

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Sycamore Spirit Stands Out

Christine Kweon
& **Bethany Ward**
Sycamore City Reporters

Even from day one it was obvious that Sycamore City was composed of girls whose eccentric, ambitious, and outgoing personalities have brought them together in a bond that can never be broken.

Taylor Fitzgerald, Amanda Kennedy, and Kaitlyn Dennis are prime examples of the amiable young women who from the start seemed to have hit it off on an amazing note. These girls are the goof-balls that you'll find dancing to the ever popular Justin Bieber or imitating popular Saturday Night Live skits such as "The Creep" all the way to your room. Needless to say, they are quite entertaining and outgoing individuals. Weather by interaction through sports or their engaging personality, these girls have made Sycamore a city of instant friendships and bonds. Along

with living in the moment, they also have high expectations for their futures.

Taylor hopes to attend the University of Arizona to begin her gauntlet toward her goal of being a physical therapist. Kaitlyn hopes to become an elementary school teacher.

Even through their enjoyable moments each young woman has come with her own intentions of not only "meeting new people but also participating in a functional government". Girl's State has provided these girls with lasting friendships and a pathway to their future.

"The Fearsome Four" is another great example of the instant friendship found here at Girl's State. Due to their isolation from the rest of the city, Saige Williams, Lizzie Mangone, and Kim Avila, and myself have been able to form friendships on a much deeper level. Although coming from different walks of life, Saige being "sporty", Lizzie with her nonchalance, and Kim aiming to be "well spoken, articulate, and most of all approach-

able" these young women shared a heartfelt interest in giving back to their communities.

Conversations with these women range from "massive calves" to their life long dreams. In any case the fire passionately burning inside these women is evident in their hopes and ambitions. Saige aspires to be a part of the ROTC nursing program. Lizzie plans on attending Boston College and later joining the Peace Corps or Doctors Without Borders. Kim's aspirations are much closer to all of us as she hopes to attend Girl's Nation this summer.

"I came here to challenge myself, and to see how I can interact with others and above all differentiate myself from the many driven women gathered here at Girl's State".

All throughout the interview, the laughter never stopped ringing through halls as the bonds of these women seemed years old. The future of the United States brightly burns in their hopes.



Good Morning Mimosa!

Shannon Beckham
Mimosas City Reporter

From 11:00 on Sunday morning Mimosa was a crazy family of Mamacitas! Nicole was the first one to arrive and when her roommate Olivia showed up, the very first "welcoming committee" was established!

As everyone began arriving, Mimosa girls ran from room to room introducing themselves. Kendra Holyoak says, "When I first got here it was crazy. I was bombarded in my room with "hellos!" and "welcomes!" It was a little overwhelming at first...but then I joined them and it was awesome!"

Mimosa formed a welcome tunnel to have every new comer run through while being cheered on Mimosa style. Amanda Wamble claims that she fit in from the start and "it was because of the tunnel!"

But Mimosa Mamacitas were united even before they reached their dorms. Lucia Cordoba says, "I met my roommate in the line for registration so it was a funny coincidence!"

Mimosa continued to experience these coincidences when they discovered mutual friends and of course- mutual interests.

Mimosa provides its own diverse range of Mamacitas. From the beginning they recognized that they were all fierce chiqui-

tas indeed. Mimosa brags not only its ballerina, but its football player; not only its ping pong contender, but its fencer, golfer, sewer, chef, and avid Harry Potter fans!

Mimosa's city advisor, Mrs. Shields, could not be a more unique supporter of her citizens as she started racing hot rods when she was six and went all the way through boy scouts!

Mimosa Mamacitas spice up their talents, their doorways (including a necessary taco stand), and their chants! As Brenna Leech simply puts it: "We all get along and have from the very start!"

Nothing is left un-Mimosified, as every Mimosa is feisty and fierce! Go Mamacitas!

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Ironwood Woodchucks

EricaWu
 Ironwood City Reporter

“Woodchuck one, woodchuck all, let’s all do the woodchuck call. Ironwood... Woodchucks!”
 Girl’s state has been a crazy, busy, exhausting, but rewarding experience for the Ironwood girls, and it’s only the third day. The amount of tasks that need to be completed within a 24 hour period is incredible. Advancement of colors, elections and nominations, door decorating, sister-city activities, city meetings, eating, guest speakers, showering, party rallies, and every now and then some time is allotted for sleep.

Most of the girls didn’t know what to expect when they stepped on the UofA campus on Sunday. “I didn’t expect it to be so busy”, said Andrea Dame. Almost every moment of the day is planned out from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. There is a strict schedule and everyone tries their best to be punctual.

Sunday’s most difficult task was to pick the city mascot. We chose the Ironwood Woodchucks. The Ironwood girls wanted to be original and think of something fun and silly. “I wanted a mammoth for our mascot, but everyone thought it was too fat, so we chose woodchucks because it has wood in it”, said Megan Colvin.

The overall theme of the door decorations is an amusement park called “Chuck E. Trees”. Some of the doors contain rides found at an amusement park, food stands, ticket booths, etc.

Monday’s biggest task was elections. All of the cities elected their mayor, councilman, PC’s, and

appointments. The Ironwood Mayor is Ana Licona (Nat.), councilman are Sharon Wu (Fed.), Julie Macdonough (Nat.), Anne Jordan (Fed.), and Erica Wu (Nat.). PC’s for the Nationalist party are Belen Perez, Caitlin Bissonnette, and Andrea Dame. The PC’s for the Federalist party are Megan Colvin, Madeline Cordray, and Callie Perkins.

Although there are many things that need to be done, the girls of Ironwood somehow make it fun. During the little down time we have, the Ironwood Woodchucks are often adding each other on Facebook, talking about boys, and even playing beach volley ball in the hallway. “Decorating doors doesn’t seem like a chore,” said Flor Flores.

There is also time for the girls to get acquainted with one another. VESPERs is a time at the end of the day where the Junior Counselors and the girls get together. Ten minute activities are done to get to know one another and to end the day on a positive note. Sunday night’s activity was to state your name, where you are from, and an interesting fact about yourself.

The Ironwood girls also would like to thank the Governor, Monique Trejo, and Secretary of State, Allison Schanep for joining us for dinner as well as our Junior Counselors for helping us through this experience so far.

Throughout all the craziness and business of Girl’s State, the Ironwood girls have been getting along really great; they are making friends with one another and as Meghan Kuebler said, “Girl’s State is about having fun while getting stuff done.” We can only wonder what’s in store for us tomorrow!

Juniper City’s Jolly Jackalopes

SarahFeeney & SavannahCampbell
 Juniper City Reporters

A wise individual once said, “Life is not the paths you take, but the prints you leave behind.” In the case of Juniper City, these prints are those of a Jackalope.

The girls at Juniper City chose to become the Jackalopes in a moment of girlish whimsy. However, as the ladies looked beyond their silly alliteration and began to discuss their own tastes and interests, they discovered they all had two strange common passions—nature and Transcendentalist authors. While these may seem like peculiar interests, the girls found them to actually have a deep and meaningful connection to their mascot, theme, and the Arizona Girls State experience in its entirety.

It seems fitting that a city named after the Juniper tree, used in many Native American medicines and recipes, has dedicated this week to connecting with nature and its inspirational power. To embrace this theme, the girls transformed their City hallway into a stunning desert landscape with their beloved mascot, the mythical Jackalope scattered throughout.

Sprinkled in this desert are the girls’ favorite nature quotes, with a focus on Transcendentalist authors. As Jackalope Skylar Clark put it, “Our theme is about more than nature. It’s about taking inspiration from nature and authors like Thoreau and Emerson, who dared us all to take the path less traveled. That’s

something every innovative leader needs to know.”

Though Thoreau wrote while living in the peaceful woodlands around Walden Pond, Arizona girls find their inspiration in the desert sunsets, saguaro flowers, and magnificent cliffs and canyons of our state. Who knows? Arizona Girls State may be home to a new era of Transcendentalist authors. Judging by their excitement and enthusiasm for their work, it’s a very likely possibility.

With such a passion for their theme, the girls went all out in city spirit. Jackalope Lauren Brown said, “I’m so thrilled with our city’s theme. It’s been fun to brainstorm about all these spirit ideas. So far we have a Jackalope hand sign and a spirit cheer.” The Jackalopes are sure to keep developing more crazy ways of making their presence known on the Girls State campus.

With only a simple walk through Juniper City, it’s easy to see that the Jackalopes are some surprisingly intellectual nature-lovers. This week will be a great experience for both the Jackalopes and their fellow citizens as they all find their niche and learn to work and create together.

Incredibly, city spirit has soared after only one full day at Girls State. The cheerful halls of Juniper City and the enthusiastic cheers of all Girls State citizens show that everyone is in for a phenomenal week of friendly competition, hard work, dedication, and most importantly, fun.

City to City: The Community called Girls State

Brenna Leech
Independent's Feature Reporter

This year, The Independent is providing something a little new to the classic format of city news. Now, the Independent proudly presents a new perspective. We want to know how delegates, counselors, and JC's interact as a whole community, not just within their individual city. Enjoy! Catch-Up with the Counselors!

For some delegates, Girls State was such an amazing experience, they just couldn't stay away. This year 8 fantastic graduates came back to volunteer their time and effort to making our Girls State experience as great as possible. Before, delegates interviewed their county JC's but this year I caught up with 5 of our JC's to hear about new friendships, new

responsibilities, and a new Girls State.

What's it like taking care of close to 3 whole cities of girls?

Cocopah JC Rebecca Semik: Mainly, it's difficult to keep track of the names!

Paiute JC Kristen Linzy: I'm so fortunate I've got a great roommate! We split the work and spread out our time between the cities.

How do you get along with the other JC's from different counties?

Paiute JC: Robin Ferguson: FUN! We're mentors to the girls but best friends with each other.

Rebecca: We all got here Friday so all weekend we spent time together, giving each other nicknames.

Cocopah JC Taylor Gath: It's given us a second chance to meet people we didn't know.

Supai JC Linsey Goodwin: Well, I met my soulmate, Kristen.

What is the biggest difference between being a delegate and a Junior Counselor?

Kristen: As a delegate, you're completely focused. You don't realize how much planning goes on to make Girls State possible.

Taylor: Less Sleep!

Rebecca: Walking constantly, all over the place, checking on all the different cities!

How do you become a Junior Counselor?

Kristen: Submit a form at the end of the week and the staff picks.

Safe to say, these JC's get along great! Thanks so much ladies for taking time out to teach us how to be the greatest Girls State we can be!



Piñon Election Results

Meghann Mingle
Pinon City Reporter

It's no Tombstone. It's no Tucson. It's not even Taylor-town—yet. The polite, old western city of Piñon has completed its first official city elections.

The terrific Taylor Peterson was elected yesterday of the recently-chartered Piñon city in the Kaibab county. The magnificent mayor won by a landslide of votes (no, really—the opposing party even expressed her support for Taylor) and has since been presiding over the local government system with an iron—but gentle—fist.

As for the other election results: the official City Clerk is yours truly, lugging her laptop to and from all city meetings. The Chief of Police—or rather, Sheriff in our town—is the kindhearted Kayla. The

City Attorney with all her prestigious University of Girls' State law degrees is the cooperative Colleen; her counterpart, the jubilant City Judge, is the exuberant Erin. Our Planning Commissioner, Johnäe along with her two awesome assistants Holly and Sylvia have done a fabulous job so far in planning the city and getting a head start on important city matters.

Since the ladies of Piñon value Education above all else, the position of the Librarian is highly esteemed, and fell to the capable shoulders of the jovial Jessica. She's been keeping busy with cleaning off the not-so-dusty metaphorical bookshelves lining our heavenly halls.

The tax collector—more esteemed and valued than in life outside of Girls' State—has been selected as the jingoistic Jenny. Extremely intelligent and ever-willing

to serve her community, Samantha graciously volunteered herself for the position of City Engineer—and won! The Budget Director is Khadijah, and is assisted by Stacy and Meghann (your's truly). The Parks & Recreation Director will be the stellar Stephanie. India and Ranita will be the Directors of Business and Housing, respectively, and Shawndeen—who's name means 'sunshine' in Navajo—is the Director of Health.

The Postmistress who didn't know she was the Postmistress until these elections, will be Erin. She has a fabulous name that is not at all controversial. The City Editor will be the simply amazing Shelby, who is a fellow journalist for this paper.

All in all, it was an extremely eventful day for the girls of Piñon City, and more busy days—possibly busier—shall follow.

Delivering Diversity

**Jazmine Mincey
& Irena Krstic**
Mesquite City Reporters

Girls State has given us the chance to not only meet wonderful women from across the state, but it has also enabled us to learn about their lifestyles as well. Have you noticed that there are a plethora of culturally diverse women at Girl's State?

In the city of Mesquite there are three girls that come from very different backgrounds that have found a haven in the United States.

"My family and I moved to the states in 1996 after genocide started happening between the two ethnic groups in my country" said Raissa Mutuyimana, newly elected mayor of Mesquite City. Coming from Rwanda, Africa, Raissa has brought the city of Mesquite a fresh new outlook on what government means to us, as well as a new sense of diversity to our city.

Along with Raissa is another very important citizen of our city, Xochitl Monge, a member of our city's zoning and planning

committee. Xochitl, native to Mexico, tells us "Yes, I am very patriotic. I have more respect for this country than Mexico because the opportunities that the U.S. has offered me have been a lot broader than my home country. I'm so thankful for what this country has given me."

With this year's motto of Girl's State being "BE YOU" it's great to see culturally diverse people being able to be themselves, with no judgment being passed on them. "My counselor told me about Girls State, and I didn't know what to expect because I wasn't that informed about politics but after a city representative came to talk to me about it, I realized I wanted to go because I'm a very eager hands on learner and I thought it would be a really great informative experience", said Xochitl, when asked what got her interested in Girls State.

As wonderful as it may be to meet people with commonalities as your own, you shouldn't be afraid to meet someone whose looks and/or personality may differ from your own. We asked Raissa how important

she thinks it is to be patriotic and she said, "I think it is very important because in my country it wasn't about the country it was about the certain ethnic groups and I believe that as a country you should celebrate the different ethnicity; you shouldn't go to the extent of killing each other. I feel like when you're patriotic you stand for one cause, and that being a love for your country, and a love and acceptance of everybody. The diversity in this country is amazing."

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." -Maya Angelou.

A major appreciation goes to this year's Girls State for providing an environment that creates an equal opportunity for every girl involved, no matter your race, color, creed, or religion. "It starts with a city, then a state, and then a country to make a successful world that is understanding and accepting of diversity." - Jazmine Mincey, an aspiring Girls State Attorney General.

Who knows anyway?

Tianna Cann & Celine Doyle
Palo Verde City Reporters

Arriving at Girls State is a nerve racking experience. We see new faces, rooms, and a different environment. Mostly everyone is pulled out of their comfort zone. We might have found this a little scary, because it's all so new to us.

Is this what it's going to be like in a complete year from now? How are we going to survive? Who are we going to meet? These were probably the basic questions you asked yourself.

In the City of Palo Verde you feel a vibrant energy coming from the group of girls. For the most part everyone is

interested in learning about each other.

We want to make this experience all that it could be by making new friends. We enjoy having group talks, bonding time and just being us. We actually have an opportunity to be who we are and no one judging us.

No one knew what to expect when they got here. All we had was faith, and hoped it turned out ok. Immediately, it became clear to the girls of Palo Verde that the spirit of camaraderie, which is such a meaningful part of Girls State experience, is strongest in their own city.

"I think that everyone works well together. They are polite and happy to be here" says Denis Carranza about her

fellow Palo Verde citizens. The Girls State experience is one which will stay with every girl. Whether it was a good or bad experience it will stay in her heart long after she leaves.

"When I got the call to become a Junior Counselor, I've never been more excited," says Linsey Goodwin on being back at Girls State. "I loved it last year and was glad to be back" The strong beginning of Girls State, especially in the City of Palo Verde shows promise for the week to come. It is sure to be a week that will be remembered.

Continue to grow Palo Verde and all other Cities!

A Girls State "Familia" Already

Ana Licona
Ironwood City Reporter

It has barely been the first two days here at Girls State and Ironwood City citizens are already a family! All the girls have different ideas yet they all collaborate together to create an even greater thought. It is amazing how twenty-two young women can come together as one and live

by Carlene Ashworth's (National American Legion Auxiliary President) theme of "The Power of One".

Each citizen possesses a talent that is ready to shine out to the world, Arielle Balthazard, Ironwood citizen, has had the incredible talent of playing the violin since she was 6 years old. All of Girls State had the chance to hear her music when she played the National Anthem at the morn-

ing flag ceremony. She has been playing with the Phoenix Youth Symphony for 4 years. With her talent she plans to receive a minor in music and plans to play in community orchestras.

With Arielle's talent, Ironwood city has come close together by listening to her music and encouraging her as well as others with their future plans.

Cholla Says “CHARMING”

Lauren Martin
Cholla City Reporter

Dozens of anxious girls entered Girls State dorms on Sunday not knowing what to expect. Horrors of snoring roommates and stinky community bathrooms lingered in the girls' minds, but these nightmares did not come true for the girls of Cholla. The first day of Girls State was like a high school reunion of best friends. The twenty-two members of the city of Cholla got along just fine. In fact, within the first five minutes of meeting their roommate giggles could be heard from down the hall.

Everyone had smiles on their faces.

By the second day of Girls State, the girls were best friends. Singing and dancing is popular in the city of Cholla.

When it comes to politics the citizens of Cholla agree that respect is crucial in brainstorming and voting for ideas on how to improve Arizona. Everyone worked together, spoke with enthusiasm, and listened to fellow citizens. They treated each other like princesses.

As a result of primary and general elections, Kaylie Henley was elected Mayor of Cholla. Four city councilmen were also determined.

The girls of Cholla are currently constructing their city to make it Girls State's best. In fact, sixty pairs of socks were donated to benefit and support the veterans who served our country. The girls of Cholla strive to make the city a proud representation of not only Girls State but of the Nation.

Poll: What is one word to describe your Girls State experience thus far?

- Funny - Taylor Martin
- Awesome - Eva DeLaCruz
- Amazing - Carolyn Malone
- Charming - Kendall Welliver
- I Love It!! - Prynka Vij

Yucca residents hope to make lifetime memories

Roxanna Pitones & Cassandra Wessel
Yucca City Reporters

It has been less than forty-eight hours since Girls State residents have arrived and already the citizens of Yucca city have created an incredible bond.

With new people all around, being away from home, and learning a vast amount of information in just a few hours has left the girls feeling excited, overwhelmed, and eager to meet more girls from other cities and experience new things.

Yucca citizen, Rachel Brooks absolutely loves the experience of getting to know all her fellow peers.

"I can't even put into words how much fun I'm having getting to know everybody," Brooks said.

Brooks especially enjoys the friendships she has made with all of the girls, but admits that one of the hardest things about staying at U of A is having to be away from her family.

Similarly, fellow citizen Anahy Gonzales confesses being "homesick" at times, but is eager to increase her knowledge of politics.

Gonzales' favorite part of Girls State so far has been the visit from State Treasurer, Ken Bennet's and his speech given on Sunday afternoon.

"It was interesting to see someone who is in government and visually showed us how the state budget works," Gonzales said.

Both Gonzales and Brooks hope to make lifetime friendships and have fond memories to look back on.

"It is a once in a lifetime experience, with girls who are all on the verge of becoming seniors," Brooks added.

A Poor Turn Out of Nationalists in Manzanita

Nicole Fisher
Manzanita City Reporter

As the mayoral results came into Manzanita, it was apparent that the Federalists had swept the elections. Surprisingly though, it wasn't indicated by fervent Federalist campaigning or spirited debate. Instead, the Federalists were able to take most city offices due to a poor turnout of Nationalist candidates.

In the beginning, the Nationalists offered several candidates to run for mayor. As quickly as citizens were nominated though, they dismissed their own nominations in the primaries. The trend continued to show when nominations came in for city council. Several girls eagerly put their names into the hat, yet

for unforeseen reasons they chose to reject their nominations.

When elections came about, Ashley Boxer- who ran unopposed for mayor- tipped the edge for the Federalists. The Manzanita city council is currently comprised of three Federalists and two Nationalists. Despite this, the Manzanita Nationalists are still hopeful for the state elections. Several girls from the Nationalist party have come forward, professing extreme interest in running for state elections. These nationalists reject any notion that their low turnout in the city primaries is any indication of what is to come in county or state elections.

In the meantime, feds in Manzanita are reveling in their early victory. "I felt a sense of pride when I learned the

Federalists won the mayoral election. We will ultimately reign in the state elections," Ashlyn Meyer, a Federalist citizen recounted.

Federalist support in Manzanita has become increasingly apparent, as head-dresses don the heads of many. Despite how the Chiefs' victory cries may echo throughout the hallways, Nationalist pins equally adorn the shirts of many.

The low turnout of Nationalists in Manzanita's early elections may have affected the party ratio on the city level, yet only time will tell how county and state elections are affected. Until county and state nominations come filing in, it will be a waiting game to see if the Manzanita Nationalists' play out in Girls State.

Unexpected Expectations

Arielle Leal
& **Sarah Nikkari**
Ocotillo City Reporters

Arizona Girls State, has brought up many questions and thoughts to Girls State delegates. Is it empowering? Strictly government based? Is it going to be a life changing experience?

Megan Pritchard an Ocotillo Olympian said, "I expect every girl to be good representatives for their school, outstanding students with good academics and active leaders in clubs and sports. I am also looking forward to learning more about Arizona's government."

Ocotillo girls were not disappointed when they arrived at Girls State on Sunday. Delegates felt welcomed by Girls State staff, and received a great start to Girls State with the presentations given.

Olympian Gladis Solis said, "I have already learned so much in the few days I have been here, I never thought I would understand the state's budget, but when the secretary of state explained it using tissue boxes, it made complete sense to me and it was interesting at the same time."

The Ocotillo Olympians are looking forward to a fun, educational, and memorable experience here at Arizona Girls State.

The Parties have started

Tessa Andrascik
Mimosa City Reporter

With two days in the record books, Girls State is in full swing. With some girls beginning illustrious careers as Party Leaders, others are waiting patiently for the most opportune time to rise to the challenges of this rewarding program.

After a day of great presentations from Girls Nation and the announcement of our fabulous Mayors, day two came to a close with the party rallies. Each party held its own rally to generate hype for their parties.

On the Nationalist side the rally was a very exciting pep assembly that included many original songs and chants as well as a solid platform base.

We look forward to hearing more from them as they attempt to fill all city, county and state offices. Party leader Monique lead with brilliance and we are anxious to see what the Rhino party comes up with.

It's on in Piñon!

Shelby Stringer
Pinon City Reporter

The wonderfully creative ladies of the Piñon Pioneers in Kaibab County have decided upon a "Wild Wild West" theme for their dormitories.

Collectively, they chose a cowgirl as their mascot to represent the western theme. Complete with a jail, outhouse, general store, and so much more, the halls look like Tombstone of the late 1800s. There is even a three-dimensional horse, Pete the Pony, and a giant sunset on the walls.

Councilwoman, Miranda Guzman of the Pony Express helped adorn each room with a mailbox. She even wrote all the girls a personalized note. Guzman thought that it "would be a great way to welcome everyone." Overall, jovial spirits make Piñon the place to be.



A Fun and Fantastic Disney Frenzy

Margaret Aller
Manzanita City Reporter

Under the sea, down here it's wetter, oh but it's better, take it from me! At some point in life, people often find themselves in a Disney frenzy. Much like the Disney Corporation, the city of Manzanita drew inspiration from movies such as, *Finding Nemo*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and even *The Little Mermaid*. The life lessons present throughout the films are firm but friendly.

Finding Nemo teaches us about the importance of individuals. A father, Marlin, realizes the priority of family and sacrifices just about everything, even his sanity to find his son. As cute and heart-warming as the film is, it can even be related to Girls State. Every citizen is important. From voting to campaigning to just making friends, we all make a difference. At the back of the Girls State bible, there is a page which references times in history where one vote made a pivotal

decision. At Girls State, acknowledging citizen's differences heightens an individual sense of potential. Weaknesses can turn into strengths, and being apart of the transformation is, in the least, an honor.

As Marlin and Dory travel through the ocean, they encounter diversity at every turn, and in every corner. Here at Girls State, diversity is readily evident, and the acceptance of everyone is commendable. To be put in a room with someone you've never met in your life, much like Nemo's situation in the tank, teamwork is pivotal! In the city of Manzanita, the first meeting to establish theme initiated a miasma of unity. With businesses burbling at the back of many girls' minds, compromise was a necessity. All of which are true qualities of a leader.

In the end, after Marlin and Dory go their ways, a miracle is achieved because the 'impossible' feat has been conquered by Nemo and his friends. A lesson which many girls battle is surprisingly similar; Neither friendly fish knows of the sac-

rifices that each other made to find each other, but the journey there is where the transformation occurred. When colleges look at transcripts and see a good grade, they aren't going to see the countless hours spent practicing for a starting position on the team, or the sleepless nights, or all of the personal sacrifices each individual made. While, they aren't going to see the sweat and tears, it's the battle wounds that teach the most about ourselves. Girls State is one in the same. At the end of the week, you might ask yourself, "Was it worth spending seven days of my summer with girls who are jazzed about government?" If gaining new friends and developing new confidence and self worth is all that is gained, it must be a pretty amazing week.

The Manzanita Marlin's theme to spend the week under the sea with Nemo and Dory is almost divine inspiration! It may have started out with a simple children's movie, but it has evolved to a symbol of the lessons learned at Girl's State.