

Arizona Girls State Independent



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GS Opening Session.....a night filled with excitement



Flag folding demonstration.....*Two members of the American Legion John P. Burns Post 36 Honor Guard demonstrates the proper way to fold the American flag, while GS Assistant Director, Barbara Matteson, reads the explanation of the 13 folds during opening ceremonies.*

With the last girl settled in her room, the entire GS contingency proceeded out of the dormitory for their first official flag advancement and retreat conducted by our own 62nd Girls State Junior Counselors. The ceremony went off without a hitch.

With everyone outside, it was time to enter the Girls State Highway heading to the State House and prepare for the coming program. First on the agenda was an opening by Director, Mrs. Maklary, followed by an introduction of the 62nd GS presiding Governor, Abby Wells and the 62nd GS Secretary of State, Crystal Trejo.

The campus police shared valuable information concerning security and how to stay safe, while on the campus. Then, Mrs. Maklary explained the purpose of GS and how important it is for each girl to “just be themselves” and as a result of that behavior each girl would be successful.

Open session would not be complete without the GS

fashion show with all the latest clothing items from the GS “Togs and Treats” collection. There are many new items this year and each stamped with the GS logo just to show your friends, “that you really did go to GS and have the T-shirt to prove it”. Models were our very own GS Junior Counselors and each had fun, while doing a professional job!

A yummy dinner followed the fashion show and then everyone returned to the State House to hear from two very informative guest speakers. Representing the Arizona Secretary of State Office was Amy Bjelland explaining the functions of political parties, while a speaker from Congressman Grijalva Office explained the duties and importance of serving as a precinct committee person.

As time permitted, the girls were given an opportunity to ask questions of each speaker. Hopefully, the Q & A period, gave the girls a better understanding of the political system and how everyday citizens can get involved in the process.



Love that bear.....*Kaibab County JC, Amber Frey, models not only her “spiffy” GS scoop neck, two-toned T-shirt, but also her cute little GS teddy bear. Currently, both items are available at the store. The store is open to each city’s residents*

based on a set schedule – check with your city advisor to see when your city gets to go shopping!

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GS Reporters see the value...



**STOP
THE
PRESSES!**

Last night was the first meeting (and probably last due to our hectic schedule) of the GS Independent newsletter staff - and what a “colossal” turn out! The standard request for reporters from each city is only 2, - but last night one city actually sent 5 girls! With that many reports on the “beat”, Girls State will have excellent news coverage for the remainder of our stay.

Not only did reporters turn-out, but many of them brought their own camera crew.....yes, semi and pro photographers just looking for a “hot story” to cover!

With 4 more issues of the 62nd Girl State to be published, everyone is encouraged to keep an eye on the coming issues for items and photos that are guaranteed to interest even the most discriminating readers!



Ahh.....are you not feeling well???????

Unfortunately it seems sometimes even when we’re trying really hard to eat right, exercise and follow all the healthy living rules, we sometimes come down with an unexpected and unwanted “bug”.

If that happens to you while you’re at Girls State never fear, because Girls State has two of the most friendly and highly experienced nurses that will take care of you and “make it all feel better”!

This year, there are two separate infirmaries. For the residents living on floors 2 and 3, you need to contact Mrs. Jan Luckey in Rooms 634 and 635, while residents of floors 3 and 4 need to contact Mrs. Maria Moreno in Room 642 and 644. Residents living on floors not designated may contact either health care provider.



What’s for breakfast?????????

Breakfast is the only optional meal at Girls State and these recent arrivals of Mesquite City are enjoying their first morning breakfast *before* starting their first day at Girls State.

For the coming week, citizens of GS are highly encourage to keep strong and alert by eating a little something for breakfast, *before* starting their busy “campaigning days”!

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2009 Girls State Reporters

Palo Verde –Jessica Short
Palo Verde - Madison Freed
Juniper – Emily Tangeman
Juniper – McKenna Lewellen
Pinon –Patricia Tabamo
Pinon – Samanta Cannady
Ocotillo – Jessie Mohkami
Ocotillo – Keely Petulsky
Ocotillo – Amanda Beyer
Cholla – Jesse Gomez
Cholla – Rachel Corbin
Manzanita – Alexis Robarge
Manzanita – Brianna Pantilione
Saguaro – Lauren Page
Saguaro –Alda Dominguez
Mesquite – Annika Huish
Mesquite – Rachel Hiser
Mesquite – Lauren Keen
Sycamore – Brielle Giesemann
Sycamore – Mariija Zaruba
Ironwood – Eileen Leaser,
Ironwood – Carolyn Gatti
Yucca – Kyrra Richard
Yucca – Raquel Denis
Yucca – Koko Thomas
Yucca – Shauna Williams
Yucca - Lauren Tomlinson
Mimosa – Regina Cho
Mimosa – Alicia Chavez

Palo Verde sets the standard in “kinship”

Madison Freed
Palo Verde City Reporter

The Palo Verde City halls are buzzing with the sounds of laughter, singing and chatting. The girls of Palo Verde seem to have found their niche and loving it!

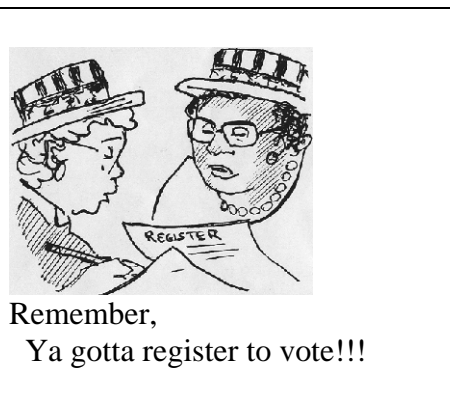
Though only having known each other a few short hours, the Palo Verde Penguins have already described themselves as “best friends” and a “family”!

One of the first cities to develop a cheer, Palo Verde marches proudly to meetings, meals, and speeches energetically shouting the Penguin cheer.

Though the residents of the city are all from different backgrounds, cities, and schools, the girls of Palo Verde have established a special bond that throughout the course of the week is sure to grow stronger.

Under the advisorship of Ms. Diaz and the new leadership of Mayor Nikole Robertson, plus with the indispensable help of her council, comprised of Sierra Gallaway, Paul Menefee, Elizabeth Brooks and Katelyn Sainz, Palo Verde will rise to greatness!

All the girls are eager and excited for what lies ahead for the new week. Many have plans to run for higher offices and all are planning to make the most of this week! Go Palo Verde!



Ironwood Dragons are on Fire!

Carolyn Gatti and Eileen Leaser, Ironwood City Reporters

We all came to Ironwood with high expectations for ourselves and for each other. All nineteen girls have different backgrounds, taste and opinions. Yet, it seems as if we have all known each other for a long time. Even before the official start of Girls State, Ironwood was already laughing and bonding in the cramped hallways of Coronado Hall! It's 2 days into elections, and even as some girls lose and other girls win, we all support and congratulate our fellow Dragons.

Our first elections have been a success! We chose our precinct committeewomen, who were excited and thrilled to take on their new roles and represent the City of Ironwood. On the Nationalist side, Ironwood is represented by Felicity Williams, Anais Alvarado and Andrea Perez.

Representing the Federalist side are Karen Fernandez, Molly Mahoney and Brooke Boegemann. The precinct chairs for Ironwood are Felicity Williams and Karen Fernandez. We all congratulate them and take pride in our Ironwood Dragon Precinct Committee!

Yesterday, we had the Primary and General Elections for the city council. The Mayor of Ironwood as determined by the General Election is Nationalist Grace Kweon! We've become a family here in the City of Ironwood and we support each other through thick and thin. Go Dragons!

Pinon's puts the “Fab” in fabulous beginnings

Patricia Tabamo, Pinon City Reporter

The Pinon Piñatas are living up to their mascot's fun loving nature – and getting the party started at the 62nd annual session of Arizona Girls State! From exciting brainstorming to great city pride, the citizens of Pinon are here to get down to business and have fun doing it.

Once things were settled after registration's craziness, Pinon met for the first time and began brainstorming for their soon-to-be-created City Book. They learned that although many potential mascots started with a “P” – such as Power Rangers – the words didn't lead to solid city theme. Residents finally settled upon the Pinon Piñatas with an accompanying fiesta theme.

With great ideas in their heads, Pinon embodied the spirit of friendship despite knowing each other for less than a day and got down to business, being the first city to arrive at the presentation of the colors and cheering as loudly as they could at meetings to show their pride. With their first day out of the way, Pinon's future looks bright, progressive and, above all, “fabulous”!

A Promising Start for the Ocotillo Octopi

Amanda Beyer, Jessica Mohkami and Keely Petrulsky
Ocotillo City Reporters

The Ocotillo citizens have bonded quickly and resolved to reinvent their city and create lasting friendships. Each girl is unique and brings a different, yet vital, element to the city's character. The Ocotillo team has decided on a mascot, a motto and many of the political positions to be filled.

As the Ocotillo Octopi began their city elections excitement filled the atmosphere. Kaily Shumway was elected Mayor of Ocotillo and is ready and willing to serve her city. “I'm very honored and excited to take on this responsibility and I plan to do my very best,” Mayor Shumway said.

The Precinct Committeemen were selected and immediately ushered into their party meetings. The Nationalist Party elected Jylane Hegedus, Patricia Oliverio-Lauderdale and Brittany Smith. The Federalist Party elected Michelle Daniels, Jessica Mohkami and Victoria Placencia. All of the newly elected Precinct Committee members are thrilled to be working alongside their party members!

Juniper City “Jumps” in

McKenna Lewellen
Emily Tangeman
Juniper City Reporters

After a busy first day, the Juniper Giraffes of Cochise County are settling into the dorm life.

Decorations are beginning to appear on city door fronts. They have something for everyone, from a paper mosaic giraffe to the perfect clothing accessory! The possibilities are endless to supply the needs of any giraffe.

Campaign posters for city officials also joined the Juniper scenery. Mayor Ashurina Alkais and Councilwomen, Adrianna Vera, Erika Pfaff, Hollie Mills and Jordan Francom were elected during the post-lunch session.

We look forward to working with our Sister City, Mimosa, and our county this week at Girls State.

Cholla Chicas stay busy conducting elections

Jessica Gomez
Cholla City Reporter

Today, the Cholla Chicas began their day by decorating their city and making each door a very creative and unique store.

They next got together for a city meeting where they voted for the mayor and councilwomen.

The girls who were running for the offices gave a short speech on “why” city members should vote for them.

Within 20 minutes the girls in the city voted, and within another 20 minutes they had the results: Cholla City had elected Katy Martin as Mayor, Mackenzie Joyce, Hilary Curtis, Wafa Alfatesh and Meredith Ridinger as the 4 council members.

Butterflies Are Gone

Alexis Robarge
Manzanita City Reporter

The Manzanita Mamacitas have made it past the butterflies and the nervousness of day one and are now on their way to shaking up the elections.

All the girls are preparing to run for all varieties of positions from county officials to governor and Girls Nation. Both sides of the party system Nationalist and Federalist are getting amazing support from their lovely precinct committeewomen.

The rallies displayed the entirety of the effort put forth by these committees and have shown how great the competition will be for all elections.

Our new Mayor, Brittany Dunham, is leading the way for all of that Mamacita spirit! Be prepared for the chants of “*Ay Que Fabulosa*” to be storming all of the buildings and meetings.

Palo Verde prepares to “bring it”

Jessica Short
Palo Verde City Reporter

Once upon a time there lived a princess. No wait – scratch that last part. Once upon a time, there lived twenty-four AMAZING Girl State delegates that made up the loyal citizens of Palo Verde.

On the afternoon of June 7th, 2009, they each eagerly awaited the arrival of the remaining roommates. Hands are extended, smiles are wide, and names are exchanged; this was the beginning of a legacy.

Since the first day of the wild adventure, we refer to as Girls State, it is without a doubt that these young women have fulfilled, if not exceeded the highest expectations.

For instance, every single store door in the city is filled with countless number of snowflakes and a wide variety of decorations. The girls have really found a place to call home for the exciting week ahead.

Throughout this experience these Palo Verde Penguins are prepared to demonstrate how any good city should run; likewise to the capital. Overall, a well deserved congratulations to the ladies who truly are ready to “bring it”.

Royalty Reigns

Annika Huish, Lauren Keen, and
Rachael Hiser
Mesquite City Reporters

Life as a Mesquite Monarch is nothing short of marvelous. After deciding on their majestic theme, the Monarchs worked diligently to turn their hall on Floor 3 into a throne fit for a queen.

With crowns and streamers decked out all throughout the Monarch’s dorms, Mesquite territory is definitely a party place to be visited.

Monday morning the city residents got straight to work, by first selecting their Precinct Committeewomen.

Representing the Nationalist Party, Mesquite has Annika Huish, Julie Koepp and Jessica Matteson. On the Federalist side, the Monarchs are represented by Claire Duckworth, Czarina Balderrama and Jessie Butler. Additionally, both parties held primary elections for councilwomen and mayor.

After a nail-biting general election in the afternoon, Mesquite proudly announced Rachel Hiser as its Mayor and Jenni Keatseangsilp, Emma Mendenhall, Kelsey Livingston and Catherine Stedman as its Councilwomen.

The girls are excited about upcoming county and state elections; with Mesquite’s very own Annika Huish looking forward to campaigning for governor for the Nationalist party.

With very little sleep, lots of ambition and loads of caffeine, the Mesquite Monarchs are ready to take a nap – we mean, take on all the incredible experiences Girls State has to offer, and make it the event of a lifetime!