

Applications Fees

Applications can be obtained from any American Legion Auxiliary Unit in Nebraska.

All applications, along with the required **\$450.00** application fee, must be submitted to Cornhusker Girls State by March 1, 2026.

Transportation Fee

Because of the distance from Lincoln, some Districts in western Nebraska require Girls State delegates to use mandatory transportation provided by a contract carrier. This cost will vary and applies to delegates residing in Districts 1, 4, 5 and 9. Information has been provided to all schools or you may contact Headquarters (402-466-1808) for the information.

Registration Fee

A required registration fee of \$25 is payable at the time of registration on Sunday, May 31. This fee is paid by the Girls State delegate, or parents, or the sponsoring Auxiliary Unit. Checks are made payable to Cornhusker Girls State.

Refunds

Refunds for cancellation will only be given to the sponsoring individual or organization if Department is notified prior to May 1, 2026.

After May 1, no refunds will be given. If a girl does not attend Girls State and no written prior notice was given to the sponsoring individual or organization, the sponsoring entity may ask the parents for reimbursement of the lost fee.

Instructions to Girls

Delegates officially accepted will receive a packet which includes a "Welcome Letter" with instructions for them to register for Girls State online. Registration should be completed as soon as possible. There is also information explaining the rules and regulations of Girls State. Additional instructions include the Girls State and University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UNL) rules, dress code, code of conduct, medical, what each girl needs to bring for the week and other information related to the week.

Instructions to Girls (Continued)

Specific forms (Code of Conduct and Personal Medical Form) in the packet must be filled out completely and returned to Cornhusker Girls State by May 1, 2026. They may be scanned/mailed or sent via USPS.

Delegates will report to the UNL campus on Sunday, May 31 at 12:00 p.m. for check-in. Specific information and exact location will be included in the packet. Late arrivals and early departures are rarely approved. The Girls State Chair is the only individual that can approve these requests. There are very few exceptions granted. Family vacations, sports camps, ACT/SAT exams, and such are not valid reasons for late arrivals or early departures. Delegates need to plan accordingly.

Once the program is in session, any girl who is unable to follow the rules and regulations and Code of Conduct will be immediately dismissed.

Girls that do not attend the full week will not graduate nor receive their Girls State pin and graduation certificate.

Girls Nation

Two delegates are chosen to represent Nebraska at the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program in Washington D.C. During Girls Nation, they will create and debate laws, visit the US Capitol, meet the Nebraska Senators, and visit other historic places. Although not guaranteed, most delegates have had the opportunity to visit the White House and meet the President of the United States. **Only 98 young women get to attend each year.** To be eligible you must be a legal US citizen, possess legal residency, or have visitor status. The 2026 dates are July 18-25.

Cornhusker Girls State
150 NW 40th St, Unit B
Lincoln, NE 68528
402-466-1808
negirlssstate@outlook.com
www.cornhuskerGirlssstate.com

85th Annual Session

May 31-June 6, 2026



Informational Brochure

Sponsored by
American Legion
Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska

American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State

History and Purpose

Girls State began as one and two-day sessions in the late 1930's. In 1939 Girls State was altered to make it a week-long government education program. The program offers training in the positive processes of self-government and good citizenship as practiced in democratic societies.

Since becoming a national program, the Department of Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary has been proud to offer young girls throughout the state an opportunity to attend Cornhusker Girls State at the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln.

The purpose of the program is to educate our youth in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship. Upon arriving at Cornhusker Girls State, the citizens are divided into eight towns and participate in mock political parties and elections are held to fill city, county, and state positions. Parliamentary procedure is introduced to the girls and campaigning, party rallies, legislative sessions, mock trials and debating happens during the week.

Non-Partisan

The program is non-partisan. The political parties in Girls State are the "Federalists" and the "Nationalists." Each party creates their own platforms.

Activities

Sessions are held daily for educational and government training. Additional activities might include community service projects, point of interest tours, media, band, chorus, and sporting activities.

Special Presentations

A variety of highly respected public servants, community leaders, and Girls State Alumnae present information on subjects relevant to the program. Evening sessions may be joint with Boys State and include motivational speakers.

Staff

Staff and counselors of the Cornhusker Girls State program are well-trained and experienced leaders. They are American Legion Auxiliary members and/or past Girls State delegates who have passed background checks.

Health and Medical

Girls State has a medical staff that includes two licensed nurses. They are on site and on duty 24/7 during the entire week. Every care will be taken to avoid accidents and illnesses; however, Girls State will not be responsible or held liable for injuries or sickness if they occur.

Eligibility and Selection

Any girl who is a junior during the 2025-2026 school year, attended a Nebraska High School, or is Nebraska home-schooled is eligible for Cornhusker Girls State.

Eligibility and Selection, continued

A letter is mailed to every high school principal in the state to request they explain the Girls State program to all eligible Girls and secure a list of those who are interested. Traits to be considered when recommending a student include scholastic performance, leadership qualities, and citizenship.

Every sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit should ask the principal for the list of interested Girls. The Unit will then interview the girls and then make their selection(s).

The completed application with the application fee (\$450) once received at Headquarters will reserve a space for the Unit's candidate. The Cornhusker Girls State Executive Committee has the right to accept or reject any application. No publicity about a student's selection should be made until official notification from Girls State is received.

Endorsement vs Sponsorship

Every girl must be endorsed by a local American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Other individuals, civic organizations, and businesses may contribute to the application fee, but the application must be endorsed by an Auxiliary Unit. There is no limit to the number of girls each Auxiliary Unit may endorse and/or sponsor.