



## 2021 ALA Utah Girls State

### Do you want to attend? Do you have questions?

#### Who sponsors ALA Utah Girls State?

ALA Utah Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

#### What is ALA Utah Girls State?

ALA Utah Girls State is a week long program created with the purpose of educating Utah's youth about your duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about the inner workings of our government at the city, county, state, and national levels. You will "create and run" a state of your own. You will also gain a deeper understanding of our nation, our flag, and those men and women who have served this great country, past and present.

#### When is ALA Utah Girls State? How much does it cost?

The 73rd session of ALA Utah Girls State will be held **virtually June 7-11, 2021**. The **fee is \$150** which includes shirts, supplies and 3 hours of POLS 2920 university credit. You can get sponsors to assist you with the cost, if necessary.

#### What will you do at ALA Utah Girls State?

We have scheduled speakers, presentations, and fun activities for you. In addition,

- You will be assigned to the Nationalist or the Federalist party where you will work together to learn how the party system works.
- You will be assigned to a city named after a past governor of Utah. Each city will have a great counselor team who will help your city throughout the week.
- Each city will belong to 1 of 3 counties: Freedom, Democracy, and Liberty; where you will learn how county government works.

With the assignments above, you will have the opportunity to be involved in city and state caucus meetings and a party convention at the state level. You will elect officers for your party who will run the meetings to nominate and select citizens who will file and campaign for elected offices. These positions range from mayor to governor to ALA Girls Nation

senators, and many offices in between. Those who become state representatives and state senators will write bills and participate in a legislative session where they will debate and vote on the bills. Elected city officials will run and participate in city council meetings. Elected school board members will organize local School Boards in which they will run and participate in School Board meetings. Each of you will be involved in every activity by either participating or observing the process.

### **Are you eligible? How are you selected?**

The ALA Utah Girls State program is offered to approximately 300 Utah high school girls who have just completed their junior year. You must be returning to school for your senior year. The selection process is handled by the members of the American Legion Auxiliary in February or March. You will be selected based on scholastic, leadership, and service accomplishments during an interview that helps us determine your potential to learn and grow from attending ALA Utah Girls State. You will be provided online registration information after you are selected to attend.

### **What are the benefits of attending ALA Utah Girls State?**

Besides getting to know wonderful girls from all over the state and gaining an amazing understanding of government, you will be eligible to receive 3 Political Science 2920 college credits from Weber State University. In addition you may receive a scholarship offer to WSU based on your ACT score and GPA. In 2019, 286 ALA Utah Girls State citizens were offered over \$2 million in school scholarships from WSU.

### **What is the fee? When is it due?**

Registration & Administrative Fee: \$150 (includes Political Science 2920 credit fee)  
Fees are due by March 31st with your registration. You may want to determine if your school has any funding available. The ALA members who interview and select you may have more details and ideas of organizations to contact in your area for possible assistance with the fees through donations.

### **What will I need for this year's virtual session?**

You will need a computer with a camera and microphone. You will also need internet services from wherever you are participating. Girls State cities will be using Facebook for daily communication so you will need a Facebook account. There will be assignments that must be completed and attendance will be required.

### **What ALA Utah Girls State rules do I need to be aware of?**

The American Legion Auxiliary believes in God and country. We have a convocation daily that involves prayer and the Pledge Allegiance to the flag. We expect girls to be courteous and respectful during these activities. We require girls to wear the ALA Girls State t-shirts they will be provided or professional attire. If you do not attend the entire virtual session of ALA Utah Girls State, you do not graduate or receive the university political science credit.

### **I am interested! Now what?**

Please contact your high school counselor so they will put you on the list to be contacted. If you have additional questions, you may want to check out our website by going to [ALA Utah Girls State](#) or [ALA Department of Utah](#). The National Girls State

website is [American Legion Auxiliary Girls State](#). You can find us on Instagram (@alautahgirlsstate) and Facebook (Utah Girls State). You may also call the Department of Utah ALA office at 801-539-1015 or e-mail [alautahgirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:alautahgirlsstate@gmail.com).

*I hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity!*

Jennifer Hinton  
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