

Arizona Girls State Independent



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The adventure of Girls State

Casey Ellwood & Megan Hoffman
Palo Verde City Reporters

Entering Arizona Girls State, I think that everyone definitely had preconceived notions about what everyone else was going to be like. I had my worries; an entire week with ALL girls, having to wear the same shirt every day, everywhere, and the rumors that most of us had heard regarding the work load that was going to be dropped on us like an unseen comet hurling towards the Earth at breakneck speeds.

Walking into my dorm room for the first time, I had one goal and one goal only; I was going to have the prettiest room to go to in my free time. Obviously this was a totally unreasonable goal for two reasons. Number one, who am I kidding. We have no free time, guys. Number two, only a few minutes after arriving to my room, my decorating was interrupted by some amazing young ladies. We quickly became friends, and I realized that I wouldn't be spending much time in my room at all, instead making pink crowns, with no glitter I might add, in the hall way into the wee hours of the night. In just the few short hours that we were able to spend with each other, I feel like as if I have known these girls my whole life. Sharing common interests, values, and educational standards has made me few at home away from home.

As the day progressed, we all realized how amazing this was

going to be. We were going to be a part of something great. When asked what her initial preconceived notion was, Jasmine expected to encounter the two extremes; the conservative "weird" type, and the overly dramatic high school girls. After settling in, Jasmine realized that everyone was pretty much like her.

Krishnaa feared that everyone would be competitive, and she would be the wall flower. As people began to bloom and open up to each other, she was so HAPPY. She also wiped away all stereotypes, initially wanting to judge based on appearance, she now believes there is no reason to assume and no reason to worry.

Syndee arrived at Girls State with the initial assumption that everyone would be boring and conceited. After talking with other girls, she soon realized that everybody was really modest and genuine, which relieved stress and worries.

There were many common themes throughout our interviews. Most girls expected extremes, and arrived with many nerves. Another common theme; there is no need to worry. Chances are, there is someone next door who is just like you; someone who shares the same values, interests, educational standards. As we walk through this journey together, sharing memories, sharing laughter, sharing fears, and sharing accomplishments, we will grow and bloom together. We walked in strangers, and we will leave forever bonded.

"She is clothed in strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future." Proverbs 31:25

What's In A Name?

Erin Solomon
Special Feature Reporter

According to Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, we humans are immeasurably flattered when a new acquaintance remembers and uses our name. In fact, frequently addressing another person by his or her first name immediately fosters trust, encourages friendship, and wins followers.

Our names are our identifiers. Perhaps the most accurate way a girl can describe herself in a single word is with her own name (commonly abbreviated as "me"). The saying goes that you should "be you, because nobody does it better." This year's

Arizona Girls' State Advisors clearly advised that at the opening meeting on Sunday afternoon when each stood, faced the delegates, and held up two signs: one with the letter "B" and the other with the letter "U." After some brief confusion, indicating the sapping effect of this region's characteristic heat, shouts of recognition rose across the State House. They had made their point.

All through our lives, we respond to our names. In our names reside our memories and personality. To be called by our first name or nickname is to be called upon by a friend. Subconsciously we think, *he or she knows my name, so he or she knows me*. This will come as timely advice to

girls who are running for office, I hope, but fixed in this multifaceted article I issue you a challenge to accompany what you now know: learn *and use* the names of girls around you, but also learn *about* the girls around you. Play cheesy trivia games with your city and share a deep, dark secret with your roommate. Shakespeare wrote, "what's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." If you want to be successful at Girls' State, invest in the success of the sweet roses who surround you.

And use their names, too, because although by any other name they'll smell as nice, using the one they like to hear may just win you some votes!

Two of our Reporters did not make our list yesterday due to Editor error! We would like to welcome Kate Coriell, Dorie Reiter, and Megan Hoffman to our newsroom!

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All Aboard to Girls' State

Adriana Dealba
Pinon City Reporter

It has been a hectic first two days for the delegates of Girls State! Not knowing what to expect, we all arrived at the University of Arizona on the very hot Sunday afternoon of June second.

We excitedly waited in line with our parents and quickly got settled into our dorms. For some of us Pinon girls, our dorm buddies had already arrived into our room. Some of us, however, were the first ones to enter our room and had to deal with the anxiety of wondering who our roommate would be for the next week.

What will this roommate be like? Will they be funny, energetic, loud, or quiet? Questions raced through our minds as we

nervously anticipated the arrival of our roommates.

The girls of Pinon City quickly got acquainted with each other and even joined in the hall for greeting and some good chats. We immediately connected through similar interests; such as favorite tv shows, sports, or hobbies.

Soon after, it was time to begin our busy week with a meeting. We proceeded by saluting the flag and doing what seemed to be an endless amount of walking in the Arizona heat. The girls' stuck it out like champions and survived the first day of Girls' State! Not one of the Pinon Girls' ran into a sign or tripped over the sidewalk! It was a successful first day.

The Pinon Girls' are thrilled to have Mrs. Collins as our advisor.

Already, we have a great connection with her because of her great sense of humor. She does not fail to make us laugh at every meeting with her hilarious personality.

When asked how she feels about her Pinon Delegates, Mrs. Collins said "Oh my gosh you girls are awesome, I see capital city written everywhere and I have the best city in Girls State!"

The Pinon Girls have decided to identify themselves by the theme of Pinon Passengers. Our hall decorations will consist of different cultures and diversities. Feel free to stroll by for a peek! It has only been two days, but we are already growing fairly comfortable with each other and sharing great memories together. The Pinon Passengers are on board!

High Expectations for Girls State

Naomi Worob & Megan Wieser
Cholla City Reporters

We arrived at Girls State with butterflies in our stomach and excitement in our hearts. For months, we had been anticipating the morning of June 2nd. We expected to meet new people, learn new things and gain new experiences. However, it has become clear that Girls State is

so much more than that.

Besides the expected responses of "hot!" and "lots of people!" in regards to their first impression of Girls State, the Charming Cholla girls were pleasantly surprised at their ability to easily interact and make friends with their cities. It's only the second day and the girls are already laughing and talking like old friends. Noelle Smith from the city of Cholla

described her first experiences at Girls State, "people bond really fast here. There is a great group of girls here." By the nods and smiles in the group, it was clear she was voicing the opinions of many of the girls.

The week is off to a great start. Cities are becoming families and strangers are becoming lifelong friends here at 66th session of Girls State.

The Wonderful World of Juniper

Emogene deGrasse
Juniper City Reporter

"What in the world starts with a 'J' and sounds clever? This is the dilemma the girls of Juniper faced when they had to think of a theme for their hall/city. After a great deal of pondering, the girls thought of the perfect theme: The Juniper Jems." We truly are the Emerald City!"

Now, many of you may not see what the Wizard of Oz has to do with Juniper. Juniper leaves are a shade of green similar to Emerald. Now you get it, right? You may have noticed the spelling of gem is incorrect. This is not a spelling error. The Juniper Girls wanted to

continue the tradition of alliteration that has been kept by all the previous citizens of Juniper City.

The girls all love this theme and cannot wait to start decorating the halls. They are thinking of interesting twists to include in decorating as well. But do not just take my word for it. Let me share with you the girls' sentiments are toward this creative theme. Shyanne Novak said "It's pretty cool. The characters match our personalities." Our personalities are very diverse, yet we share a great deal of interests. Sadaf Aayar added "It's original! The journey Dorothy has is similar to the one we are on right now." Dorothy begins her journey scared, but

as her journey continues and she acquires her friends she becomes more confident. Lexi Olsen had a great deal to say on the topic. "It's so bomb! Part of it because it exemplifies our personality, and it shows how cohesive we are. We all get along so well, and have many laughs talking about decorating our hall." Jo Ann Nam expressed her thoughts on the topic by saying "I really like our theme because it shows how unique we are but also how well we fit together. We are like the four main characters in the story."

The city of Juniper is alive with laughter, and all our creativity is coming together to be the next capital city!



Behind The Turquoise

Emily Gough & Leah Guskjolen
Yucca City Reporters

Everyone in Girls State comes with their own individuality; individuality that can be expressed in many ways. We as young women find many ways to voice our individuality, but we can almost all agree that the most obvious way is through the clothes on our backs. Walking into Coronado Hall on your first day lets you catch a brief glimpse of how our fellow citizens dress in everyday life. Once we don our turquoise, it's a little harder to imagine them without it. In this article we went out and rediscovered the styles of Yucca that lie beneath that very turquoise we all now wear.

In every society there are different style groups, and our city is just the same. There were representations of all styles

such as the athletic outdoorsy girls like Melinda Myers (whose store of choice was JCPenny), and Cymelle Edwards - self proclaimed "Tomboy Cheerleader" - alongside Karina Rivera (whose store of choice was Zumiez) both lean more toward the relaxed jeans and t-shirt approach. Others like Ilse Ortiz, Victoria Sanchez, and Stephanie Guzman followed a more girly approach to their apparel, agreeing that accessories can truly "Make or Break" an outfit.

Besides the obvious style factions that exist, others shared similarities in their more formal attire. Many like Susan Bish, Melinda Myers, Desiree Sanchez, and Victoria Sanchez are all donning their own take of the sundress for Friday's Magical Evening. Judging from the diversity in Yucca, we will be seeing a lot of interesting formal attire that



Decoration Fever

Araceli Islas
Pinon City Reporter

As the door decorating fever sets in at Girls State, Pinon loses no time in getting started. Their mission is to capture the world in a couple of days.

These Sandals Aren't Made For Walking: Packing for Girl's State

Kate Coriell
Ocotillo City Reporter

"I'm never wearing sandals again!" one of my fellow Girls Staters emphatically declared the first day of Girls State. In hindsight, it seems that a lot of us are regretting some of our packing decisions (or lack thereof).

A must for Girls State is comfortable walking shoes. Whether it be scrambling off to lectures by guest speakers or skipping to the dining hall for a delicious dinner: us Girls Staters are always on the go. Tennis shoes appear to be the object of choice. Sandals and flip-flops (cute as they may be) have all-time low ratings among girls due to apparent lack of practicality and comfort in the hot Arizona summer.

It also seems to be the case that quite a few Girls State citizens were rather disappointed by the "uniform" (that being our

very fashionable bright blue T-shirts). Several of the girls in my city lamented the fact that they wouldn't get the opportunity to wear any of the many shirts they packed, calling it a "waste of space" in their suitcases which they could have used alternatively for more water bottles, snacks, and much-needed espresso shots.

Or the extra room in the suitcase could have been used for less necessary (but nevertheless, important) comforts, such as a cozy throw blanket to shield us from the freezing wrath of our air conditioning units or a nice little throw towel to put at the foot of the shower (my suitemates and I have discovered that tile is not a sufficient substance for sopping up puddles from dripping wet hair).

Also along the lines of bathroom paraphernalia, here's one that may surprise you (at least, it surprised me): soap. In particular, hand soap. My suitemates and I were forced

to resort to using shampoo to wash our hands before the Girls State shop opened (and are we ever grateful that they are well stocked- at least before the afternoon snack rush- with little miscellaneous items that are available perchance we forget them).

So in short, I thought it might be a good idea to put together a brief packing list by experienced Girls Staters for future Girls Staters. Some of the items on this list include: shorts (lots of them!), comfy shoes, plenty of water bottles, sunscreen, headbands and pony-tails, snacks (perhaps even some coffee or energy drinks, it's going to be a very long week), a warm blanket, fun campaigning supplies, and, most importantly, an enthusiastic and open-minded attitude! The quality of your experience at Girls State is all about attitude, but it can be enhanced by a package of your favorite candy in times of stress and crisis.

Voting for Mesquite Mayor

Kelli VanNuis
Mesquite City Reporter

Excitement permeated through the city hall of Mesquite city early Monday morning as many realized their time to lead had come. As the Primary Elections began, only one Federalist and one Nationalist stepped up to run for Mayor. Though put on the spot, both candidates spoke with a willingness to take on responsibilities and an optimism towards what they aspired to bring to their city.

Alicia Johnson of the Nationalist party stated that she, "wanted to find some way to get involved," when asked why she chose to run for Mayor. Feeling positive about achieving the full potential of her contributions, Alicia said, "I think that I can organize the city book and make it the best that it can be."

Understanding that stepping out of one's shell can be difficult. Alicia advises that, "everyone should get involved and make

the most that they can."

Currently the new National record holder in shooting, Alicia believes she has a lot to offer the Capital City of Mesquite, Mayor or not.

Kylie Morris, candidate for the Federalist party, expressed her excitement over the pursuit of Mayor stating, "I ran because I want to represent my city, focusing on keeping the legacy alive and directing attention toward bonding within the group."

Kylie believes her greatest contributions are her leadership qualities, her outgoing and creative personality and her ability to bond with all the girls in her city.

When asked what she would advise to all the other girls she said, "Make the best of it because you are not gonna see these people later. Have positive memories."

After a lot of contemplation, Kylie said a fun fact about her is that she is a total dare-devil. Enjoying things like cliff jump-

ing and not being held back by nerves. Kylie expresses optimism towards having the responsibility of Mayor and her own bright future.

As the citizens gathered in City Hall once again for general elections, excitement and anticipation bounced through the room. Good wishes were given to both Kylie and Alicia, and then voting began. After a short time, results arrived and the new Mayor of Mesquite city, elected by the citizens, was Kylie Morris.

Remaining positive about her potential, Alicia took the loss with good sportsmanship and kept her goal of finding another way of getting involved. Kylie immediately began planning the city book and appointing city officials, taking in the full experience of her leadership positions.

Congratulations to Kylie and all other new Mayors and may this week leave positive memories in all!

A Vague Day

Stephanie Tupas
& **Ashley Teynoso**
Mimosa City Reporters

New arrivals of Mimosa citizens felt: nervous, confused, anxious, and excited for this memorable week. These young ladies, expressed their feeling of the day pretty much the same, confusing but AWESOME. "It was a very tiring day, the speakers were boring but pretty cool." said

Lesley Mueller, Mimosa citizen.

Next morning the nominations and voting begun, it was the first election as a whole. It moved in a rapid pace because the girls were all so involved. A few of the precinct committeemen elected were Emory Montierth, Breanna Wilcox, and Haley Pugh.

Ideas ran wild through our "city hall", everyone had an opinion and was respectful as well helpful to make

the final decision. Everyone excitedly begins to decorate and that's really when the bonding begins within our city.

The day has been full of amazing events, from mayor elections to dancing around with other cities to "Here we go". Overall, it has been a very great start for all the citizens of Mimosa. They have definitely created everlasting bonds in just a short amount of time; this week looks promising.

Girls State So Far

Dorie Reiter
Ocotillo City Reporter

Girls State is broken up into twelve mythical cities which are made up of around twenty-five citizens each. In addition, there are four counties that are comprised of three cities each. Each girl's city and county is assigned to her at orientation, and they are purposely assigned so that no two girls from the same school are citizens in the same city or county. In other words, each Girls State citizen is forced to socialize with complete strangers in order to campaign

and earn the government positions that they desire.

It has only been two full days at Girls State, and we have already established the cities which are run by a mayor and are aided by the city councilmen and are additionally supported by the partisan-oriented precinct committeemen.

Specifically, the city of Ocotillo elected each of these officials on Monday, June 3rd. The mayor representing the City is Lacey Miller who immediately took her leadership position after she was elected. The cities are now responsible for coming up with a theme in order to design their

city while also creating stores and brainstorming ways to bring income to their city. Although Ocotillo has encountered some obstacles along the way, they have united as a cohesive unit in order to push through these difficulties.

The next few days, the citizens of Girls State will continue to pursue their desired positions in the broader spectrum of County and State governments. The city elections have already presented many instances of intense elections, and knowing the motivation of the citizens of Girls State, the County and State elections will not disappoint.

Girls State Nerves

Shelby Steele
Saguaro City Reporter

Before coming to Girls State I was very nervous. Most of the time I keep to myself and do not branch out. I was very excited about the opportunity to become a member, but I was terrified. Being away from home for a week with strangers got my nerves going! What is they did not like me? What if my roommate was terrible?

Before coming to Girls State I was expecting the worst.

When I arrived and was checked in and registered, I did not want my mom to leave! Thankfully, everyone I encountered on my way to my dorm was really nice.

As I was walking through the hall to my room, the girls from my city welcomed me. They were all so sweet and outgoing. I saw that my roommate was already here, but was not in the room. My nerves began again when I realized I'd be rooming with a stranger for a whole week.

Then my roommate walked in and we started talking. She is so down to earth and easy to talk to. We spoke about family, school, and personal likes and dislikes. Then our suitemates popped their heads in and introduced themselves and I began to feel more comfortable. Every girl in Saguaro was so sweet and opening to each city member that arrived!

Connecting with a group of girls in

my city, we sat together in the first meetings. After the meetings, we ate dinner together and shared networking cites and names. I already feel like I've made great friendships and connections. I never would have imagined myself being so outgoing and open to new people! I am so excited for the rest of the week and I cannot wait to meet new people and make more friends.

I am so grateful for this experience. It is such an awesome privilege to come and learn about government. I am honored to have been chosen to attend! I hope I keep in contact with all of the girls over time! I will definitely remember this for years to come.

Personalities and bonding in Juniper

Samina Roshetko
Juniper City Reporter

After only two days, the girls of Juniper city are already close and continue to bond. Every single person in Juniper is unique in their own respect but we all have clicked and quickly grown into a family of sisters.

"After two days we already have inside jokes and unique bonds, and I am so greatful for each and every person in my city," says Jalia Yan.

"Despite our differences in home towns, we have truly come together to create our City of Jems," Adrianna Bailey enthuses.

Kandis Beyer explains, "although so many of our personalities are similar, we are able to work together and find those small differences. We all have to make our city the greatest it can be."

As this week comes and goes, I believe I speak for all of Juniper City when I say this, "the Girls of Juniper are going to be life-long friends and I could not hope for anything better than that."

Under the Sea

Syndi Nnorom
Mesquite City Reporter

Monday seemed to be a busy day for Capital City Mesquite! The first thing on the agenda involved the decoration of the City Hall Way.

Taking on the name the Mesquite Mermaids, the twenty-four girls in the city met down in city hall to create works of art that best took us down to the scenes of "The Little Mermaid." Signs were made, then banners, bubbles, seaweed, and characters Flounder and Sebastian to help tie everything together.

The star artist of the group, Jacalyn Davis, worked diligently making lifelike portraits of mermaids. Talented ukulele players Shay Wright and Lindsey Chew worked together to learn the all so famous song "Under the Sea"! What for? The Talent Show? Their own Concert? Only the week can tell.

What is for sure would be the strong bond the girls of Mesquite already hold! The rest of the week shall be a blast! Hope to report to you all again.

Manzanita elects PCs and city government begins

Katherine Welty
Manzanita City Reporter

Yesterday residents of Manzanita came together to elect their very own Precinct Committeemen. This was a large step for the community, as they had no prior elected officials. The race was one for the history books, with five nationalist nominees and four federalist nominees.

Candidates nervously advocated for them-

selves as members of the city pondered the major decision they had to make. Only three federalist and three nationalist citizens could be chosen as Precinct Committeemen.

In the end, it was Nikaila G., Jamie J., and Brooklyn J. from the federalists and Lena H., Shaleigh H., and Maihan A. from the Nationalists who prevailed. The race was a nailbiter as voters cautiously raised their hand to cast their vote. The city advisor, Mrs. Mealy, truly held

all the power as she counted votes and declared the winners.

The citizens of Manzanita were truly happy with the election results, and even happier when the newly elected Precinct Committeemen went off to a meeting, leaving their food stores unguarded. The election was a great beginning for the City of Manzanita, a town that hopes to rise to the Capital City slot by the end of the week.

Ironwood Welcomes New Mayor

**Vanessa Butler
& Kenya Lofton**
Ironwood City Reporters

The city of Ironwood held its 66th election today, resulting in the victory of Hailey Fiore for mayor.

Fiore plans to promote team work, dedication, cooperation and hard work to the city of Ironwood.

Civilians of Ironwood "feel ecstatic"

about the win.

"I think she's very qualified," said LaShae Brown. "I believe she will do her best."

Fiore was inspired to run for mayor because she wanted to bring unity among the city, ensure that every member was presented with an equal opportunity, and each voice was heard.

Also in the primary elections, the councilmen were elected. The new councilmen

include Shanna Chen, Mackenzie Deakins, Megan Gleason and Cheyenne Grigorieff.

The councilmen agreed that becoming capital city was a major goal. "We wanted to make the city more of a family, while getting ideas to incorporate into city values," said Deakins.

Megan believes being a councilmen is "a great way to get involved and get to know the girls."

Considerate Girls Make a Happier City

Sarah Jones
Manzanita City Reporter

Kendra McCabe, newly appointed City Attorney is extremely happy about her new office. "I'm thrilled to have this opportunity because it is a new and fun experience. I am learning so much at Girls States. For example, how elections are run and how to interact with people from all sorts of different backgrounds."

Coming from Fort Thomas with a tiny, she says "minuscule", population, she has had to deal with new people that have a diversity of ideas, ways of speaking, and conducts. "The important thing I've learned are to be yourself and be accepting of others." "We have a fun group."

It is true that there are a lot of good people here. Monday morning, I told one of my fellow city members that I was disappointed about missing the yogurt at breakfast. Late at night, when I finally settled in my room I noticed a yogurt sitting on my desk. Thanks to Jazmine Bonilla, I got a yogurt. Because of the consideration given by everyone to everyone, I get to save my yogurt for tomorrow and Kendra becomes attorney in a comfortable environment.

On our way to becoming soulsisters!

Selena Lugo
Saguaro City Reporter

A day full of excitement and not knowing what to really expect. Moving into our rooms, meeting our roommates and city members was a wonderful experience. Girls also were very nice and welcoming. We shared many things about each other like our favorite tv shows, school, the ride to Girls State and how we were feeling. We all admitted that we were a bit nervous but that quickly changed after we got to know each other more.

Deciding our city's name was fun too. We all sat in the hallway just brainstorming but none of our ideas seemed good enough. Finally one of the girls said "What about Saguaro Soulsisters!"

Right there we knew that was the best option and went with it. This marked the beginning of our incredible journey here at Girls State.

Also it opened our minds to more things we wanted to do like becoming Capital City. Together as Saguaro Soulsisters we will give it our all to be the top city. This has become one of our main goals and we know we can achieve it. I hope that this experience brings us close, so that we can truly become soulsisters. Making friendships that will go beyond Girls State!

Sycamore for the Capital!

**Savannah Dotterman
& Samantha Orwoll**
Sycamore City Reporters

Right from the get go Sycamore has been on top of things whether it be meeting their fellow citizens or cheering on their advisor in the first meeting for the 66th session of the American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State. Naturally their ears perked when they heard about that traditional competition for capital city.

In Sycamore city's first city meeting they were lucky enough to get a visit from Governor Lillian Korinek and Secretary of State Kristen Bolte, at the mention of the capital city the whole room turned and Governor Korinek knew she had a competitive bunch of girls. She proceeded to describe the makings of the perfect capital city from the city book to the decorations, Sycamore was already planning. In an

interview with Madeline Molzahn from Kaibab county, Sycamore city she confidently stated, "Everyone in Sycamore city is really motivated and working together to win capital city! All our girls are really competitive!"

As the citizens put their crafty talents to work Mayor JoHannah Poertner and the city councilman, (which are Madison Sowerwine, Sydney Konopnicki, Cortney Hollander, and Alejandra Lopez) are really striving for a book that will earn not only the amazement of others but the book that will accumulate the most points and bring home the gold (star). Sycamore has decorated doors and still has more big plans in the making that will definitely be a hard act for next year's lucky delegates to follow up.

Come check out Sycamore's store fronts and prepare to be amazed, they have Ariel's Antiques, Tiana's Palace, Merida's Archery Range, and so much more for

you to see! The Disney Princess theme has stormed Sycamore, it is definitely a site to see. After discovering that Sycamore hasn't been capital city for over a decade the girls have become more motivated to win, they feel that here, at the 66th session of American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, this is Sycamore's time to shine.

The Sycamore city hall has been constantly bustling since the day citizens arrived, the energy is electric, full of creative juices, and motivated young women. The stars of Kaibab County are truly putting up a good fight for capital city this year, they're giving Mesquite a run for their money in the race for that star. After careful deliberation and lots of chit-chat Sycamore city chose a mascot that they feel truly represent each and every one of them, they're not your average princess and they will win the title of capital city this year, watch out girls!