

 AMERICAN  
**LEGION**

**AUXILIARY**

Missouri  
Girls State



**ALA GIRLS NATION**

AN APPLICATION GUIDE

# Introduction

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Two citizens from every ALA Girls State program will be selected to represent their state at the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation (ALA GN). These ALA MGS representatives will be known as "senators" at ALA GN.

At ALA GN, senators learn the importance of the individual in a democratic national government by participating in its functions. Missouri's two senators will present a single bill (or resolution) to introduce in one of the daily Senate sessions. Success at ALA GN depends on having a strong bill or resolution, debating proposed legislation, and connecting with the other senators.

The senators also spend time sightseeing, representing the American Legion Auxiliary and ALA GN at functions, and meeting influential members of our government. Attending ALA GN is a tremendous achievement, full of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

The Girls Nation Selection Process is not solely for citizens who have participated in Speech and Debate or any form of competitive speech. We encourage all citizens to apply regardless of your high school experiences!



## PROGRAM GOALS

- Develop leadership and pride in American citizenship
- Educate participants about our system of government
- Instill in participants a greater understanding of American traditions.
- Stimulate a desire to maintain our government processes.

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS NATION

The American Legion Auxiliary completely funds the ALA GN program. Expenses provided include airline travel, lodging, meals, and all shuttles. The two senators selected must be able to travel alone. ALA GN staff will meet all senators upon their arrival and escort them to the airport at the end of the week to depart home. Your only expenses will be any souvenir purchases you choose to make.



Every young woman attending this session of ALA MGS is eligible for ALA GN. Still, to be considered, potential candidates must prepare a nationally focused bill or resolution before arriving at ALA MGS. The pool of candidates for ALA GN will be chosen based on their proposed bill or resolution, their interviews, and the character displayed at ALA MGS. The delegates selected should be one of the best representatives for Missouri and potentially one of the best delegates in the country.

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# ALA GIRLS NATION REQUIRED APPLICATION

Before arriving at ALA MGS, write a one-page bill or resolution for ALA GN that has a national, not state-level, focus.

Your proposal must be constitutional and consistent with the powers afforded to the federal government, or it will not be accepted.

You may propose a resolution (simple, joint, or concurrent), a new law, or repeal an existing law.

## Examples of Federal vs. State Issues

- Federal: minimum wage, election and campaign regulation, foreign affairs, regulation of the industry, declarations of war, environmental issues, entitlement programs
- State: death penalty, adoption regulations, state prisons, school curriculum, incorporation of business firms, transportation

The U.S. Senate does not address taxation, and thus, ALA GN bills should not address taxation.

A one-page cover sheet must accompany your Girls Nation legislation to help the GN Committee get to know you. Please complete the questions on the cover sheet fully and to the best of your ability. The cover sheet should be attached to your bill during submission.



# ALA GIRLS NATION BILL OR RESOLUTION PURPOSE

Choose the purpose of your bill or resolution carefully. Choosing something you feel strongly about and have developed expert-level knowledge is important.

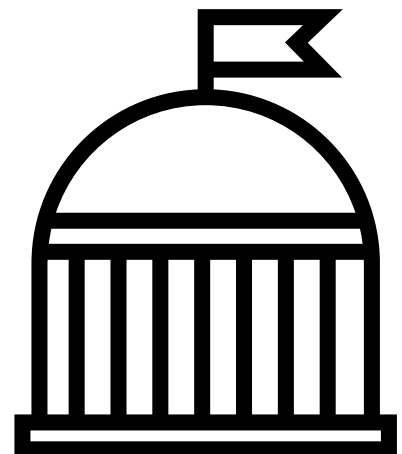
Focus on an original, current, unaddressed, and specific problem. Keep it simple, accurate, and free of partisan bias.

Your bill or resolution should propose a measurable solution that is rational, effective, comprehensive, affordable, and practical.

You will be expected to know any costs generated by your bill and how they will be funded, as well as any other possible consequences, positive or negative, that your bill may create.

Do not submit a bill or resolution that repeats proposed, failed, or existing legislation.

Know that some emotional and/or social issues can be immediately divisive and may not progress at ALA GN. Still, you are free to write your bill or resolution on any national issue of your choice.



# ALA GIRLS NATION HOW TO WRITE YOUR BILL

Your bill or resolution should have your full name in the upper right corner and may not exceed one page (front side only). Do not include any other personal information or photos. Current or previous debate cases or briefs will not be accepted.

A bibliography in MLA, Chicago, or AP format must be included on the reverse side of the page, when printed. Sources should be sophisticated, varied, and screened carefully for bias, validity, and reliability. The use of primary sources, such as actual legislation, is essential.

Your pdf document should be in Times New Roman font, 11-point type, and one-inch margins. If you do not have access to a computer or printer, you may handwrite your bill or resolution. Please ensure your handwriting is neat and legible so that a staff member may type or digitize your submission.

Format your bill or resolution to match the templates provided in this packet. Include the cover sheet, with all questions answered, in a single pdf document with your bill.

As you write your bill or resolution, you may email [alagirlsnation@missourigirlsstate.org](mailto:alagirlsnation@missourigirlsstate.org). We will do our best to provide general assistance, but we may not be able to answer specific or opinionated questions to keep the opportunity fair for all applicants.

## Research Resources

U.S. Government Publishing Office—<https://www.govinfo.gov/>

Bills and Resolutions —

<https://guides.loc.gov/federal-statutes/bills-resolutions>

For more information on Federal vs. State Issues,

<https://tinyurl.com/y7zllkkm>

# ALA GIRLS NATION SUBMITTING YOUR BILL

Bill submissions must be made as one pdf file to [alagirlsnation@missourigirlsstate.org](mailto:alagirlsnation@missourigirlsstate.org) by **Friday, June 19, 2026, at 11:59 pm.**

Please use the subject line: "Last Name, First Name: Girls Nation Bill" in your email and as the name of your document.

If you cannot type your bill or cannot access a computer, handwritten bills will also be accepted during registration on Saturday.

Be sure that you have access to your bill throughout the week, if necessary, through Google Drive, a thumb drive, or additional paper copies.

Bills must follow all instructions listed above in order to be considered in the Girls Nation selection process.



## PRO TIP

Have someone else review your bill and ensure it meets all rules.



# ALA GIRLS NATION SELECTION PROCESS

1. Turn in your bill or resolution via email by Friday, June 19, at 11:59 pm, or a handwritten copy at registration on Saturday. We will accept a handwritten copy of your bill or resolution until registration is closed. No late entries will be accepted, and printing onsite from any source will not be possible.
2. The ALA GN Selection Committee will review all proposed bills and resolutions, and a list of sixteen (16) semifinalist candidates will be posted/announced during the evening on Saturday, June 20.
3. The sixteen (16) semifinalists will participate in an interview in front of the Girls Nation selection committee, answering questions about themselves and their bill or resolution.
4. Following these interviews, a final eight (8) finalists will be chosen and announced. The finalists will participate in a second interview before the selection committee along with a written opening statement the finalist prepares at MGS. Additionally, the finalist will answer a relevant extemporaneous/impromptu question before their fellow MGS peers.
5. The selection committee will choose two (2) Girls Nation senators and two (2) alternates. These positions will be announced Friday. Following the announcement of ALA Girls Nation, the senators and alternates will meet with staff to begin preparations and receive official program documents.
6. The two Missouri senators will work with MGS staff to submit one bill or resolution to ALA GN.

*\*Finalists may not, under any circumstances, use the fact that they are an ALA GN finalist while campaigning for an MGS position, such as Governor. Failure to abide by this rule will result in immediate disqualification from the ALA GN selection process.*

# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Interviews are short, and you are not to bring any notes or reference materials into the semifinal interview, but you may have them with you on-site to prepare. A written statement will be allowed in final interviews, to be read by the finalists and submitted to the committee. Tell us about what makes you unique and why you stand out from every other Girls Nation candidate. Be prepared to defend your bill or resolution. Know far more about the topic than what is on the page, including legislation that may already exist as precedent.

Proofread your work. Capitalization, spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes may cause rejection.

Your work must be your own. You may choose to use ideas from previous experiences, but the work presented must be the result of your research and writing. You must ensure that your bill conforms to ALA GN legislation guidelines. If your work is plagiarized in whole or in part, it will be immediately rejected. When in doubt, source your information.

Dress professionally (conservative business casual attire) whenever you are interviewing with the ALA GN Selection Committee. Please be cautious of skirts as you will be sitting during the interview, and we cannot guarantee you will have a table in front of you.

Please know that we love selecting our ALA GN senators and are rooting for you! The process is designed to choose the citizens who represent Missouri best at ALA GN, and we believe in you. Do not be daunted by these instructions; instead, please understand that we want you to be as prepared as possible so that you can do your very best.

Makenzie Tyson, ALA Missouri Girls State  
Chair - ALA Girls Nation Selection Committee

Your Name:

Bill Title:

Describe your bill in your own words. What does it do?

Why did you choose to write this specific bill? Why is this bill needed today?

How does your bill address an original, current, unaddressed, and specific problem? Who are the stakeholders?

What makes you different from every other candidate? What characteristics or traits would you like us to know about you?

# TEMPLATE FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS NATION BILLS

83rd American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation Congress

S.B. \_\_\_\_\_

Include here a brief description of the bill's purpose.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS NATION

Senator [Your Last Name] of Missouri introduced the following bill; which was referred to committee.

## **A BILL**

*(bold and caps, centered)*

Include here a brief description of the bill's purpose. *(repeat from above)*

*BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS NATION ASSEMBLED. (italics, caps, period)*

### SECTION 1. TITLE

This act may be cited as the "insert a short name for the bill here"  
*(for convenience in referencing)*

### SECTION 2. PURPOSE

The <Insert Title> will be <briefly summarize the general objectives of the bill>.  
*(Sometimes, it is combined with the statement of findings)*

### SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

Insert definitions here, if necessary.

*(Definitions are frequently provided to clarify some of the terms found in the legislation. They can also help clarify the scope of the proposal. If there are no definitions, adjust your sections accordingly.)*

### SECTION 4. <Insert title from above>

This is the main body of the bill.

*(It may consist of any, none, or all of the following components: programs, plans, specifications, details, responsibilities, requirements, and administrative provisions)*

### SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE <insert date the bill goes into effect>

*(Most federal bills go into effect once the President signs them, although future effective dates may be chose to allow for delayed preparation time for programs or to align with the federal budget deadlines.)*

*blue font - insert bill information here.*

*red font - information to provide clarity and/or formatting requirements*

# TEMPLATE FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS NATION RESOLUTIONS

83rd American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation Congress

S.R./S. J. R./S. C. R. \_\_\_\_\_

Include here a brief description of the resolution's purpose. (centered)

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS NATION  
(all caps, centered)

Senator [Your Last Name] of Missouri introduced the following resolution.

## **A SENATE RESOLUTION / CONCURRENT RESOLUTION / JOINT RESOLUTION**

(only use the appropriate option & delete the rest  
bold and caps, centered)

Include here a brief description of the bill's purpose.  
(repeat from above, justified left)

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED. (Caps, period)

*By the Senate and House of Representatives in the United States of America in Congress Assembled (two thirds for each House concurring therein) that (insert the goal of the resolution here).*

## ARTICLE

SECTION 1. Whereas... \*\*

SECTION 2. Whereas... \*\*

SECTION 3. Whereas... \*\*

SECTION 3. Whereas... \*\*

SECTION 4. Whereas... \*\*

SECTION 5. This shall become effective DATE

(insert the date the bill goes into effect, often January or July 1 of the year following passage, upon passage, or after a certain time period.)

*\*\* You may have as many or as few "Whereas" sections as you need (that fit on one page). The word "Whereas" should be viewed as "because" and provide your reasons for the resolution.*

*blue font - insert bill information here.  
red font - information to provide clarity and/or formatting requirements*