

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Ice Cream and AC in a Sea of Blue

Meena Venkataramanan
Mimosa City Reporter

The first twenty four hours have whizzed by in Girls State. In this sea of blue, there is never a dull moment. After enjoying a delicious dinner of rice and vegetables on Sunday night, complete with creamy vanilla ice cream and some, well, interesting-tasting Coke, Girls State delegates returned to their rooms for some well-deserved rest.

On Monday morning, I took to the streets to chat with some of my fellow delegates from various cities. After introducing myself, I asked them what they have enjoyed most about Girls State so far and what they would change or improve.

Allyson Wright and Alissa Chavez from Ocotillo City both concurred that meeting new friends and developing a close bond have been their favorite parts, but they wish they'd gotten more time to sleep.

"The dorms have been my favorite part," said Raquel Ramirez from Mesquite City with a giggle. "But I wish I could have gone to sleep earlier."

Erika Amaya from Manzanita City was amazed that "we, as a city, got really close really quickly."

Later, I caught up with Juniper City

residents Darby Johnson, Angelique Hill, Victoria Gutierrez, and Brittany Franke. Johnson and Hill mentioned they really enjoyed meeting their fellow city residents, but Johnson noted that more breakfast lines should be created to move the crowd faster, and Hill, a born athlete who plays volleyball and basketball, noted that she wishes we would "get up and do something or participate in more physical activities."

Gutierrez remarked that she's happy that "we're not tearing each other down yet" with a smile, anticipating intense, cut-throat competition in the near future.

Franke was amazed that "Juniper clicked like that," snapping her fingers for emphasis, but, amid yawns, longed for more sleep.

Jhaida Holmes from Yucca City enjoyed the speeches after dinner on Sunday, because they were very informative and useful. She has no complaints, because "everything's been great so far!"

My friends from my own city, Mimosa, have generally enjoyed their Girls State experience so far. Amelia "Mia" McHattton enjoyed the ice cream and Jell-O from Sunday night, but wished that meals weren't a mile away.

Mackenzie Filewicz-Ross loved being a part of the color guard and carrying the flag, because it is something

she "wouldn't be part of at school." But she wishes that the air conditioner worked in the auditorium. As we roast under the Tucson sun over the next six days, I think most of us can only agree with her!

Echoing the words of the Girls State staff, I encourage you all to drink lots of water. As a Tucson native, I can ensure you that it's only going to get hotter over the next few days. So take care of your bodies and make the most of your experience here at Girls State!



The Little Guys Matter Too

Brittney Fulop & Madison Hamilton
Cholla City Reporters

Everyone knows about the big positions. They know they can run for the Governor, Senator, or Mayor. What people usually do not pay attention to are the little guys; positions like the Justice of the Peace, County Recorder, County Sheriff, and Clerk of the Superior Court are all important positions that are overlooked. We decided to talk to some of the people who recognized these positions as the neces-

sary building blocks for higher offices.

Without these offices, our government in Girl's State and in our lives outside of these walls would not be able to function properly. Hannah Griego, a candidate running for the Justice of the Peace says that, "although it is a smaller position it's affecting people around you and everyone you know."

Another girl's state citizen, Zianna Hart wants to be the County Sheriff because she has "experience with jail system and have a cousin that is a probation officer. I

have an associates with criminal justice and would like to share the experience with others at girl state. Also I like telling people what to do...in a good way though." This kind of experience in the outside world and here at girls state is extremely valuable. We are all here to learn about how our government works and most of us did not even know that these smaller positions existed, but that does not mean they are not important just as important as the "big guy".

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Sweet Happenings in Mimosa

Hannah Ngo
 Mimosa City Reporter

If you decide to come to the third floor, get ready for a sweet treat. Mimosa City, full of wonderfully creative girls, has decorated its walls with a myriad of colors. Intricately unique cupcake ornaments adorn the common area, following a CandyLand theme, initially proposed by the now Mayor, Meena Venkataramanan, who led the city in organizing the book and decorations.

The theme is evident in all aspects of their decoration, from the Cupcake Commons room to the rooms themed after locations in the CandyLand game. Even the seal pertains to the theme, with two candy canes arranged in an M for Mimosa, drawn with grace by Kelly Anderson, resident artist of Mimosa and one of the many talented people representing the capital city who worked together to present only the best.

Pride in Mimosa stands out, but that doesn't mean they can't have a good time with the other cities as well. When their sister city Manzanita of Cocopah County arrived for the night, both groups put aside the ongoing rivalry between the cities for the best cheers and chants and the honor of being capital city next year to gather and simply enjoy being together.

The two groups played games such as Sally

Walker, where girls opened up to each other and strutted their stuff, and a game of Hanky Panky, the notorious slapping of hands game that ended up playing to a championship round. Don't fret for those who ended dropping out from the game in the early rounds.

The Manzanita advisor taught them an at first baffling song, the name of which continues to elude this reporter. However, the best part was the "doot-dee-doo woo," and the girls enjoyed the frantic dance accompanying the song.

At the end of the sister city period, both cities were sad to leave the other, but many cheerful and hopeful goodbyes and see you later filled the air, as Manzanita exited the hall. The students retreated to their respective homes, tired but filled with new energy from meeting new friends and sharing time together, an activity often lost to busy students in their daily lives. Though they compete for the same offices and run against each other, it speaks to these girls' characters that they can set aside the politics for a while and just be girls.

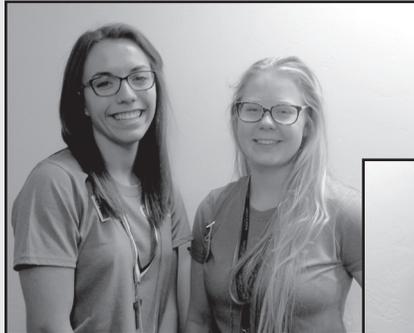
Mimosa is a city of spirit and teamwork, but open to everyone. However, its citizens will never be lax when it comes to becoming the best city this year, and Mimosa hopes to keep its title as capital for the next year through hard work and kind souls.

Meet Your Arizona Girls State Reporters

Say hello to your Girls State Independent reporters. These lovely ladies will be writing articles regarding your cities.

From Juniper:
 Brielle Hansen
 & Victoria Marbois

From Sycamore:
 Olivia Austin
 & Lydia Kellerhals



Also an apology to our reporter from Pinon.
 Riley Goldsmith was in our group photo from last night but was missed in the listings!

We have a switch as well and would like to welcome
 Madison Hamilton from Cholla to the team!



Allyson Mayor may not be the one

Bridget McLaws
 Ocotillo City Reporter

Ocotillo Mayor, Allyson Wright came into Girls State ready to jump right in. As soon as meetings started, she did what she knew best - lead.

Whether it ranged from taking charge in a game, having lots of good ideas for our city, or knowing how to handle complicated situations it seems that

Allyson has got it all. Of course she is Student Body President of Skyline HS and thus knows exactly what to do in a leadership position.

So what does everyone else do when it's time to run for Mayor? Nothing, yet that may be the smarter option. Let Allyson become the Mayor. Not one girl ran against her - Federalist or Nationalist. Hey - who wouldn't want a girl like her to take control?

Heat Stroke? More Likely Than You Think

Lydia Kellerhals
Sycamore City Reporter

The projected high this week in the lovely city of Tucson is a whopping 111 degrees, yikes. With temperatures so high it is crucial that everyone take action to prevent themselves from being seriously injured. There is more to heat safety than drinking water, so it is important to know the warning signs of heat exhaustion before it escalates to a (sometimes fatal) heat stroke. Ask yourself the following questions when you're feeling the heat to assess your situation:

Is that a cramp?

If you feel your leg or arm tighten up

suddenly while walking the campus this week, stop and wait for the feeling to go away. The first warning sign of heat exhaustion is called a heat cramp. Heat cramps occur when you are dehydrated and being physically active in a hot environment. To avoid heat cramps, drink plenty of water and stretch if you feel tightness in any muscle group.

Am I sweating?

Ew, sweat. But we all do it, at least we should be. If you are sweating your body is sucking water right out of you in an attempt to cool you down faster. The first drop of sweat is water lost to your body so make sure to replenish. Now, if you've

stopped sweating, yet you don't feel cool at all and you're still making the trek across campus, seek medical attention. The first warning sign of a heat stroke is being sweatless while physically active in a hot environment. If you are no longer sweating, that means your body is completely out of water; this can often lead to fainting and you could injure yourself even further.

Be safe this week by drinking at least 3 or 4 water bottles a day, and even more if you're heading outside. Especially for those out-of-towners who are not used to the Tucson heat. Remember that there is ice and drinking fountains available in the laundry room to stay cool.



First Impressions

Hannah Holder & Shelby Ben-Shalom
Yucca City Reporters

Whether the first impression was towards living in a college dorm for the first time, experiencing Girls State, or being mixed in a sea of hardworking and intelligent girls; we can all say that the impression fueled many emotions and thoughts. In an interview of the Yucca City girls, we can see these demonstrated.

Question 1: What have you learned so far?

McKinizi Godfrey: I learned that you don't have to know anyone to still have fun. I was having so much fun getting to know different people and their personalities. It's really interesting to figure out all of the differences in personalities.

Caprice Lee: In my first day of Girls

State I learned important leadership skills and how to work together in a group to get what needs to be done.

Question 2: How prepared were you?

Sarah Stewart: Personally, I feel really prepared for this week. Before going to Girls State I researched a lot about the city and state governments and shopped a lot for campaign materials!!

Sariah DeFazio: I feel like I was pretty well prepared with materials. I think I could have learned more about this program before I came though.

Question 3: What did you expect and how was it actually?

Esha Bhatti: I expected to meet a lot of unique and friendly people and it turns out that those expectations were met and I had a lot of fun working with these awesome

girls!

Josie Cutlip: I expected a bunch of judgmental girls, I was very intimidated. However, I actually have made many friends and anyone that I have talked to has shown no hostility or judgement, all of these girls are great.

Question 4: What would you have done differently prior to Girls State?

Tyler Bonchonsky: So far I have had a fun time. The only thing I would've done differently the first day is to have reached out to people and tried to make friends sooner. There are so many amazing girls here and I'm glad I'm starting to get to know them all better now.

Alex Mooney: I wish I wouldn't have been so nervous and been more open-minded.

Friendships that last a lifetime



TaylorDeYoung
Palo Verde City Reporter

As much as it is important to expand our knowledge about government at Girls State, it is also just as important creating strong bonds with the girls of our city, county and as a state.

Girls State allows girls from different parts of Arizona to form a new state and share each others' skills and ideas learned from their different schools.

I want to offer advice to the many girls at Girls State, come out of your comfort zone and get connected with the other delegates. Find girls with common interests as you get to know you roommate, come together as a city and bond as a team.

It is the little things that will make your experience at Girls State much more memorable.

Marlene Palacios from Palo Verde, Supia County says, "It's great interacting with girls that have common interests as me! I love how I feel like I already know the girls in my city and it's only the first day."

Allow the funny times, great conversations and connections to inspire you to make lifelong friends with the girls of Girls State. Get their snapchat, instagram, and other social media info. Create a groupchat that you will use even after this week have come and gone. Whatever you do remember your lifelong sisters at Girls State 2016!



Beat the Heat

AnnaHostal
Ironwood City Reporter

The spirit of competition is deeply ingrained in the nature of women. Within Girls State, citizens exercise their abilities to compete against each other. While such conflict can perhaps be divisive it is also good-natured and ultimately healthy.

There is, however, a conflict older than the struggle of woman versus woman, that is, woman versus nature. On Monday, Tucson was beset with high temperatures of nearly 109 F. Girls across the state, while rallying for their parties and positions, are ALL united against a common enemy-the weather.

Most would look upon sunny, cloud-

less skies as a sign of good fortune and good things to come (and indeed they may be!), but girls should take special care to look upon the UV index as well. Readings indicated a high of 10.8 on the UV index today in Tucson-meaning an extreme risk of harm from unprotected sun exposure. Girls toted umbrellas, slathered on sunscreen, sported stylish sunglasses, and took short cuts through the shadows to reduce their risk of exposure to harmful ultraviolet radiation.

It is essential that every girl take such precautions daily to protect their skin and remain healthy and productive citizens of Girls State. Even as we tire throughout the challenges and activities of the week we must remain vigilant against this daily danger.

Much of the damage caused by such radiation is not so visible as a simple sunburn, but manifests in many unpleasant ways as we age, which include development of melanoma (skin cancer), ocular damage (such as cataracts and macular degeneration), and degeneration of skin tissues which can lead to premature aging.

Remember to apply, reapply, and reapply your sun screen. If you don't think you've applied enough-APPLY MORE. Sara Hubbard, your governor hopeful from the city of Ironwood, wood (pardon the pun) like to remind all girls to, "Wear sunscreen, fight the melanoma monster!" Take care of yourself and your fellow girls in these trying times of tremendous temperatures.

Girls Nation is an honor

Cecilia Vargas
Manzanita City Reporter

Girls Nation is a huge honor that is given to 2 Girls State delegates. They become the “poster children” for our state throughout the mock senate that takes place in Washington D.C. This is a great deal of pressure placed on GS girls but they are well equipped and can take the heat. This is due to the fact that girls that desire this privilege are not only politically informed but they are also passionate about America’s government system. They have ideas, opinions, and history that they feel strongly about and that motivation fuels them forward.

I received a chance to interview two GS delegates from Manzanita city who have an ardent desire to participate in Girls Nation. Here’s what they had to say:

Q: Why do you want to go to Girls Nation?

Erika Amaya: “I see the potential of actually proposing something that could happen.” Also she feels that “being a girl at such a young age and as a member of the Hispanic community, not only am I representing a huge chunk of the population but of the community that lacks a voice. This once in a lifetime opportunity will be the beginning of my political career.”

Kara with the Hair-a: I represent multiple groups of people. My Dad served in

the Army and through him I was able to come into contact with many other military families. Also due to my Dad’s occupation, I was able to travel to many places such as Germany.” Kara would also like to give President Obama thanks because he has affected her life a great deal. He has stopped many soldiers from having to result to deployment.

Also she wants to honor her late grandfather by involving herself in politics, her grandfather’s last wish. Another important motivation for her is the bad health care system that exists for veterans. She wants to bring that issue into the light because she feels that at the very minimum all should feel healthy and comfortable.



Darby’s VeggieTale

Victoria Marbois
Juniper City Reporter

We interviewed Darby Johnson, who at the first meal, displayed her dislike of the greens on her plate.

Q: When did your passionate hatred for vegetables begin?

“At an early early age, I can remember the day exactly. I was 3 years old, and I had string green beans. And they were TOO CHEWY!”

Q: What is your least favorite vegetable?

“Oo, oh goodness, I hate cucumbers and celery. I can’t stand them. People ask me why, and (it’s because) there’s no flavor. I’m just can’t stand it.”

Q: What would you rather eat than your leafy greens?

“I feel bad.. Oh.. No.. I would eat meat. Meat and fruit.”

Q: Is there any point of time when you would be willing to eat vegetables?

“For my health. For my own health, that way I may survive this society and the world.”

Q: Any other further comments about these tiny green monsters?

“I WILL PREVAIL. THEY SHALL NOT DEFEAT ME. AND THEY WILL SEE THE DAY WHEN DARBY JOHNSON DESTROYS THEM ALL.”

We hope that one day, Ms. Johnson will grow to love vegetables, but you do you, Darby.



Favorite Part of Girls State

Riley Goldsmith
Pinon City Reporter

Amidst a sea of extremely ambitious and dedicated young women, it may seem easy to become lost in a tapestry of talent. In fact, many girls expressed some initial discomfort concerning the welfare of their individuality; and inevitably, their ability to ‘stand out.’

Once the initial scorch trial in the parking lot prior to registration had concluded, the true purpose of Girl State

began to emerge. We are not here to showcase our superiority and flaunt an imposing knowledge of government policies—no; we arrived as strangers and are slowly emerging as friends.

The speeches we make to become elected officials are not intended to ‘put down’ others or placate a perverse system of social domination. The speeches and elections are meant to help us grow as confident young women and strengthen our ability to act under pressure. Indeed, after 24 hours the anxious glances and

awkward (and often false,) “How are you’s?” morphed into genuine statements of gratitude.

We did not become lost in a sea of formidable skill; instead, we became successful individuals within a group. For many of the girls participating in Girls State, their favorite experiences thus far include: food time, meeting new people, creative time, ‘dorming,’ city hall, poster making, and sharing common interests.

My First Day At Girls State

Giselle Enriquez
Ocotillo City Reporter

The paperwork, the physical examination, the packing... it suddenly all became a reality. At 10:30 a.m. I set foot at the University of Arizona, ready to indulge myself with the sun while waiting in the immense line. I have to say, it’s really intimidating walking into a crowd of girls who all look so determined and intelligent. As scared and nervous as I was, my day took a complete 180-degree turn as soon as I met the girls from my city.

The ambiance immediately

felt like home as we all got together and learned each other’s names and journeys. It’s probably one of the best feelings in the world getting to know people who are so contagiously passionate about life.

Now I must admit, the first day was absolutely exhausting. It was full of walking, listening, and talking. The guest speakers spoke very highly of the program and taught us so much about politics and government in one sitting. It’s truly all been fascinating, and that was just day 1.

Girls State will be the experience of a lifetime.

Girls State Store

Hannah Holder
Yucca City Reporter

The Girls State Store is now open! For reasonable prices anyone can purchase a variety of candy, snacks, drinks, toiletries, linens, and other sleep-away camp necessities. Featured snacks include: Nutter Butters, Oreos, fruit snacks, rice krispies treats, trail mix, and popcorn. Snickers, Kit Kats, Reese’s, Hershey’s, and Skittles are also among the different candy choices.

Forgot something at home?

The Girls State Store also showcases a variety of colorful Girls State T-shirts and shorts.

Any purchase from the store will also give any delegate the opportunity to put their name in a drawing for a prize that will be announced during dinner every night except for Friday. Designated times to visit the store will be appointed to each city, and they may be different each day.

Stop by the store before the best items are gone!

We Want Your Photos!!

Have some great photos of Girls State that are just too good not to share? Share with us, and send your photos to

photos@azgirlsstate.com!!

These could be in the next newsletter and even in the upcoming yearbook!

