Clothing
Formal Dress for Inauguration (optional)

Miscellaneous:

Umbrella
Hat
Sunscreen
Refillable Water Bottle
Tote Bag
Talent Show Items

What Not to Bring:

Valuable items
Prepared campaign items
Large sums of money

ALA Tar Heel Girls State Leadership

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