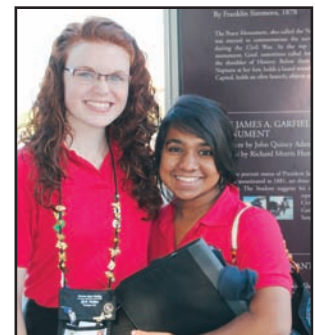


GIRLS NATION MEDIA KIT

A week that shapes a lifetime.



65th Annual Girls Nation Session
July 23-30, 2011
The National 4-H Conference Center
Chevy Chase, MD

GIRLS NATION

For 65 years, the American Legion Auxiliary has provided young women with a citizenship training program that is second to none—Girls Nation. This unique experience held every summer in the nation’s capital is designed to provide practical insight into how the federal government works, to instill a sense of pride and loyalty in America and create friendships and memories that last a lifetime.



Participants are known as “senators” and are selected from the 49 Girls State sessions held across the country. At the state level, the girls focus on responsible citizenship and study local, county and state government processes. Two outstanding citizens are then chosen to represent their state at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C.

In addition to their legislative forums, the senators hear distinguished guest speakers and visit the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery, the White House and other memorials in the Washington, D.C. area. Their visit to Capitol Hill includes meetings with their respective senators and representatives. A highlight of the week is the opportunity to meet the President of the United States.

A key component of the Girls Nation program involves mock senate sessions complete with caucusing and debating of bills. Topics ranging from personal to political interests ensure that the debates are lively and passionate. Campaigns are held to elect party officials, a Girls Nation president and vice president. The Girls Nation president is invited to attend and speak at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention later in the summer.

Since 1947, more than 6,000 politically astute young women have attended Girls Nation. For many, the experience is the beginning of a lifetime of government service. For all, it is an experience that allows them to gain a firsthand perspective on democracy, develop leadership skills, and create the foundation for responsible citizenship.



GIRLS NATION PARTICIPANTS

Girls Nation senators represent the wealth of diversity in our great nation—from ethnic background to family structure, city to suburban to rural, socio-economic to religion. It is, however, their commonality of intelligence, positive attitude, enthusiasm for learning, motivation for achievement and belief in democracy that is the driving force behind the strength of the Girls Nation program.



Carrie Bilenker
2010 Girls Nation
President

“We tested ourselves, challenged each other and set a valuable precedent for what we all must continue to do throughout our lives. In a single week, we influenced the course of our lives as we came together at Girls Nation.”



“I have been moved by the generosity of spirit that I have encountered here. The help I have received from everyone has been invaluable. Of even greater significance is the support I received at every step of the way. Whether they were for or against me, Nationalist or Federalist, I met equal volumes of respect and willingness to hear new ideas.”

—**Rachel Lipstein**
2009 Girls Nation President

“Girls Nation was an incredible opportunity for me to learn not only about government and politics, but also about the people who make these systems work. My experiences with my incredibly passionate and gifted yet modest peers were absolutely priceless. I’m still in touch with many of the young women I met and will treasure the memories we made together for the rest of my life.”

—**Barb Walkowiak**
2008 Girls Nation President



“I am eternally grateful to the American Legion Auxiliary for the chance to be in a place where intelligence, drive, passion and ethics are not the exception, but the rule. I have made lifelong friends, but more importantly I feel I have been empowered with the tools to do great service to my God, my country and the world I live in.”

—**Heather White (2007)**

GIRLS NATION SPONSOR

As the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world, it is fitting that the American Legion Auxiliary is the proud sponsor of both Girls State and Girls Nation. Founded in 1919, the Auxiliary boasts a membership of nearly 850,000 members and has a commanding presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide.

The strong spirit of volunteerism is a hallmark of the Auxiliary. Dedicated members annually raise millions of dollars for veteran-related programs and donate millions of hours in service to our country's veterans, active-duty military, and their families. This dynamic involvement in community service programs and activities is just one manifestation of the Auxiliary motto *Service Not Self*.

Auxiliary members uphold the ideals and principles of patriotism and freedom, pledge to preserve and defend the Constitution and promote allegiance to God and Country. Its membership is comprised of women veterans and the wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters of veterans who served during periods of U.S. wartime conflict.



The American Legion Auxiliary is affiliated with The American Legion (sponsor of Boys State and Boys Nation) and is honored to collaborate with them on many local and national level programs as well as legislative initiatives that impact veterans.

Each year, many devoted volunteer members of the American Legion Auxiliary attend Girls Nation to support and share with the young women senators. Certainly one goal is to encourage the girls to continue their community service by joining the Auxiliary. And, ideally these same enthusiastic young senators will return some day as Girls Nation sponsors themselves.



Vickie Koutz
National Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary



Kristen Low
Program Coordinator
American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters

GIRLS NATION CONNECTIONS

Keeping track of the Girls Nation experience has never been easier!
Stay connected online throughout the week for up-to-date info.



www.facebook.com
Photos that capture highlights
will be posted daily.



www.twitter.com
Check for tweets that tell the story.



<http://ALAGirlsNation.blogspot.com/>
Senators will be blogging daily to share
their personal impressions of the week.



www.ALAforVeterans.org
Senators' photos will be posted.



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