

**American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine  
Dirigo Girls' State  
2018**

**72nd Annual Dirigo Girls' State**

**June 17-22, 2018**

**Husson University - 1 College Circle - Bangor ME 04401**

**What is Dirigo Girls' State?**

Dirigo Girls' State is a non-partisan opportunity for young women to learn about responsible citizenship in a democratic society. The Girls' State program is a government simulation in which delegates role-play campaigns and elections for local, county and state government. Once elected delegates learn the operational processes under which our government functions. The bill writing process, the role of lobbyists and the judiciary are also explored.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for Dirigo Girls' State young women must:

- Be legal residents of the United States
- Have completed their junior year in high school and have at least one more semester remaining before graduation
- Be keenly interested in government and current events
- Have high moral character
- Show strong leadership abilities
- Demonstrate above average scholastic achievement

**Sponsorship**

Any Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary may sponsor delegates. Any civic, fraternal, patriotic, business, or professional group that has the approval of the ALA Unit may contribute all or part of the fee. Family members of a delegate may not serve as contributors. After the Girls' State session each girl is expected to appear before her contributing organization, the local Auxiliary Unit, and her class or student body to report on her Girls' State experience. It is recommended that her school's Board of Directors be invited to attend one of these appearances.

**Application Process**

The (1) Girls' State Application, (2) Parental Consent/Girls' State Pledge (3) Medical Authorization, (4) Medical History, and (5) HIPAA forms can all be found at [www.maineala.org/resources](http://www.maineala.org/resources). The **five** completed forms must be submitted for each delegate and accompanied by at check for \$320.00 to:

Dirigo Girls' State  
Brenda Joy Stevens - Director  
PO Box 34  
New Portland, ME 04961

Registration Materials should be submitted by is May 12, 2018.

**Cancellation**

It is extremely important for any delegate who discovers they are unable to attend the program that they notify the Girls' State Director immediately in order for an alternate to be selected. Failure to notify the Director by June 10<sup>th</sup> will result in the loss of the \$320 registration fee.

**Registration**

Each delegate to Dirigo Girls' State must arrive at Husson University to register at 1:00PM on Sunday June 17, 2018.

**Attendance**

The week of Girls' State is fast paced and sequential. All delegates should plan to arrive on time and stay for the entire program. Any exceptions will be handled individually by the program director, in advance of the program.

**Graduation is at 6:00PM on Friday June 22, 2018.  
Parents/guardians and families are encouraged to attend.**

**Academic Scholarships**

Dirigo Girls' State offers three scholarships to its delegates. Once delegates are registered for the program, delegates will receive information regarding the online application for the Samsung Scholarship. The application for this scholarship must be completed prior to arriving at Girls' State. The winner of this \$1000 scholarship will be announced at the conclusion of the program on Friday. Delegates who complete the session are also eligible to apply for a \$300 and \$500 scholarship during their senior year in high school. The winners of these scholarships will receive their awards after successfully completing their first semester in college.

**What to Wear**

- The weather is sometimes cold and sometimes unmercifully hot so bring clothing for all kinds of conditions and don't forget a raincoat or light jacket. We do a lot of walking back and forth between sessions so comfortable footwear is a consideration.
- We do have many guests who come and speak during the session and therefore we ask that delegates dress during the session be respectful. We are summer casual. Shorts, skirts and dresses are fine but should be of appropriate length and necklines should be conservative. Comfortable yet respectful attire is appreciated.
- Friday afternoon and evening's closing events are both 'dressy'. Some delegates wear the same outfit for both the Inauguration on Friday afternoon and the Graduation Ceremony Friday evening. However, should it be hot you might consider bringing an outfit for each event.

## **Miscellaneous**

- A nurse is on staff and available round the clock.
- Husson University Security is always on duty 24/7.
- Delegates are not permitted to bring cars to Girls' State. Any exception to this is made prior to the session with the Program Director. Delegates who are granted an exception will be expected to turn their vehicle's keys in to the Director at registration and will not be allowed to use their vehicles during the week.
- The food at Husson University is great and there is plenty of it. *Please let us know on your registration materials of any specific dietary need in order that the dining services can be prepared.*
- Delegates are expected to bring their own bedding, pillows and towels.
- Fans and extension cords are strongly recommended.
- Each room has a micro fridge unit for those who wish to bring snacks
- The dorms are set up for wireless communication
- Girls' State Yearbooks may be ordered for \$20 at registration and graduation.
- Girls' State bracelets will be for sale for \$15 at registration and throughout the week while the supply lasts.
- There is very little need for money at Girls' State. We strongly advise delegates not to bring large amounts of money to the session.

## **Dirigo Girls' State and Husson University Campus Rules**

1. Delegates of Girls' State shall not leave the campus of Husson University without prior approval from their parent(s) and the Girls' State Program Director. Any delegate violating this will be sent home immediately.
2. All delegates are expected to be prompt at all sessions, ceremonies and meals.
3. All delegates will participate in the flag ceremony to which they are assigned.
4. Any delegate who is ill or injured will report to the nurse immediately.
5. No delegate will be allowed to have a car on campus.
6. Cell phones are to be used only during free time.
7. All Husson University property and equipment will receive proper respect and care. Nothing may be pinned, pasted or nailed anywhere on the Husson Campus.
8. Lights should be turned off and doors should be locked when delegates leave their rooms.
9. Gum is prohibited in the Gracie Theatre, Newman Gymnasium, Husson auditoriums or the dining commons.
10. No food or drink is allowed in the Gracie Theatre, Newman Gymnasium or Husson auditoriums.
11. Dirigo Girls' State will not be responsible for bills incurred by staff or delegates without prior written permission of the Director.
12. All delegates and staff members will conduct themselves with respect and courtesy towards each other as well as to the Husson University staff.

**American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine  
Dirigo Girls' State Board of Directors**

Director	Brenda Joy Stevens ~ <i>New Portland</i>
Assistant Director	Katie Hallman ~ <i>West Farmington</i>
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