

What is the American Legion Auxiliary Tar Heel Girls State Program?

ALA Tar Heel Girls State is a week-long practical study of the structure and operation of North Carolina State Government. The non-partisan program takes a hands-on approach to learning how state and local governments function. Citizens—as the participants are known—develop an understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship by creating and living under their own mock government.

Who is the Program's Sponsor?

The Girls State Program, which is held in every state in the nation, is an Americanism project of the American Legion Auxiliary. ALA Tar Heel Girls State is sponsored by the North Carolina Department of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Even though another organization may pay a citizen's registration fee, an American Legion Auxiliary Unit must endorse all applications and nominate girls for the program. Applications are processed at the Auxiliary's Department Headquarters located in Raleigh.

What are the Selection Criteria for Citizens?

- Citizens must be a junior in high school at the time of her selection because girls attend ALA Tar Heel Girls State during the summer between their junior and senior year. Citizens must be between the ages of 16 and 18 years.
- Citizens must be in top third of their class academically.
- Citizens must be a resident of North Carolina and a legal resident of the US (a citizen, a visa, or green card) and be attending a North Carolina high school.
- Citizens must be mature individuals, capable of setting priorities, and be in good physical condition to withstand the week's intense activities and demanding schedule.
- Preference will be given to children of U. S. military veterans.

What Happens During the Week at ALA Tar Heel Girls State?

The week at ALA Tar Heel Girls State provides citizens with a variety of opportunities for developing leadership skills, learning, and meeting new people—all while having fun!

During the week, citizens are grouped into cities where they organize their own local government, elect officers, prepare a city charter, and conduct city activities. Citizens also assume the role of a senator, representative, or lobbyist to research and write bills and resolutions for the Girls State Legislature. Each citizen is also a member of a fictitious political party, which will develop a party platform, engineer campaigns for party candidates, and ultimately elect a slate of officers to govern ALA Tar Heel Girls State.

In addition to the legislative workshops, Tar Heel Girls State hosts top state officials who share their views on current issues and information about their offices. Outstanding speakers from various fields take time to address citizens of ALA Tar Heel Girls State and previous topics have included: North Carolina's judicial system, the role of the media in today's society, handling stress, and appreciating diversity.

Parliamentary procedure, based on Robert's Rules of Order, is used to conduct all meetings. A working knowledge and understanding of parliamentary procedure are essential during the week. Citizens will be given a handbook that explains what is to take place at each meeting and gives guidance on steps to take if you wish to run for elected office or serve as a part of the honor guard or escort teams.

Where Can I Get More Information on this Year's ALA Tar Heel Girls State Program?

To receive more information about the ALA Tar Heel Girls State Program, you may contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit, a member of the ALA Tar Heel Girls State Commission listed on the back of this brochure or visit our website at: www.thgs.com.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



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American Legion Auxiliary Tar Heel Girls State

**A Youth Citizenship Training Project
in
North Carolina State Government**

sponsored by

**DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA
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