

Arizona Girls State Independent



June 9, 2015 • Volume 9, Issue 2 • Tucson, Arizona

“We All Bleed Red”

Nicole Clasen & Jealynn Uong
Manzanita City Reporters

Why are you running for Girls Nation?

“I’m really interested in politics, I think it’s the easiest way to bring about change, and it’s a great way to meet other leaders and get insight on how to improve my community. The program is giving you exposure, putting you in a mock city, and allowing you to move up is going to give more knowledge than a textbook can. As a minority, and a female, I have a voice and a perspective that isn’t heard.”

Why do you think you’ll win a Senator position? :

“I feel like I have had a lot of leadership experience. I have always been an advocate, and stand for the things I believe in. You’ll find me dead before I stop pursuing what I want to change.”

What change are you going to propose in your Bill? :

“I’m leaning towards immigration amnesty for students. There are people who have been here since they were very young. They know the pledge, they know who George Washington is. Minorities are blamed for so many things whether it be crime rates or unemployment rates. How are we supposed to break that stigma if we can’t receive equal education. We are no different than anyone else, we are bright, we are patriotic, we bleed red...and white...and blue.”

If you were to meet the President, what would be the first thing you ask? :

“Will you go to prom with me?”

Do you have a campaign slogan? :

“I’ll bring you a whole new world. Vote for Jasmine Betancourt.”



Delegate Jasmine Betancourt

Meet the Cholla Mayor



Paulina Lianoz & Emma Wallace
Cholla City Reporters

On the city level at Girls State becoming Mayor is about guiding the tight-knit community while also being able to represent them. In Cholla, the girls work together. Some of the girls take temporary leadership positions while others work as a team to get the work done. Now that everyone has seen each others leadership skills, electing the Mayor of Cholla was easy. Madeleine Lyman, 17, was the elected Mayor of Cholla at the 2015 Girls State Session.

Check out some questions she answered to get to know her a little bit better!

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A: I was born in Arizona but throughout the course of my life I have lived across Singapore, China and Asia for about 5 years. I’m about 75% proficient in the language! I also started playing violin when

I was 2, picked up the cello when I was 4, and have been playing ever since.

Q: What are you most excited about as Mayor for the upcoming week?

A: I like that I have time to hear every single one of my city’s opinions because I appreciate intimacy within relationships.

Q: What was your first impression of Girls State and has it changed so far?

A: To be completely honest, I was a little but worried because being in the same place as 320 other girls can get a little dramatic, and, well, who wouldn’t be? But all of us mesh so well together, we’re very unique but also very polite and level headed.

Q: What is the most important quality of a leader in your opinion?

A: The most important thing for a leader to do is remember that they are not superior and to maintain a strict moral compass.

Madeleine will be running for Girls Nation this week as well!

Candidates page 1
Flanders Fields page 2
Girls Vs Boys page 3
Sea of Purple page 4
Glee Club page 5
Pizza!! & Flags page 6

Arizona Girls State Independent



is published daily by
 American Legion Auxiliary
 Arizona Girls State
 Penny Maklary, Director
 Shannon Mead, Editor

2015 Girls State Reporters
 Angela Bell - Ironwood
 Madison Mazaheri - Ironwood
 Lanae Wilson - Palo Verde
 Brittany Schmermann - Palo Verde
 Kaley Scott - Juniper
 Hannah Grothe - Juniper
 Ariana Reynoso - Pinon
 Veronica Boyd - Pinon
 Megan Ewy - Ocotillo
 Kathleen Watz - Ocotillo
 Hannah Horner - Mimosas
 Imma Ngugi - Mimosas
 Emma Wallace - Cholla
 Paulina Lianoz - Cholla
 Nicole Clasen - Manzanita
 Jealynn Uong - Manzanita
 Hannah Orrahood - Yucca
 Marissa Rottnek - Yucca
 Lauren Olson - Saguaro
 Kristen Orrahood - Saguaro
 Reina Pile - Mesquite
 Aaditee Kudrimoti - Mesquite
 Alyssa Rosetta - Sycamore
 Natalie Ezeugwu - Sycamore
 © Copyright, 2015 Arizona Girls State

What is Flanders Fields

AngieBell
 Ironwood City Reporter

As girl's state attendees marched lethargically out to Flag yesterday morning with their respective cities, sleep deprived but ready to take on the day, many girls may reserve questions in regard to the recited poem.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

Lt. Col. John McCrae wrote "In Flanders Fields" on the 3rd of May, 1915, in the midst of World War I. As a doctor and Surgeon on the battle field, Lt. Col. McCrae had witnessed more blood, carnage, and death than one man should endure in a life time. When Alexis Helmer, close friend and fellow soldier, fell victim to a shell burst in the Second Battle of Ypres, McCrae gazed out upon his grave, peppered with wild poppies, and simply began to jot down his thoughts. Result?

The renowned poem, "In Flanders Fields".

Though McCrae wrote the ode with his friend, Helmer, exclusively in mind, "In Flanders Fields" has evolved into something much larger. The poem now serves as an anthem for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It represents the men and women who lie now and forever in Arlington Cemetery. And it calls to service patriots who

wish to defend their freedoms and honor the fallen.

The American Legion Auxiliary serves as a primary example of such patriots inspired by McCrae's piece. Moina Michael saw the poppy as a symbol of those fallen soldiers whose sacrifices and legacies would live on vicariously through the blood red flowers. She even wrote a stanza in response to "In Flanders Fields":

. . . the blood of heroes never dies
 But lends a luster to the red
 Of the flower that blooms above the dead
 In Flanders' Fields.

This campaign resulted in "Poppy Days", a tradition that recognizes veterans as well as assists those who return from deployment in dysphoria. Additionally, the poppy was adopted as the national symbol of sacrifice.

Ultimately, "In Flanders Fields" has created a state of patriotism that McCrae could never have imagined. Charles F. Browne once said, "We can't all be Washingtons, but we can all be patriots." In other words: One needs not to be a hero to earn respect. Humbly honoring those that laid down their lives for the freedom of others is equally dignifying. Throughout the entirety of this week, keep in mind the men and women who selflessly served to protect the very democratic process Girl's State harbors as its core.



Order of the Ocotillo

MeganEwy
 Ocotillo City Reporter

The Order of the Ocotillos has begun! Hogmeade, Diagon Alley, and Hogwarts have invaded the city of Ocotillo and all wizards have been summoned; Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin alike. From broomsticks to butterbeer to cauldrons to wands, the doors of the Ocotillo hallway transport every Girls' State representative into a world of magic, imagination, and of course Harry Potter. And this is all thanks J.K Rowling, an extraordinary muggle!

The citizens of Ocotillo imme-

diately bonded on the opening day of the 68th session of Arizona Girls' State over their shared love of the world of Harry Potter--even if some were unaware of this world until the first official Ocotillo meeting-- and their shared love of government and, thus, friendships quickly ignited.

Through several energetic and involved discussions, the citizens of Ocotillo decided that each door was to be decorated after a Harry Potter themed store, room, or place. In accordance to their theme, each bathroom was dubbed to be one of the four Hogwarts Houses (Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Raven-

claw, and Slytherin). It was decided that along each side of the hallway, decorative torches would enlighten and enhance the magic that a little friendship and work could create.

Currently, every citizen of Ocotillo is hard at work decorating their city with all the magically inspired items required to create a hallway worthy of the Harry Potter Kingdom. If anyone would like to transport themselves into this magical world of wonders and imagination, please feel free to come down to Ocotillo and meet all the lovely Ocotillo lady owls on your way. Ocotillo! Hoot! Hoot! Ocotillo welcomes you!

Some helpful hints for being a successful campaigner

Veronica Boyd
Pinon City Reporter

What a successful first full day of Girl's State! The program is starting to go into full swing and I know that all of the attendees here are more than prepared and beyond excited. But no need to fret, if you feel as if you don't understand what is going on or are still unsure of what to run for, you are not alone. Many girls in each of the counties are still debating on which duties suit them best so they can make the most out of their experience.

There are so many positions to choose from, so it is important to try and get involved, even if you take a small position. By doing so, you are guaranteed to make new friends, learn responsibility, and most importantly, have the best week here at the University of Arizona.

I know that many of you may be beyond nervous, so I have some helpful hints to help you throughout your election. First, get acquainted with everyone in your city and make sure you know their names. From there, you can advance on to meeting everyone in your county and so on. By doing this, people will recognize you and

if you make a connection, they may even help you campaign.

Starting small talk with new people could also prove to be successful, just remember to be positive and have thoughtful and intellectual conversations in order to keep the conversation engaged and leave a lasting impression.

I also recommend having your speech prepared before hand, or at least have some key points when talking. Try to minimize saying, "um," and try to put something in your speech that people will remember you by such as a powerful quote or an appropriate personal story.

Also, familiarize yourself with what you are going to speak about so you are prepared for any questions. This may be stressful, but try to not read your speech word for word. It is easier for an audience to listen and stay engaged if your speech is formal and interesting, but the audience will feel like you are speaking directly to them by using eye contact and if your speech is conversational like. It may help to look straight back at a wall or at the audience's foreheads if eye contact seems infuriating.

This next tip may be difficult, but the slower your pace, the better. It would be of

no benefit to you if your audience cannot understand you. It may seem like you are speaking forever, as if the whole world is slowing down, but it is not; so take your time. Pace yourself as well so you do not forget to breathe. Try saying a practice speech in front of your roommate or some new friends from your city on loudness and clearness. Then ask politely for constructive criticism.

From there, try your best to create and construct eye catching posters, or try making a slogan with your name as a pun. I know you are not supposed to make promises in a campaign, but promise yourself to be the best you can be and always try your hardest as you will only every have this experience once as a delegate! Also promise yourself to try new things and become more flexible with your plans and schedule.

And finally, know that you are more than qualified for any position possible, even if you are a quieter one in your city. Ambition is key and all of you have the ability to achieve any desire you may have. You have already proved yourself worthy by being here to begin with.

I wish you all an amazing and beautiful week full of learning, fun, and friends! Good luck with all of you campaigning ladies!

Girls State vs Boys State

Lauren Olson
Saguaro City Reporter

It is hard to imagine a life where the value of a woman is less than that of a man. It seems incomprehensible that for centuries women were denied opportunities because of something they had no control over-their gender. For most of American history, a cult of domesticity has remained static and dominant in social culture.

This theme became dynamic with the first wave of feminism, which embodied the push for women's suffrage. The act of granting rights to women was a direct effect of women getting more involved politically in local government. Unfortunately, this uphill battle did not stop with the 19th Amendment.

The second wave of feminism began in the 1960's during the radical movements brought on by the widening credibility gap of the Vietnam War. The

feminist movements splintered over the supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment and those who strongly opposed it. These opposing women made claims that granting women political equality would infringe upon traditional family values. They argued that women should appreciate their domestic sphere and stay confined within it.

Unfathomably, many of our mothers were not born with equal rights to men. Women did not actually have equal rights to men until 1972, a mere 43 years ago. My mother born in 1966, did not have equal rights for 6 years of her life.

These feminists changed the course of history for women in America and allowed each and every girl here at Girls State to be rendered the privilege the rights, opportunities and respect-the future-we have today.

The third wave of feminism has been shrouded with more ambiguity. What

do women want now? Do we want what is considered "feminine" culture to be celebrated or do we want full equality and an elimination of supposed gender roles? At Girls State, this question is deep within the roots.

There are many differences between Girls State and Boys State, most notably the activities we are expected to contribute in. At Girls State, we have Glee Club and a Talent Show. At Boys State, they have sports. Should girls feel offended that we are presumed to dislike sports and instead invest our interests in more theatrical and musical talents or should we feel proud to showcase our talents in the arts because we are girls? One thing is certain: every girl from Girls State will undoubtedly move on to an incredible future, and both the qualities that make them stand out from the traditional "girl" as well as their feminine characteristics will aid them to creating a better world.

Girls State The Sea Of Purple

ImmaNgugi & HannahHorner
Mimosa City Reporters

In the sea of purple, or as we call it Girls State, there have been some outstanding citizens. Their style and poise have set them a part from the crowd. Jasmine, a Mimosa citizen, incorporates her sassy grunge look into these simple, violet T's. She believes, like many others, that fashion is a way to express ones self. The way you present yourself has a lasting affect. Another way we can look at it is that first impressions make or break

relationships.

Next we have Amelia, a girl who does not limit herself to any fashion fad. She can summarize what we have here at Girls State as "a mixture of everything." Her styles range from glamor, punk to professional. She is a bold girl with great style.

Last we have Linga, who encourages picking out the clothes that make you think "what if people don't like it?" Her inspiration in her choice can somewhat stem from the character Olivia Pope from Scandal. Her bold and brilliant outfits are

a bright light in the dark dungeon that can be thought of as U.S. Government.

In reference to government, all three women aspire to incorporate their style into their future campaigning. These fashionistas have drive and creativity. Jasmine plans to run for County Attorney, while Amelia hopes to be elected Justice of the Peace. Linga will be working towards a Girls State Senator. They are taking advantage of this situation so you should too. As Linga said, "Girl Represent" because you can never be over-dressed or over educated.

Mesquite City's Agricultural Archives Stay green. Save green.

AaditeeKudrimoti & ReinaPile
Mesquite City Reporters

"Hey, what's that stuff falling out of the sky? It's a bird! It's a plane! No! IT'S RAIN!"

We, Arizonans know what it's like to wither away in the blistering heat, without even the remotest sight or sense of water. This, "rain", as they call it is somewhat of an alien subject. It comes glittering down only to remind us of its value. Thus, today's editorial is on environmental conservatism and water conservation (also a part of the Federalist Party platform). Yeah, we know. You've heard about it about it about a billion times. But have you ever thought about it like this?...

... We don't inherit our water from our ancestors, we borrow from our children....

Water levels are at an all-time low here in Arizona Girls

State, as everyday, we use more and more water that our aquifer cannot supply nor sustain. Bioremediation strategies are being implemented, but are slow to work. By 2050 about 2/3 of the Girls State aquifer and its consequent systems will be exhausted or "dried up" if more effective action isn't taken SOON. This issue is especially pertinent in Southwest Girls State, where the state has spent most on the developing the housing industry, parks and recreation. Though development is beneficial towards our infrastructure, it can be detrimental for our posterity and their water supply. If any citizens of *OUR* Girls State have **ideas for Girls State water conservation policies, come to reporters Reina Pile (Mesquite City), and Aaditee Kudrimoti (Mesquite City).**

Save water for you, save water for your grandchildren and their grandchildren.

First impressions at GS

KathleenWatz
Ocotillo City Reporter

Girls State is a unique experience for everyone involved, especially the incoming girls. Standing in the hot sun waiting in line frustrates some, including the parents, but once inside the building with the air conditioning girls tend to change their minds. First impressions of Girls State range from it was exactly as I expected to it is completely different.

Some describe their first impression as very overwhelming with all the check-in

things needed before you can actually go up to the dorm rooms. Kiara Conley describes her first impression as overwhelming and more welcoming than she first expected. On the other hand Aundrea Romero states Girls State has lived up to all the expectations she originally had for this event.

Other people used different words to describe their time. Everyone has their own individual experience but most girls agree on how their view has changed. Susana Puga says even though this week has already proved to be a challenge she

looks forward to rising to the occasion. The first day was tough on many girls because of fear of the unknown and the fact that girls were still getting to know each other. Even though this may have presented a challenge for some, it has shown that the girls have embraced this and are driven to get the most out of this experience.

As everyone knows "First Impressions can be tough," (Quote from Hairspray). Being a delegate at Girls State means inviting the change and learning to work through everything as a city, county, and nation.

Glee Club shows major potential

Hannah Orrahood
Yucca City Reporter

Yesterday afternoon at 4:45 dozens of eager, cheerful Girls State delegates made their way over to room 140 for the first glee club rehearsal of the week. The excitement in the air was practically tangible. Indeed it was easy to hear the enthusiasm of the spirited songstresses in the chatter that filled the room as the girls discussed potential songs to perform.

Often the excitement got a little out of hand and music Directory Mrs. Gaines has to remind the girls to quiet down so that everyone's ideas could be heard. The glee club experimented with several different songs in an attempt to find one that worked the best. If needed to be a song that everybody knew and was easy to harmonize with. Additionally, the song needed to be a comfortable length, a short song would be over to soon and along song may bore than audience if it drags on. Most importantly the song could not have any long pauses.

Girls State glee club performs aca-

PELLA. This means that there is no musical accompaniment, the music is purely made up of human voices.

Any music breaks or guitar solos in the songs would turn into long awkward silences in a glee club performance. Needless to say, choosing the perfect song proved to be a tricky task indeed. With each new suggestion, members would sing their own rendition of the song as a group. The room was separated into altos and sopranos, so delegates were surrounded by girls who sang similar parts. One of the best parts about glee club was the free nature and flexibility of it. Girls were free to sing whatever harmonies they wanted. The result was a potpourri of different harmonies that blended together to form songs that were quite beautiful and moving. With so many great choices, they were able to narrow it down to two songs. The final decision will be made tomorrow.

It was easy to tell from the moment of entering room 104 that this was going to be a good group. With top leaders from all around the state, there is no doubt that

this years Girls State glee club has major potential. Yucca City glee club singers are especially passionate about choir. In fact, three of the em are choir council presidents at three high schools and one even had the honor of being selected to sing in regional choir this past year. With this much talent and leadership there is no doubt that this years glee club performance will be a show stopper!



The Four Seasons: A Deeper Meaning

Alyssa Rosetta
Sycamore City Reporter

With the creation of Arizona Girls State many years ago, came the idea for each city to form its own theme, and now, 68 years later, the tradition of city created themes is still going strong.

Construction paper, poster board, markers, scissors, and more supplies are in full use here in Sycamore City. With the theme decided, "Seasons of Sycamore," the doors are being decorated with depictions of beach scenes, snowmen, and falling leaves.

That's just the start. The theme of the seasons was not easily decided upon, and the citizens have developed a deeper meaning behind the Sycamore City theme: "as the seasons progress, so do we."

The thing is: we all change. Even throughout the short week of Girls State, we will change as people. We will become better leaders, better speakers, better team members, and overall better young women.

We are just like the seasons: we change quite a bit, however we still manage to work together as members of society. The same could be said about the seasons: they change drastically 4 times a year, and yet they still manage to work as a greater whole to make up Mother Nature.

So we are the Seasons of Sycamore. We are the ever changing, and ever beneficial members of our communities.

Election Time in Saguaro

Kristen Orrahood
Saguaro City Reporter

As the ballots were turned in today everyone waited with a still breath as the winners were announced. There was much rejoicing. Afterwards, the new council members and the Mayor of Saguaro City were sworn into office. After being sworn in officials remarked at how authentic the ceremony felt, with all city members present and the city clerk swearing in all of the new board members.

The board, however, wasted no time and immediately set out to work on the task at hand. The most pressing matter on the mayors mind seemed to be the positions and the infamous city book. As the mayor tirelessly ran about the area gathering knowledge on the book she has come back with one answer: Simplicity. She has learned that it does not pay to stress yourself out about minor details, rather let everything fall into place. Armed with this priceless information, she is striving to make one of the best city books Arizona Girls State has ever seen.

A flag ceremony between sisters

HannahGrothe & KaleyScott
Juniper City Reporters

Today, the city of Juniper and its sister city of Ironwood had the distinct honor of presenting the flags at the first full day of Arizona Girls State. The girls began the process the night before with their junior counselors during their “vesper” activities wherein the importance and meaning behind the flag ceremony was revealed.

The girls had an early morning eating breakfast and assuming their normal morning rituals. The cities convened at the top of their floors and waited patiently to assume their positions on the stairs in front of the rest of Arizona Girls State. As the ladies entered the stairwell they realized they were too early in their movement. The girls were asked to restart their filing to prevent a fire hazard.

Minutes that felt like hours later, the extraordinarily excited young women put down anything in their hands as a sign of deference to the flag in their spots on the stairs. A reverent silence blanketed the awed audience as the ceremony took place. One girl read the John McCrae’s poem, “In Flanders Fields” to commensurate lost veterans. All in all, the experience was an unexpected honor and pleasure for all the girls involved.

Strong start to Sycamore City

NatalieEzeugwu
Yucca City Reporter

Girls State is in full swing with girls taking on new positions within their cities. Already, Precinct Committeemen, 4 councilwomen and a Mayor have been elected. Presiding over these first city hall meetings, complete with teddy bear grahams, chocolate chip cookies, and other treats, is Sycamore City’s advisors, and Queen Bee, Mrs. Queen

Mrs. Queen has been a representative of Girls State and has participated in orientations. However, this is her very first year at Girls State as advisor of Sycamore City.

In her words, this program is a powerful experience for all girls. Mrs. Queen is positive that we will all go home with increased knowledge on the wonders of the government. Already this seems to be true, as we have been immersed in nominations, elections and informational talks about the various positions.

Mrs. Queen ‘s favorite part of Girls State so far has been “meeting 23 fabulous, dedicated Girls State citizens,” referring to those in Sycamore City. However, in many ways Mrs. Queen seems to be the most fabulous of them all, as she continually helps Sycamore citizens to become the most fantastic citizens they can be, Mrs. Queen looks forward to returning to Girls State next year and it is assured that her city will continue to benefit greatly from her guidance.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS CAN CHANGE

MarissaRottnek
Yucca City Reporter

When I first walked up to register for Girls State I was ready to turn and run before even getting my handbook. I was terrified. However, between the wonderful staff and the awesome girls in my group, I quickly began to calm down and started enjoying what would hopefully be an experience of a life time.

“I felt like everyone was still nervous and quite even during our first meeting. I already feel a lot more comfortable around everyone and it’s only the first day so I think it will get even better as the days go.”

- Paola Uzarraga, Yucca

“I was extremely nervous and super intimidated. There were a bunch of beautiful human beings and that are all extremely intelligent.”

- Serena Cullen, Yucca

“ There were a lot more (girls) than I expected and I was confused and didn’t know what to expect or where to go but all the girls were really nice and friendly.”

- Sara Johanntobers, Yucca

Pizza!

KristenOrahood
Saguaro City Reporter

AS all of us at Girls State come to realize that we are soon going to be college students, we learn that what we eat will also be effected. One word that is notoriously known as being a college delicacy and necessity is pizza. As time to prepare meals switches to time to study students need a fast and easy way to carb up. All the Girls State delegates today got to experience the pizza a college produces. AS the delegates done into their pizza a chorus of answers could be heard.

A series of yum’s echoed throughout the lunch hall. There were also some delegates who remarked that the pizza they had just ingested reminded them of the simpler days of middle school. The taste and quality of these pizzas also made some delegates think of their favorite pizza parlor. Some were Papa Johns, Dominos and a place local tot he city. Either way, we should all be ready to embrace the pizza life, for it does not appear to be going away any time soon.