

April 17, 2023

Dear ALA MGS 2023 Citizen:

Congratulations on your selection as a citizen to the 2023 session of American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Missouri Girls State (MGS). As many have said in the past, the memories you make at ALA MGS will be with you forever. ALA Missouri Girls State will be held on the campus of Lindenwood University in St. Charles from Saturday, June 24 to Saturday, July 1, 2023.

The 2023 session of American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State will hold many exciting opportunities for our participants. Our ALA MGS Committee has been working tirelessly with Lindenwood University to ensure that you have a premier experience this session, and we can't wait to share the week with you. The 2023 session of ALA Missouri Girls State will mark the program's 81st session, and the program's second session co-hosted with The American Legion Boys State of Missouri at Lindenwood University. While both programs have their own scheduled events and opportunities for their citizens, there will be speakers and educational opportunities that Boys State and Girls State citizens will attend together. ALA Missouri Girls State citizens and staff will have their own residential facilities, dining hall, and program headquarters for the duration of the program. The 2023 session of ALA Missouri Girls State will, once again, be a phenomenal experience for all involved!

**Registration is from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in your assigned residence hall at Lindenwood University,** and the first meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, you will receive an e-mail with your assigned dorm. This will allow you to check in at your specific residence hall. We will also be able to assist you upon arrival if you do not know your assignment.

We would like all citizens to be registered and moved into their residence hall by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> so we can begin on time. The ALA Missouri Girls State program will assign a preferred window of time for arrival at registration to accommodate the volume of individuals checking in at one time. Please try your best to arrive during your assigned time window, but if it is not possible, do not feel like you can't come! This is **your ALA Missouri Girls State**, and we want everyone to arrive safely. If you cannot arrive by 3:30 p.m., call the ALA MGS program at **628-252-6471**. When possible, please limit the number of people that you bring with you to registration to one parent/guardian per ALA MGS citizen.

Two (2) or three (3) hours of political science college credit will be offered by Lindenwood University to all ALA MGS citizens who successfully complete the week. One of the University's requirements is participation from Saturday's first meeting to the following Saturday's last assembly/city meeting. This is one of the reasons that all citizens must attend the entire session to be eligible for completion of the program and college credit.

To ensure that all citizens and alternates receive the same information prior to attending ALA MGS 2023, all citizens and alternates are required to attend an orientation about the program. In our program's Code of Conduct, which you acknowledged upon applying for ALA Missouri Girls State, we note the requirement of completing an orientation prior to June 14, 2023, in order to attend our program. **Any citizen who has not completed the orientation process prior to June 14th will forfeit the opportunity to attend the ALA MGS program.** Your school or ALA Unit sponsor will be notified should you fail to meet this requirement.

We acknowledge that many families feel more comfortable attending an in-person orientation and have scheduled multiple orientations for this purpose. We also understand that not all citizens will be able to travel to one of these face-to-face options, so there is also an online orientation as well. You can choose to attend an in-person orientation at one of the scheduled events listed below. If you cannot travel to an in-person orientation, you will be required to attend one of the six online options on the specified dates. The orientation dates and locations are included in this mailing.

Finally, the **Citizen Information Packet** is ready to download from the ALA Missouri Girls State website at [www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org) on the "2023 Session Info" tab. The packet contains documents that must be completed and brought with you on Saturday, June 24, along with crucial information for a successful week. Upon receiving this letter, you should download and print this packet to review with your parent or guardian. Please note that the Citizen Information Packet includes information about applying for ALA Girls Nation and the ALA Samsung Scholarship. Both opportunities require significant work that cannot be completed in the final week or two prior to the session.

Please follow our social media accounts listed below in order to get any other updated information. We will also send e-mails on a weekly basis to the citizen and parent address included on the citizen's application. These e-mails will be sent via the iContact e-mail service and may appear in your promotions/spam/junk folder the first time, so please check it accordingly!

Sincerely,

ALA Missouri Girls State Committee

Members: Tina Anderson, Shanna Jelinek, Macae Mickens, Whitney Nolan, Patty Pink, Linda Schaap, Kelsey Whitt

Contact: Linda Schaap, Director of Admissions – [linda.schaap@missourigirlsstate.org](mailto:linda.schaap@missourigirlsstate.org) or 816-863-0503  
Macae Mickens, Director – [director@missourigirlsstate.org](mailto:director@missourigirlsstate.org)



## Your path to success at ALA Missouri Girls State 2023

- Download the Citizen Information Packet at [www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org) and review it with your parent or guardian!
- Orientation – each citizen is required to attend an orientation by June 14, 2023.
  - Option 1: Attend an in-person orientation on the dates listed on the reverse side of this document.
  - Option 2: If you cannot travel to an in-person orientation, complete the online orientation option available on the specified dates. The link for the orientation is available on the “2023 Session Info” page of our website.
- Check your e-mail regularly for program updates, transportation information, and assigned registration times. ***Some of these weekly e-mail updates will include surveys we wish for you to respond to in a timely manner.***
  - One of the surveys that will be sent will include dietary restrictions and health concerns. These must be reported prior to June 6, 2023 in order to provide Lindenwood University with accurate planning time for meals.
- Check social media often for program tips, live zoom Q&A sessions, and more!
  - Facebook: ALA Missouri Girls State (page)
  - Instagram: ala.missourigirlsstate
  - Twitter: @ALAMOGirlsState
- Optional: prepare application for the Samsung scholarship and/or ALA Girls Nation if interested
- Review and pack suggested items in the Citizen Information Packet
- On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, you will receive an e-mail with your dorm assignment. This is how you will know which residence hall you will report to on June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Arrive at registration on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> with the following required items and necessary signatures:
  - Medical Form (signed by your doctor or physician)
  - ALA MGS Program Policy Form
  - Optional – Girls Nation Bill/Resolution

If you find that you can no longer attend ALA MGS 2023, please contact Ms. Linda Schaap at [linda.schaap@missourigirlsstate.org](mailto:linda.schaap@missourigirlsstate.org) or 816-863-0503 as soon as possible!

## 2023 Orientation Schedule

All ALA MGS Citizens are required to complete an orientation by June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We recommend attempting to attend an in-person orientation if your location and schedule allows. If not, you can attend one of the six online orientation options (across five different dates listed below). The online orientations will be held via a zoom meeting and the citizen must stay online for the duration of the meeting. The links for the online orientation are available on our website at [www.missourigirlsstate.org](http://www.missourigirlsstate.org) under "2023 Session Info."

<b>Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023</b>	6:00pm - Online Orientation
<b>Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	1:30pm – Tirey J. Ford American Legion Post 21 16701 US 40 East Independence, MO
<b>Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	6:00pm – American Legion Post 58 2607 State Route 92 Smithville, MO
<b>Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	6:30pm – American Legion Post 287 501 E. Price Ave. Savannah, MO
<b>Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	1:30pm – Roscoe Enloe American Legion Post 5 1423 Tanner Bridge Rd. Jefferson City, MO
<b>Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	7:30pm - Online Orientation
<b>Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	2:00pm – Springfield-Greene County Library Center 4653 S Campbell Avenue Springfield, MO  2:00pm –Lindenwood University – Spellmann Center Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room (4 <sup>th</sup> floor) John Weber Drive St. Charles, MO
<b>Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023</b>	2:00pm –American Legion Post 63 2731 Thomas Dr. Cape Girardeau, MO
<b>Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023</b>	7:00pm – Poplar Bluff High School Library 3209 Oak Grove Rd. Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
<b>Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	6:00pm – Truman State University Planetarium and Multimedia Theater 100 E. Normal Ave. Kirksville, MO 63501
<b>Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	6:30pm - Online Orientation
<b>Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	7:00pm - Online orientation
<b>Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	2:00pm –Lindenwood University – Spellmann Center Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room (4 <sup>th</sup> floor) John Weber Drive St. Charles, MO
<b>Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>	12:00pm & 5:30pm - Online Orientation (two time options) <b>FINAL OPTIONS FOR ORIENTATION REQUIREMENT</b>