

Arizona Girls State Independent



June 5, 2012 • Volume 6, Issue 2 • Tucson, Arizona

Too Opinionated? Not a Problem

Aisha Subhan
Juniper City Reporter

Girls State, an experience previously envisioned as extremely daunting with several awkward “get-to-know” each others has been quite opposite. All the female participants in Girls State range from free-minded student body presidents to witty valedictorians. But they all have one thing in common, they all have an opinion and it’s all good.

Exhibiting a high comfort level, Girls State has expectantly displayed that opinions are not only acceptable, but desired. As fellow citizens expressed their concerns and questions on Sunday at the second meeting, beliefs were volleyed both intellectually and confidently. In a different environment other than Girls State this may be highly looked down upon, but here all delegates are listened to, respected, and appreciated. The female spirit is alive and growing and surely all

citizens can feel the energy around them.

Both the participants similarities and differences have lead to the intense unity that has emerged. Each citizens’ opinions have translated into strength and courage, friends and support. Girls State has managed to bring girls across the state together through opinions.

The most simple yet inspiring statement has caused this surge of unity, when girls were told to “B U”. That is all it takes.



Junior Counselors Shine Bright

Courtney Robertson
Cholla City Reporter

Sporting neon pink shirts, the Junior Counselors have been a huge factor in helping run the 65th session of Girls State. From directing cities across the busy street of the University of Arizona campus to delivering election results, the JCs have been very active in assisting the senior staff members give the new citizens a fantastic welcoming.

The JCs arrived two days before the citizens to help set up for the extensive Girls State schedule. All of the citizens learned just how diverse and talented the JCs are during the Togs and Treats fashion show. Among the JCs are avid readers, world travelers and multi-sport athletes.

Junior Counselors Brandi Badilla and Olivia Brancati were able to give insight into the responsibilities and the experiences of a JC. First, at the end of Girls State, Mrs. Maklary selects two delegates from each county to serve as a JC for the next year’s session. To ensure that she could attend this summer’s session, Badilla moved her Northern Arizona University orientation back a week because she was so excited to volunteer and learn about the senior staff’s efforts.

Last year, Badilla ran for the Sheriff of Supai County with the help of her fellow city delegates campaigning for her. As an added bonus to gaining this position, she was able to meet many new people. Badilla advises delegates to “get involved as soon as possible.”

Similarly, Brancati was delighted to be

able to attend this session as a JC since she was an alternate. “My favorite part of being a JC is reliving Girls State and not being confined to one city,” says Brancati.

She also describes the many connections she has made as she has friends that she still talks to and sees at social functions such as charity events. Additionally, as her school’s Student Body President, Brancati utilized skills she attained at Girls State such as delegating with effective communication and listening to her peers to better her leadership skills.

It is evident that these former Girls State delegates used their experiences at their session to the fullest extent. They encourage the current citizens to strive to accomplish all they possibly can in this short week.

INSIDE

- Too Opinionated, JCspage 1
- Spartans, Awkward, Meet the Presspage 2
- Locked out, Diamonds, Showers, 49th?page 3
- Spotlightpage 4

Arizona Girls State Independent



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

2012 Girls State Reporters
 Margaret Evans - Ironwood
 Kayleigh Mathews - Ironwood
 Alessi DeBartolo - Palo Verde
 Breanna Turrentine - Palo Verde
 Lillian Korinek - Juniper
 Aisha Subhan - Juniper
 Kelsey Hackett - Pinon
 Lizet Camarena - Pinon
 Jessica Sousa - Ocotillo
 Cynthia Fernandez - Ocotillo
 Rhiannon Daly - Mimosa
 Emily Ouiedo - Mimosa
 Morgan Welchoff - Cholla
 Courtney Robertson - Cholla
 Crystal Hobbs - Manzanita
 Elizabeth Stolmeier - Manzanita
 Timorie Coleman - Yucca
 Anahi Torres - Yucca
 Sylvia Schmitt - Saguario
 Nikolia Turbull - Saguario
 Catherine Pharris - Mesquite
 Natalie Brown - Sycamore
 Mary Turner - Sycamore

© Copyright, 2012 Arizona Girls State

The Spartans Take Over

Sylvia Schmitt & Nikolia Turnbull
 Saguario City Reporters

The poles opened for primary elections promptly at 9:30 am in the city of Saguario, narrowing candidates to the top two.

Rachael Steward was elected the Nationalist candidate running for Mayor and Haley Roughton as the opposing Federalist candidate. Both young and ambitious women provided the citizens at Saguario with an extemporaneous speech. Each girl portrayed integrity and expectations and were in the favor of both political parties.

At 2:15 the poles for the General Elections opened to obtain votes for local Spartans. It was later announced that Rachael Steward of the Nationalist party won the election by majority vote.

Rachael was sworn in by Victoria Antram, the city's clerk at 2:43 pm. Rachael, and the elected city councilmen show the strength that thrives in the souls of their fellow Spartans. We wish them luck!

Awkward all around

Crystal Hobbs
 Manzanita City Reporter

Three weeks before Girls State I was told I was chosen to be a delegate. I did not know what to expect other than the politics. I was afraid of the dorms, the people, and was completely clueless on how everything would turn out. Luckily, I ended up having an awesome roommate, a confidence boosting city, and I am comfortable to say I am lucky to have ended up coming here for a week.

It has only been two days, and I can already feel a change within me. I feel like I can go out in a world of strangers and feel completely comfortable. The people have been really nice and the experiences have definitely opened my eyes to the political views of the world.

Meet the press!!

Say hello to your Girls State Independent reporters. These lovely ladies will be writing articles regarding your cities. Getting you the news, fresh and current on all things Girls State.

From Ironwood:
 Margaret Evans & Kayleigh Mathews

From Ocotillo:
 Jessica Sousa & Cynthia Fernandez

From Yucca:
 Timorie Coleman & Anahi Torres

From Palo Verde:
 Alessi DeBartolo & Breanna Turrentine

From Mimosa:
 Rhiannon Daly & Emily Ouiedo

From Saguario:
 Sylvia Schmitt & Nikolia Turnbull

From Juniper:
 Lillian Korinek & Aisha Subhan

From Cholla:
 Morgan Welchoff & Courtney Robertson

From Mesquite:
 Catherine Pharris

From Pinon:
 Kelsey Hackett & Lizet Camarena

From Manzanita:
 Crystal Hobbs & Elizabeth Stolmeier

From Sycamore:
 Natalie Brown & Mary Turner



Locked Out With Nowhere to Go

Elizabeth Stolmeier
Manzanita City Reporter

On the Girls Stater delegates first day out they managed to get locked out of the Social Sciences building. Much like the Boy scouts however, they were well prepared to spend about an hour mingling amongst each other getting to know one another.

Some popular entertainment was possibly the largest game of Ninja to have ever been attempted. Many girls were learning

this game for the first time and all of them were excited to get to know their fellow delegates.

For those who don't know, Ninja is a strategic game where the players form a circle and begin with their hands in front of them in the center of the circle. When the head of the game says go each player must move their hands to a safe location and it begins around the circle of girls using only one move at a time to slap and opponents hand so that they are out of the game. The objective is to be the final ninja

standing.

The girls caught on quick and had lots of fun while other cities began practicing their city chants. The JC's really stepped up in a time of concern by leading the delegates in some fun little song and dance jigs and chants. As time passed games were played and friendships were made until eventually, campus security came to the rescue, opening the doors from the inside to allow the meeting to begin. In all the night was a success with a bonus hour of fantastic ice breaking games.

Diamonds up!

Kelsey Hackett
Pinon City Reporter

At yesterday's political pep rallies the Nationalist party put their newfound paws up as they shouted their party chant with pride. Fierce and covered in pink, the crowd went wild when they found out the Nationalist theme: the Pink Panthers.

The chairmen for both committees and counties were announced by Nationalist State Chairman Hannah Cameron. Each girl got her own cheers of support from her home city and county, a wonderful glimpse of the bonds already formed between them. Diamonds were handed out to spirit committee members to distribute to Nat ladies in each city. The extravagant event ended on a well-sung note as the pink party banded together to let out a Panther battle cry. Look out Feds; the claws are out!



Showers are a girls best friend

Lilly Korinek
Juniper City Reporter

Diamonds, supposedly, are a girl's best friend. After spending one night in the dorms with twenty-four girls and four showers, many attendees of Arizona Girls State beg to differ.

Citizens of the city of Juniper argue that, after the first night, most would much rather maintain a friendship with a personal 24-hour shower rather than any form of sparkling rocks.

To counter the "shower crisis" the citizens of juniper developed a tactic to avoid, possibly slippery, bathroom conflicts. Hours into Girls State a shower schedule was established, that organized girls by hallway, rooms, and finally by those who preferred to shower at night vs. the day. "I am still waiting for my turn in the shower," reported Janelle Budetti, a PC from the city of Juniper.

Although perfection with the "shower schedule" has not yet been reached, this tactic is a perfect example of the type of diplomacy presented at Arizona Girls State.

Why is Arizona 49th in Nation?

Morgan Welchoff
Cholla City Reporter

What is the importance of education? Of course the simple answer is to educate the future generation of America. So you would think a state would put most of their budget and energy into helping educate those that are going to be our future leaders.

Well you will be shocked when you see that the national ranking of the school systems and Arizona running a little short

at 49 out of 50. So what you may ask is Arizona spending on their low rating education? Another shocker alert! Our state spends at least half of their budget on education. Yet we cannot seem to get something right.

Why is it Arizona cannot seem to adapt the working strategies of their fellow states that have placed them above the rest? It is a simple answer, our leaders are fluffing the school system by adding superintendents and other members to the

school board, while not giving credit and awarding Arizona teachers for their dedication toward educating our future leaders.

In the mean time teachers across the Nation are not being robbed of their salaries and are gaining respect for their hard work. So in conclusion fellow Arizona readers start really thinking about the future and ask yourself if you want to be known as a state with education accomplishments or continue on the path to educational downfall.



SPOTLIGHT



What is the first thing you want to do for your city?

“We want our community to be unified and create a common goal throughout, instill pride, and overall be the best city.”

– Sarah Mondragon,
Sycamore

“We plan on winning Top City by making mustaches and making gift bags for all the staff.”

– Courtney Stringer,
Mesquite

“We are working on making our city book to be the best it an.”

– Traci Ducusin,
Ocotillo

“Our main goal is to improve sanitation in the bathrooms because when we came we had no soap.”

– Nawida Hussaini,
Palo Verde

“We want to really stay with the theme and style of everything.”

– Rachael Steward,
Saguaro

“Decorate, decorate, decorate. We want to make sure people know who we are.”

– Jacqueline Ibarra,
Cholla

“We want to be more organized in all of our activities in the city.”

– Alexandra Totillo,
Juniper

“Our goal is to make everyone swim in the hallway because we’re the mermaids.”

– Charisma Jansen,
Mimosa

“Make sure everything is running smoothly and efficiently throughout the city.”

– Timorie Coleman,
Yucca

“We just want to bring everyone closer together and unify us as a city.”

– Victoria Towers,
Ironwood

“We want to make everyone comfortable within our city and really get to know each other better to make us a better team.”

– Marisa Halfmann,
Manzanita

“Basically we want to improve our relationship with each other and excel in our spirit.”

– Ashlee Chastain,
Pinon

What do you plan to take back to your school from this Girls State experience?

“Learning more about our system of government so that I can get involved in my local government at home”

– Christiana Huss,
Manzanita

“I’m planning on using my newfound knowledge of the government selection process to fill out college applications”

– Mary Ahlstrom,
Manzanita

“I don’t know specifically but I learned a lot about government voting and primary elections which I hope to learn more about”

– Hailey Pettis,
Manzanita

Has living in a dorm affected how you feel about college life or impacted your future college plans at all?

“No, I’m used to dorm life”

– Christiana Huss,
Manzanita

“Not yet, because we’re just getting settled in but it seems a lot like what I expected.”

– Mary Ahlstrom,
Manzanita

“I’ve never like stayed in a dorm before and they’re a lot more dull than I expected. I sort of pictured like the Ikea magazine which looks all nice but these are more blocky”

– Hailey Pettis,
Manzanita



Natalie Brown & Mary Turner
Sycamore City Reporters



Crystal Hobbs & Elizabeth Stolmeier
Manzanita City Reporters