

# Arizona Girls State Independent



June 6, 2016 • Volume 10, Issue 1 • Tucson, Arizona

## Welcome to the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of Arizona Girls State at UofA

Welcome to the 69th Annual Arizona Girls State. Congratulations on being chosen as a delegate. Your leadership and academic skills have given you the opportunity to represent your school, community and local American Legion Auxiliary Unit at this amazing program.

We as staff are proud to have you here and hope that your learning experience is one that you will take with you.

### Girls State Sponsorship

Girls State is sponsored by the world's largest women's patriotic organization... The American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is dedicated to helping veterans as well as our future leaders, such as you.

The Auxiliary sponsors this program each year to give you and other outstanding young women from all over the state the experience in citizenship and government.

The wonderful and numerous members of the American Legion Auxiliary in Arizona regard this program as a very promising and worthwhile investment in our Nation's future as we give you a hand in preparing for tomorrow.

### A Few Things To Remember

Please be respectful of the staff and other citizens as we are all here to learn and have fun.

Do not forget to bring your Girls State handbook with you to ALL GS events, including meals as we may not return to the dorms after some meals.

Be mindful of your things in your rooms. If you have valuables that you would like to have secured please see your City Advisor.

Never leave your city without first signing out or letting your advisor know where you are going and why.

If you are feeling ill or become injured remember to see the nurse. Don't wait if you feel sick. The nurses are located on the 6th floor in rooms 633 and 635.

### New Experiences

As our wonderful Governor explained last night each day here will be filled with new and exciting experiences. Your first day brought you to a dorm floor filled with new and exciting young women who were just as nervous as you. Yet, each of you took that first step and said hello or maybe just hey nice shirt, looks like you got the blue/teal memo too.

Each day here will bring more fun and more learning with all that excitement of something new. Did we mention lack of sleep? The sleep thing never really gets better with all those exciting emotions and all the new stories, hang in there though there is always Saturday on the drive home for naps!

### Things To Come

During the week you will learn about city, county and state government with emphasis being placed on political parties, campaigns and elections. You will be challenged to use your initiative and imagination. You'll make the most of your week by 'getting involved'.

Within your city you will be able to run for offices, set laws and create your very own city. Creations from businesses to parks and recreational facilities. Remember to be creative when decorating your doors and hallways to show just how much you enjoy your city. Show pride in what you have created. *These will also be judged for awards!!!*

Within the county you will be running for offices and helping to create the best county in Girls State. There will be a talent show, a court trial and many more wonderful events. Did we mention the Magical Evening? There is so much going on this week and yet it will fly by so fast.

### Show Your Spirit

Here at Girls State we love to show SPIRIT in everything we do. Be creative

with your cities and your campaigns. Take pride in everything you do as a group and as an individual.

Your parties will have rallies as well as chants and songs. *PLEASE remember that these are for Girls State and that we do have students in session during the summer. That means that when you are in a meeting hall other than your dorms please be mindful of classes.*

That does not however mean that you are not allowed to have fun. We want you to have fun filled memories, from decorating and creating those posters as well as the songs and cheers. After all what is Girls State without fun and memories.

BE CREATIVE and show us that AWESOME Girls State Spirit.

### Togs and Treats

Togs and Treats is the official Arizona Girls State Store. They have so much to offer, from t-shirts, shorts, stuffed animals, snacks, roses, and SO MUCH MORE!! Stop by the store and see what wonders they have to offer. They also have a small drawing for all those that make a purchase each evening at dinner.

**WELCOME TO GIRLS STATE!!**



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# Arizona Girls State Independent



## Meet Your Arizona Girls State Reporters



Say hello to your Girls State Independent reporters. These lovely ladies will be writing articles regarding your cities.

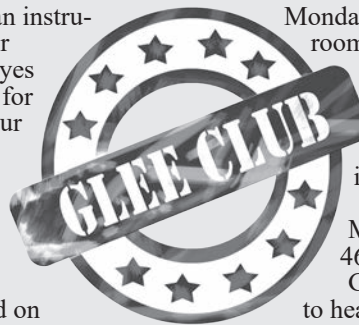
- From Ironwood:**  
Anna Hostal & Kelly Molloy
- From Palo Verde:**  
Annie Deckey & Taylor De Young
- From Pinon:**  
Kim Bittinger
- From Ocotillo:**  
Giselle Enriquez & Bridget McLaws
- From Mimosa:**  
Meena Venkataramanan & Hannah Ngo
- From Cholla:**  
Thalia Armijo & Brittney Fulop
- From Manzanita:**  
Cecilia Vargas & Ericka Amaya
- From Yucca:**  
Hannah Holder & Shelby Ben-Shalom
- From Saguario:**  
Anya Forma & Martha Dallman
- From Mesquite:**  
Sierra Garcia & Seren Riggs-Davis

## Do you sing or play music? If so then GS Glee Club wants you!

Do you love to sing or play an instrument? How about lead the choir during a big show? If you said yes to either then we have the club for you! Come on down and join our Glee Club.

We are looking for talented young ladies to perform at our Magical Evening dinner. After all, what is dinner without a little music?

The first meeting will be held on



Monday starting at 4:15pm in the great room #140. Please be sure to bring your instruments with you if you have them. Also perhaps a few song ideas as well. Please note you must be present at the first meeting in order to participate.

If you have questions please see Mrs. Castillo in Yucca City Room 466..

Good luck ladies and we cannot wait to hear those wonderful chords on Friday.

## Prepare to be entertained at the Annual Girls State Talent Show!

Do you have that one special talent that sets you a part from the rest? Do you love to sing, dance or act on stage? If you answered yes to either of these questions then we want you for our Annual Talent Night!

Thursday has been set aside just for you to show all of us here your very own talent. Strut your stuff or rock the rafters with that amazing voice.

Of course no talent show is complete without the auditions. All talented citizens are encouraged and must attend the auditions in order to participate. Keep an eye out for the audition sign up near Mrs. Maklary's office.

Remember to bring all of your needed materials for your talent with you at the time of auditions as we need to see exactly what it is you will be doing for the show.

For all questions and comments concerning the event, please see Mrs. Tincher in room 457.



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# 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Girls State begins with registration

Yesterday each of you began your journey to Girls State by packing up the car and heading to Tucson with your parents and family. Some of you traveled all the way from the Grand Canyon while others came from Yuma and all over in between.

Once you arrived it was time to stand in line and wait. Did we mention that it was almost 111 Degrees? Once the door opened it was all moving from there.

First you started with a warm greeting from the UofA staff giving you your handbook and room assignments. The wonderful staff was so gracious to lend us a hand checking you in today.

Next it was off to see the nurses where you dropped off those wonderful yellow cards and the parents could chat with our team of nurses that you will see off and on all week. They are awesome and very caring!

Now you turn and off to the Store/Bank where you meet our lovely store staff and have the opportunity to bank your money so that you do not lose it this week.

Remember you will have plenty of opportunity this week to stop in to the store and pick up some great items, like shirts, lanyards, snacks and of course WATER!!!

Hopefully you turned in your Samsung Scholarship application on your way through that door before getting your room keys and pictures.

Here you met our Assistant Director Mrs. Matteson who guided you through the patio and off to get your room key from the UofA team and then into portrait mode for your new ID badge. Mrs. Vietri and Mrs. Munchbach are great at getting you set up and ready for that picture. Be sure to wear these at all times. Here you were asked to stand on the blue tape and smile big!! All those beautiful smiles, we love it!

Then it was off to get those new blue/teal shirts that will tell everyone on campus that WE ARE GIRLS STATE in a sea of beautiful color. Don't worry about only getting two, there will be laundry days, we promise. The lovely JC's will be working with each city to be sure you

always have clean shirts! Remember to thank them during the week for all of their help!!

Finally it was off to the elevator where our county advisors told your parents that it was time to leave you to adventure Girls State on your own. Don't worry they will see you again on Saturday!!

Once you stepped out of the elevator you were greeted by your JCs and of course your City Advisor. I even bet you got to see some of your new city members. Remember that you will be with these girls for the next week so make the best of each situation.

Now that you are in your rooms and beginning the program take a quick moment to thank those that helped get you here today. Each of the Girls State staff members have volunteered their time to help make this a wonderful experience for each one of you. If you see them wondering the cities or during session give them a quick thanks for everything. They are sure to enjoy it.



# Opening Session At Girls State

Last night was an amazing first night. There were many wonderful speakers and lots of fun. To open the evening our girls posted our very patriotic colors. We were introduced to our wonderful Governor Maricella Garcia and Secretary of State Whitney Mason. Each welcomed you and wished you the best time here at Girls State as well as to reach for your goals and make the best of the week you have here.

Next we heard from the U of A Conference Manager. She gave us a great welcome and let us know that the University is here to help us have a wonderful and safe Girls State session. She told all of you to drink lots of water and stay in the shade as much as possible as it is going to be a HOT week.

We had a wonderful flag ceremony present by Post 36's Copper Knight

Color Guard and Mrs. Matteson. During this presentation the 13 folds of the flag were explained so that you will be able to understand why these ceremonies are so important and such a treasure. It gives true meaning and respect to all those who have fought bravely for this country.

Mrs. Maklary explained the purpose of Girls State and how important it is to be yourself. Each one of you is special and has potential. Stand out and be yourself. Don't let others make your decisions for you. Just B U.

Let's not forget our wonderful and talented JC's, who modeled for us just before dinner. These lovely ladies were kind enough to show you all the store has to offer. Remember "Togs and Treats" has all that you are looking for while you are here at Girls State.

We also owe a special thank you to the staff for the wonderful power point presentation that was not only informative but fun. Thank you ladies for all that you do for us and our veterans.

Our second part of the evening was saved for our special guest speakers. First we started with Theresa Martinez from the Arizona Secretary of State's Office. She gave a wonderful and informative presentation.

Our second present of the evening was Joseline Matta who is a former Girls State delegate herself.

Ladies a great job on all the wonderful and interesting questions. Way to stay on topic and keep our speakers thinking. Keep it up this week with all of the wonderful guest speakers to come.





# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Ice Cream and AC in a Sea of Blue

**Meena Venkataramanan**  
Mimosa City Reporter

The first twenty four hours have whizzed by in Girls State. In this sea of blue, there is never a dull moment. After enjoying a delicious dinner of rice and vegetables on Sunday night, complete with creamy vanilla ice cream and some, well, interesting-tasting Coke, Girls State delegates returned to their rooms for some well-deserved rest.

On Monday morning, I took to the streets to chat with some of my fellow delegates from various cities. After introducing myself, I asked them what they have enjoyed most about Girls State so far and what they would change or improve.

Allyson Wright and Alissa Chavez from Ocotillo City both concurred that meeting new friends and developing a close bond have been their favorite parts, but they wish they'd gotten more time to sleep.

"The dorms have been my favorite part," said Raquel Ramirez from Mesquite City with a giggle. "But I wish I could have gone to sleep earlier."

Erika Amaya from Manzanita City was amazed that "we, as a city, got really close really quickly."

Later, I caught up with Juniper City

residents Darby Johnson, Angelique Hill, Victoria Gutierrez, and Brittany Franke. Johnson and Hill mentioned they really enjoyed meeting their fellow city residents, but Johnson noted that more breakfast lines should be created to move the crowd faster, and Hill, a born athlete who plays volleyball and basketball, noted that she wishes we would "get up and do something or participate in more physical activities."

Gutierrez remarked that she's happy that "we're not tearing each other down yet" with a smile, anticipating intense, cut-throat competition in the near future.

Franke was amazed that "Juniper clicked like that," snapping her fingers for emphasis, but, amid yawns, longed for more sleep.

Jhaida Holmes from Yucca City enjoyed the speeches after dinner on Sunday, because they were very informative and useful. She has no complaints, because "everything's been great so far!"

My friends from my own city, Mimosa, have generally enjoyed their Girls State experience so far. Amelia "Mia" McHattton enjoyed the ice cream and Jell-O from Sunday night, but wished that meals weren't a mile away.

Mackenzie Filewicz-Ross loved being a part of the color guard and carrying the flag, because it is something

she "wouldn't be part of at school." But she wishes that the air conditioner worked in the auditorium. As we roast under the Tucson sun over the next six days, I think most of us can only agree with her!

Echoing the words of the Girls State staff, I encourage you all to drink lots of water. As a Tucson native, I can ensure you that it's only going to get hotter over the next few days. So take care of your bodies and make the most of your experience here at Girls State!



## The Little Guys Matter Too

**Brittney Fulop & Madison Hamilton**  
Cholla City Reporters

Everyone knows about the big positions. They know they can run for the Governor, Senator, or Mayor. What people usually do not pay attention to are the little guys; positions like the Justice of the Peace, County Recorder, County Sheriff, and Clerk of the Superior Court are all important positions that are overlooked. We decided to talk to some of the people who recognized these positions as the neces-

sary building blocks for higher offices.

Without these offices, our government in Girl's State and in our lives outside of these walls would not be able to function properly. Hannah Griego, a candidate running for the Justice of the Peace says that, "although it is a smaller position it's affecting people around you and everyone you know."

Another girl's state citizen, Zianna Hart wants to be the County Sheriff because she has "experience with jail system and have a cousin that is a probation officer. I

have an associates with criminal justice and would like to share the experience with others at girl state. Also I like telling people what to do...in a good way though." This kind of experience in the outside world and here at girls state is extremely valuable. We are all here to learn about how our government works and most of us did not even know that these smaller positions existed, but that does not mean they are not important just as important as the "big guy".

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# Arizona Girls State Independent



# Sweet Happenings in Mimosa

**HannahNgo**  
Mimosa City Reporter

If you decide to come to the third floor, get ready for a sweet treat. Mimosa City, full of wonderfully creative girls, has decorated its walls with a myriad of colors. Intricately unique cupcake ornaments adorn the common area, following a CandyLand theme, initially proposed by the now Mayor, Meena Venkataramanan, who led the city in organizing the book and decorations.

The theme is evident in all aspects of their decoration, from the Cupcake Commons room to the rooms themed after locations in the CandyLand game. Even the seal pertains to the theme, with two candy canes arranged in an M for Mimosa, drawn with grace by Kelly Anderson, resident artist of Mimosa and one of the many talented people representing the capital city who worked together to present only the best.

Pride in Mimosa stands out, but that doesn't mean they can't have a good time with the other cities as well. When their sister city Manzanita of Cocopah County arrived for the night, both groups put aside the ongoing rivalry between the cities for the best cheers and chants and the honor of being capital city next year to gather and simply enjoy being together.

The two groups played games such as Sally

Walker, where girls opened up to each other and strutted their stuff, and a game of Hanky Panky, the notorious slapping of hands game that ended up playing to a championship round. Don't fret for those who ended dropping out from the game in the early rounds.

The Manzanita advisor taught them an at first baffling song, the name of which continues to elude this reporter. However, the best part was the "doot-dee-doo woo," and the girls enjoyed the frantic dance accompanying the song.

At the end of the sister city period, both cities were sad to leave the other, but many cheerful and hopeful goodbyes and see you later filled the air, as Manzanita exited the hall. The students retreated to their respective homes, tired but filled with new energy from meeting new friends and sharing time together, an activity often lost to busy students in their daily lives. Though they compete for the same offices and run against each other, it speaks to these girls' characters that they can set aside the politics for a while and just be girls.

Mimosa is a city of spirit and teamwork, but open to everyone. However, its citizens will never be lax when it comes to becoming the best city this year, and Mimosa hopes to keep its title as capital for the next year through hard work and kind souls.

## Meet Your Arizona Girls State Reporters

Say hello to your Girls State Independent reporters. These lovely ladies will be writing articles regarding your cities.

**From Juniper:**  
Brielle Hansen  
& Victoria Marbois

**From Sycamore:**  
Olivia Austin  
& Lydia Kellerhals



**Also an apology to our reporter from Pinon.**  
Riley Goldsmith was in our group photo from last night but was missed in the listings!

**We have a switch as well and would like to welcome**  
Madison Hamilton from Cholla to the team!



## Allyson Mayor may not be the one

**BridgetMcLaws**  
Ocotillo City Reporter

Ocotillo Mayor, Allyson Wright came into Girls State ready to jump right in. As soon as meetings started, she did what she knew best - lead.

Whether it ranged from taking charge in a game, having lots of good ideas for our city, or knowing how to handle complicated situations it seems that

Allyson has got it all. Of course she is Student Body President of Skyline HS and thus knows exactly what to do in a leadership position.

So what does everyone else do when it's time to run for Mayor? Nothing, yet that may be the smarter option. Let Allyson become the Mayor. Not one girl ran against her - Federalist or Nationalist. Hey - who wouldn't want a girl like her to take control?

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**2016 Girls State Reporters**  
Kelly Malloy - Ironwood  
Anna Hostal - Ironwood  
Ana Deckey - Palo Verde  
Taylor De Young - Palo Verde  
Brielle Hansen - Juniper  
Victoria Marbois - Juniper  
Kimberly Bittinger - Pinon  
Riley Goldsmith - Pinon  
Giselle Enriquez - Ocotillo  
Bridget McLaws - Ocotillo  
Hannah Ngo - Mimosa  
Meena Venkataramanan - Mimosa  
Madison Hamilton - Cholla  
Brittney Fulop - Cholla  
Ericka Amaya - Manzanita  
Cecilia Vargas - Manzanita  
Shelby Ben-Shalom - Yucca  
Hannah Holder - Yucca  
Anyia Forma - Saguario  
Martha Dallman - Saguario  
Sierra Garcia - Mesquite  
Seren Riggs-Davis - Mesquite  
Olivia Austin - Sycamore  
Lydia Kellerhals - Sycamore

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# Heat Stroke? More Likely Than You Think

**Lydia Kellerhals**  
Sycamore City Reporter

The projected high this week in the lovely city of Tucson is a whopping 111 degrees, yikes. With temperatures so high it is crucial that everyone take action to prevent themselves from being seriously injured. There is more to heat safety than drinking water, so it is important to know the warning signs of heat exhaustion before it escalates to a (sometimes fatal) heat stroke. Ask yourself the following questions when you're feeling the heat to assess your situation:

## Is that a cramp?

If you feel your leg or arm tighten up

suddenly while walking the campus this week, stop and wait for the feeling to go away. The first warning sign of heat exhaustion is called a heat cramp. Heat cramps occur when you are dehydrated and being physically active in a hot environment. To avoid heat cramps, drink plenty of water and stretch if you feel tightness in any muscle group.

## Am I sweating?

Ew, sweat. But we all do it, at least we should be. If you are sweating your body is sucking water right out of you in an attempt to cool you down faster. The first drop of sweat is water lost to your body so make sure to replenish. Now, if you've

stopped sweating, yet you don't feel cool at all and you're still making the trek across campus, seek medical attention. The first warning sign of a heat stroke is being sweatless while physically active in a hot environment. If you are no longer sweating, that means your body is completely out of water; this can often lead to fainting and you could injure yourself even further.

Be safe this week by drinking at least 3 or 4 water bottles a day, and even more if you're heading outside. Especially for those out-of-towners who are not used to the Tucson heat. Remember that there is ice and drinking fountains available in the laundry room to stay cool.



# First Impressions

**Hannah Holder & Shelby Ben-Shalom**  
Yucca City Reporters

Whether the first impression was towards living in a college dorm for the first time, experiencing Girls State, or being mixed in a sea of hardworking and intelligent girls; we can all say that the impression fueled many emotions and thoughts. In an interview of the Yucca City girls, we can see these demonstrated.

## Question 1: What have you learned so far?

McKinizi Godfrey: I learned that you don't have to know anyone to still have fun. I was having so much fun getting to know different people and their personalities. It's really interesting to figure out all of the differences in personalities.

Caprice Lee: In my first day of Girls

State I learned important leadership skills and how to work together in a group to get what needs to be done.

## Question 2: How prepared were you?

Sarah Stewart: Personally, I feel really prepared for this week. Before going to Girls State I researched a lot about the city and state governments and shopped a lot for campaign materials!!

Sariah DeFazio: I feel like I was pretty well prepared with materials. I think I could have learned more about this program before I came though.

## Question 3: What did you expect and how was it actually?

Esha Bhatti: I expected to meet a lot of unique and friendly people and it turns out that those expectations were met and I had a lot of fun working with these awesome

girls!

Josie Cutlip: I expected a bunch of judgmental girls, I was very intimidated. However, I actually have made many friends and anyone that I have talked to has shown no hostility or judgement, all of these girls are great.

## Question 4: What would you have done differently prior to Girls State?

Tyler Bonchonsky: So far I have had a fun time. The only thing I would've done differently the first day is to have reached out to people and tried to make friends sooner. There are so many amazing girls here and I'm glad I'm starting to get to know them all better now.

Alex Mooney: I wish I wouldn't have been so nervous and been more open-minded.



# Friendships that last a lifetime



**TaylorDeYoung**  
Palo Verde City Reporter

As much as it is important to expand our knowledge about government at Girls State, it is also just as important creating strong bonds with the girls of our city, county and as a state.

Girls State allows girls from different parts of Arizona to form a new state and share each others' skills and ideas learned from their different schools.

I want to offer advice to the many girls at Girls State, come out of your comfort zone and get connected with the other delegates. Find girls with common interests as you get to know you roommate, come together as a city and bond as a team.

It is the little things that will make your experience at Girls State much more memorable.

Marlene Palacios from Palo Verde, Supia County says, "It's great interacting with girls that have common interests as me! I love how I feel like I already know the girls in my city and it's only the first day."

Allow the funny times, great conversations and connections to inspire you to make lifelong friends with the girls of Girls State. Get their snapchat, instagram, and other social media info. Create a groupchat that you will use even after this week have come and gone. Whatever you do remember your lifelong sisters at Girls State 2016!



# Beat the Heat

**AnnaHostal**  
Ironwood City Reporter

The spirit of competition is deeply ingrained in the nature of women. Within Girls State, citizens exercise their abilities to compete against each other. While such conflict can perhaps be divisive it is also good-natured and ultimately healthy.

There is, however, a conflict older than the struggle of woman versus woman, that is, woman versus nature. On Monday, Tucson was beset with high temperatures of nearly 109 F. Girls across the state, while rallying for their parties and positions, are ALL united against a common enemy-the weather.

Most would look upon sunny, cloud-

less skies as a sign of good fortune and good things to come (and indeed they may be!), but girls should take special care to look upon the UV index as well. Readings indicated a high of 10.8 on the UV index today in Tucson-meaning an extreme risk of harm from unprotected sun exposure. Girls toted umbrellas, slathered on sunscreen, sported stylish sunglasses, and took short cuts through the shadows to reduce their risk of exposure to harmful ultraviolet radiation.

It is essential that every girl take such precautions daily to protect their skin and remain healthy and productive citizens of Girls State. Even as we tire throughout the challenges and activities of the week we must remain vigilant against this daily danger.

Much of the damage caused by such radiation is not so visible as a simple sunburn, but manifests in many unpleasant ways as we age, which include development of melanoma (skin cancer), ocular damage (such as cataracts and macular degeneration), and degeneration of skin tissues which can lead to premature aging.

Remember to apply, reapply, and reapply your sun screen. If you don't think you've applied enough-APPLY MORE. Sara Hubbard, your governor hopeful from the city of Ironwood, wood (pardon the pun) like to remind all girls to, "Wear sunscreen, fight the melanoma monster!" Take care of yourself and your fellow girls in these trying times of tremendous temperatures.



# Girls Nation is an honor

**Cecilia Vargas**  
Manzanita City Reporter

Girls Nation is a huge honor that is given to 2 Girls State delegates. They become the “poster children” for our state throughout the mock senate that takes place in Washington D.C. This is a great deal of pressure placed on GS girls but they are well equipped and can take the heat. This is due to the fact that girls that desire this privilege are not only politically informed but they are also passionate about America’s government system. They have ideas, opinions, and history that they feel strongly about and that motivation fuels them forward.

I received a chance to interview two GS delegates from Manzanita city who have an ardent desire to participate in Girls Nation. Here’s what they had to say:

**Q: Why do you want to go to Girls Nation?**

Erika Amaya: “I see the potential of actually proposing something that could happen.” Also she feels that “being a girl at such a young age and as a member of the Hispanic community, not only am I representing a huge chunk of the population but of the community that lacks a voice. This once in a lifetime opportunity will be the beginning of my political career.”

Kara with the Hair-a: I represent multiple groups of people. My Dad served in

the Army and through him I was able to come into contact with many other military families. Also due to my Dad’s occupation, I was able to travel to many places such as Germany.” Kara would also like to give President Obama thanks because he has affected her life a great deal. He has stopped many soldiers from having to result to deployment.

Also she wants to honor her late grandfather by involving herself in politics, her grandfather’s last wish. Another important motivation for her is the bad health care system that exists for veterans. She wants to bring that issue into the light because she feels that at the very minimum all should feel healthy and comfortable.



# Darby’s VeggieTale

**Victoria Marbois**  
Juniper City Reporter

We interviewed Darby Johnson, who at the first meal, displayed her dislike of the greens on her plate.

**Q: When did your passionate hatred for vegetables begin?**

“At an early early age, I can remember the day exactly. I was 3 years old, and I had string green beans. And they were TOO CHEWY!”

**Q: What is your least favorite vegetable?**

“Oo, oh goodness, I hate cucumbers and celery. I can’t stand them. People ask me why, and (it’s because) there’s no flavor. I’m just can’t stand it.”

**Q: What would you rather eat than your leafy greens?**

“I feel bad.. Oh.. No.. I would eat meat. Meat and fruit.”

**Q: Is there any point of time when you would be willing to eat vegetables?**

“For my health. For my own health, that way I may survive this society and the world.”

**Q: Any other further comments about these tiny green monsters?**

“I WILL PREVAIL. THEY SHALL NOT DEFEAT ME. AND THEY WILL SEE THE DAY WHEN DARBY JOHNSON DESTROYS THEM ALL.”

We hope that one day, Ms. Johnson will grow to love vegetables, but you do you, Darby.



# Favorite Part of Girls State

**Riley Goldsmith**  
Pinon City Reporter

Amidst a sea of extremely ambitious and dedicated young women, it may seem easy to become lost in a tapestry of talent. In fact, many girls expressed some initial discomfort concerning the welfare of their individuality; and inevitably, their ability to ‘stand out.’

Once the initial scorch trial in the parking lot prior to registration had concluded, the true purpose of Girl State

began to emerge. We are not here to showcase our superiority and flaunt an imposing knowledge of government policies—no; we arrived as strangers and are slowly emerging as friends.

The speeches we make to become elected officials are not intended to ‘put down’ others or placate a perverse system of social domination. The speeches and elections are meant to help us grow as confident young women and strengthen our ability to act under pressure. Indeed, after 24 hours the anxious glances and

awkward (and often false,) “How are you’s?” morphed into genuine statements of gratitude.

We did not become lost in a sea of formidable skill; instead, we became successful individuals within a group. For many of the girls participating in Girls State, their favorite experiences thus far include: food time, meeting new people, creative time, ‘dorming,’ city hall, poster making, and sharing common interests.

## My First Day At Girls State

**Giselle Enriquez**  
Ocotillo City Reporter

The paperwork, the physical examination, the packing... it suddenly all became a reality. At 10:30 a.m. I set foot at the University of Arizona, ready to indulge myself with the sun while waiting in the immense line. I have to say, it’s really intimidating walking into a crowd of girls who all look so determined and intelligent. As scared and nervous as I was, my day took a complete 180-degree turn as soon as I met the girls from my city.

The ambiance immediately

felt like home as we all got together and learned each other’s names and journeys. It’s probably one of the best feelings in the world getting to know people who are so contagiously passionate about life.

Now I must admit, the first day was absolutely exhausting. It was full of walking, listening, and talking. The guest speakers spoke very highly of the program and taught us so much about politics and government in one sitting. It’s truly all been fascinating, and that was just day 1.

Girls State will be the experience of a lifetime.

## Girls State Store

**Hannah Holder**  
Yucca City Reporter

The Girls State Store is now open! For reasonable prices anyone can purchase a variety of candy, snacks, drinks, toiletries, linens, and other sleep-away camp necessities. Featured snacks include: Nutter Butters, Oreos, fruit snacks, rice krispies treats, trail mix, and popcorn. Snickers, Kit Kats, Reese’s, Hershey’s, and Skittles are also among the different candy choices.

Forgot something at home?

The Girls State Store also showcases a variety of colorful Girls State T-shirts and shorts.

Any purchase from the store will also give any delegate the opportunity to put their name in a drawing for a prize that will be announced during dinner every night except for Friday. Designated times to visit the store will be appointed to each city, and they may be different each day.

Stop by the store before the best items are gone!

## We Want Your Photos!!

Have some great photos of Girls State that are just too good not to share? Share with us, and send your photos to

**photos@azgirlsstate.com!!**

These could be in the next newsletter and even in the upcoming yearbook!





# Arizona Girls State Independent



June 8, 2016 • Volume 10, Issue 3 • Tucson, Arizona

## “Fed Ed”- Getting to Know the Federalist Platform

**Seren Riggs-Davis**  
Mesquite City Reporter

As a Platform Committee member of the Federalist Party, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with eleven other amazing young women in order to shape the beliefs of the party. After two days of thoughtful discussion and debate, the platform of the party has been officially established. This being said, it's time we all take a minute to get educated on the actual ideologies of the Feds.

The Federalist platform can be split up into three separate facets: sustainability, mental health, and education. In regard to sustainability, the Federalist Party has agreed to support United Nations Rio

+20 protocols to promote sustainable development within our cities, as well as formulate a program making all recyclables tax-free and awarding tax breaks to citizens who exercise environmental consciousness.

Mental health primarily refers to issues teenage girls commonly face, such as depression, stress, anxiety, ADHD, etc., but are often not recognized among our peers as legitimate conditions. The Federalist Party plans to raise awareness and sensitivity for these disorders through the materialization of mental health awareness programs, including but not limited to social media campaigns and the Arizona Youth Summit on Mental Illness. The Federalist Party also supports the reinstatement

of school counselors who specialize in mental health to combat these conditions at a ground level.

In the realm of education, the Federalist Party would like to raise the budget for schooling in order to restructure the curriculum of schools, creating classes geared more towards “real world” skills, as well as cultural awareness classes (i.e. world culture, religion, women's empowerment). The goal of these changes in school curriculum would be to prepare students for adulthood and prevent cultural ignorance at a young age.

Hope this helped you all to feel a bit more Fed-ucated on the beliefs of the Federalist Party!

## Blast off!

**Anya Forma**  
Saguaro City Reporter

Saguaro city is out of this world with its outer space theme! These cacti are hitting the books, actually the city book. The Planning and Zoning and the Budget committees, as well as the Mayor, Tatum Willis, were hard at work collecting and composing all the ideas brought forth by the city's residents. Now here is a brief interview with Ms. Willis as she answers questions about their city:

Interviewer: What is your city's theme?  
Tatum Willis: Intergalactic space.

I: What makes your city unique?  
TW: Our outgoingness and the ability to involve everyone.

I: What is your favorite aspect of the city?  
TW: Getting everybody's input on how we want to design our city.

I: How much time have you spent so far working on the city plans?  
TW: I would say a good few hours.

I: Thank you so much, Tatum.  
TW: My pleasure.

## Road to College

**Kelly Molloy**  
Ironwood City Reporter

Girls State is not just a fun experience for all who are here, but it is also an amazing experience for college. By attending this program, the girls are given the chance to receive a small taste of what their future may hold. Many plan to attend college all over the nation where this experience may be helpful.

Samantha Daer, a delegate of Juniper, said that this program will be extremely beneficial within the next few years. She expressed that we can learn from living in the dorm, especially when it comes to community bathing. Samantha said that this is our chance to advocate for ourselves and learn to socialize with strangers.

Nicole Gehret agrees with Samantha. A citizen of Mesquite, Nicole said, “learning to make new friends in an environment in which you don't know anyone is similar to what freshman year of college will be like for us.”

These social skills will definitely be beneficial for the girls in the future. After this week, college will not seem as intimidating to many. Girls State provides the confidence that we need to encounter the real world.

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# Arizona Girls State Independent



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Arizona Girls State  
Penny Maklary, Director  
Shannon Mead, Editor

**2016 Girls State Reporters**  
Kelly Malloy - Ironwood  
Anna Hostal - Ironwood  
Ana Deckey - Palo Verde  
Taylor De Young - Palo Verde  
Brielle Hansen - Juniper  
Victoria Marbois - Juniper  
Kimberly Bittinger - Pinon  
Riley Goldsmith - Pinon  
Giselle Enriquez - Ocotillo  
Bridget Mcclaws - Ocotillo  
Hannah Ngo - Mimosa  
Meena Venkataramanan - Mimosa  
Madison Hamilton - Cholla  
Brittney Fulop - Cholla  
Ericka Amaya - Manzanita  
Cecilia Vargas - Manzanita  
Shelby Ben-Shalom - Yucca  
Hannah Holder - Yucca  
Anyia Forma - Saguaro  
Martha Dallman - Saguaro  
Sierra Garcia - Mesquite  
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Olivia Austin - Sycamore  
Lydia Kellerhals - Sycamore  
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# Meet the Candidate: Hannah Ngo

**Meena Venkataramanan**  
Mimosa City Reporter

The Nationalist Party State Chairman and Mimosa City resident Hannah Ngo is excited to announce her campaign for Attorney General and Girls Nation Senator. She assures you that “Hannah Ngos (knows) what to do” and cautions, “Don’t say no to Ngo!”

Hannah enjoys writing, swimming, and water-color and is the president of Model United Nations at her school, in addition to her many other activities and honor societies. When asked why she’s running for Attorney General, Hannah responded, “I love courts, and court proceedings. I watch movies about courts. I read books about courts and law. If I play video games, it’s video games about law and courts. That’s why I want to be part of the mock trial process at Girls State.”

As for her experience, Hannah also stands confident while still hoping to expand her horizons as Attorney General. “I have governmental experience in the branches of government, from congressional debate with the speech and debate team and a presidency as leader of Model United Nations, and

would love to complete the branches by gaining judicial experience.”

Hannah also hopes to walk away from Girls State as one of its two Girls Nation Senators. When asked about her Girls Nation campaign, Hannah emphasized her strengths but also showed a passion for compromise. “I would be an excellent representative for Girls Nation because of my experience in Congress, which puts me against the best from every school to debate on varying issues facing the country today, ranging from the environment and renewable energy to the corruption in the jail and prison systems. I understand what a bill looks like, how to execute delivery, and how to get a point across to others. However, I’m not pushy and willing to listen and compromise for the best possible outcome. As Senator for Arizona, I’d be able to represent our state to the best of my ability, and I’d love to be your senator.”

With her experience and enthusiasm, Hannah, without a doubt, sounds like a great choice for both Attorney General and Girls Nation Senator. She’s an outstanding citizen of Mimosa and a wonderful representative of the Nationalist Party. Best of luck, Hannah!



## REMEMBER TO DRINK LOTS OF WATER THIS WEEK!!



## Why County Government?

**Ericka Amaya**  
Manzanita City Reporter

At 9:45 am Mrs. Slusher gave an amazing lecture at Social Science. A remarkable background was shared with three hundred plus girls, and a sense of accomplishments and honor warmed our hearts. Such a life filled with numerous moments were given, and a huge quote which we should keep in mind was shared “have a service mentality, be humble.”

Slusher shared her favorite accomplishment which was the “Tucson Loop” a 131 mile long bike route used by the community to avoid traffic and enjoy the beautiful fauna Tucson hosts. It is a tourist favorite, filled with shade which she said is the closest to gold. She shared that when Tucson was being built, the bike routes where there, just not connected and through the city. Official interaction and construction was set in motion, and today they’re finishing the last mile. She shared the fun fact that for every dollar spent towards the construction, \$9.00 are given back to the city.

With a Pre-med degree, another in Business Management, a 6 year career in Financial Consultants specializing as a Wall Street firm stock broker, and also a masters in Landscape architecture with Latin language studies, Mrs. Slusher is a box of surprises, and we are honored to have her speak. It was a true honor to hear her contribution to Pima County and it was an honor to see how one woman can make such an impact.



# Meet The Candidate: Meena Venkataramanan

**HannahNgo**  
Mimosa City Reporter

Meena Venkataramanan, Nationalist mayor of the capital city of Mimosa from the Paiute County, is entering the race for the esteemed and much fought-for position of Girls Nation Senator. She's the girl with the long last name and long-term results, and she would be ecstatic to be able to represent Arizona Girls State at the national level, and her track record is nothing to sneeze at.

This intrepid reporter asked Meena about her life outside of Girls State, and the range of activities is astounding. She's the Speech and Debate President at her school, loves writing, especially poetry and prose, and loves to perform. Her accomplishments and positions include Arizona Governor's Youth Commissioner, Pima County Teen Court Bar Association Secretary, and a position as writer at a regional literary magazine.

When asked about this impressive slate, she states: "I have had extensive experience with all levels of government. I have been recognized and awarded by

my Tucson Mayor and have attended Mayor and Council meetings, which clearly shows my experience with local government. As an Arizona Governor's Youth Commissioner, I have interacted with my state government to alleviate the biggest issues facing youth today, such as substance abuse, bullying, and educational inequity. I also applied to the U.S. Senate Youth Program last year, through which I learned so much about the U.S. Senate. Through Speech and Debate, I have become skilled in debating current issues with unfamiliar audiences, but more importantly, have learned to listen to others and value productive discourse. I have also placed in the Top 10 at Speech and Debate tournaments in Congressional Debate, which consists of debating Senate and House bills in a model Congress, which is exactly what I would be doing at Girls Nation. I have lobbied at the Arizona State Legislature with Senator Kelli Ward and have watched Congressional sessions at the State Capitol. I would love to become a Girls Nation Senator given my experience and familiarity with local, state, and national government."

Meena is clearly a qualified candidate, and her bill exemplifies the thought she puts into her work. Her explanation is astounding. In her own words, "My bill tackles illiteracy- 50% of adults cannot read at an eighth grade level- and illiteracy directly correlates with imprisonment. Thus, my bill seeks to promote literacy and reading and writing proficiency for all ages." She knows what she's talking about and she knows how to solve problems as a go-getter and an early worker.

Throughout the interview, Meena was rushing around in her city, busy interacting with people, working as a mayor, and making her city book excellent. However, despite that, she was able to create solid, concrete plans for not only the literacy issue, but also the prison issue.

Given her experience discussing current events and government as well as working within different levels of government, coupled with her passion for social change and representing others, Meena would love to be a Girls Nation Senator this year, and clearly has the know-how and the initiative to do a great job. The girl with the long last name is worthy of your vote.

## Not so different after all City Themes

**BrittneyFulop**  
& **MadisonHamilton**  
Cholla City Reporters

Nats and Feds. Two different parties on opposing sides, but are they really all that different? The Nat's platform, the betterment of people and planet, includes education, welfare, and the environment as their main planks. They have many ideas on how to improve conditions in each and every single one of these areas. The Fed's platform, SHE, includes sustainability, health, and education. So what's the difference? It's the innovative solutions to these problems that set these two parties apart.

Elizabeth Schroeder, a platform committee member for the Feds says, "I believe in the

Feds platform because it is a finite way that we can work towards a better future."

Brooklyn Ingram, a platform committee member for the Nats says, "I believe in the nationalists party because the tools that we hope to use will better our society."

The Feds and Nats are similar due to their ideas to help with mental health awareness, the environment, equality, and overall improvement of our society. Some of the details do differ though when it comes to the sub categories. The Nats want to incorporate solar panels and discuss noble gases while the Feds wants to help endangered species and preserve our world all together. Even though we are two different parties maybe we aren't too different after all.

**MarthaDallman**  
Saguaro City Reporter

As the week starts off, governments are established slowly from the ground up, friendships are made and developed and new learning experiences in politics are made available to hundreds of girls. However, one of the great and memorable experiences as a city here at Girls State is the themes cities decide on and decorate their halls accordingly to match.

Already as you walk through the levels, you can see the brightly decorated doors and walls, with different and unique ideas and mock cities across the board. Some various themes already appearing are in Kaibab, for example:

There are space decorations in the Saguaro halls, with

clever stations for each door. Many girls even used individual planets, stars, and galaxies for themes, and then related them to food.

In Sycamore, they have a superhero theme, making each door a different place named after a superhero. They also chose a mascot, Wonder Woman, as a symbol of the strong women gathered at state.

Finally, in Pinon, each door has a sport themed place and they work in clever related puns, such as a tennis door decorating as Match.com, an ice cream/hockey door named Sticks and Cones, and Ball is Life - Life Insurance.

All these doors and the others in each county really represent the motivation, spirit and creativity of each girl here at state.

# Making the MOST of MiMOSA

**Meena Venkataramanan**  
Mimosa City Reporter

The girls of Mimosa boast their city as the capital of Girls State. We, as a city, have bonded in various ways. Whether that's devising new cheers or adding each other on Snapchat (tip: open "Add Nearby" and then you can add your fellow city denizens quickly!), we Mimosans haven't failed to make the most out of our city!

The girls in our city are no less special than the title we boast. Mimosa is home to an Arizona Top 10 pole vaulter

(Rebecca Moser), three drum majors (Mackenzie Filewicz-Ross, Rebecca Moser, and Melissa Dennis), a soon-to-be valedictorian (Karen Madlock), a connoisseur of dairy and FFA winner (Tessa Prall), an accomplished state softball player (Karlie Smith), a Super Bowl halftime show participant (Kelly Anderson), two future scientists- a SARSEF science fair winner (Siena Schoelen) as well as a district winner (Sarah Alsaeedi), a national contender for FCCLA (Eleanna Ybarra), 7 student council members, a future diplomat and Model UN champion (Hannah Ngo),

and a semifinalist at the Tournament of Champions, the most prestigious speech and debate tournament in the nation (Meena Venkataramanan).

In addition, Mimosa resident Ava DiStefano has met both Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte, while fellow citizen Sydney Garretson has had dinner with Taylor Swift, essentially making these girls celebrities by association!

As these Mimosa girls run for county, state, and national offices in the coming days, be sure to congratulate them on their successes if you see them! They're truly making the MOST of MiMOSA!

## An excess of Junipuns

**Brielle Hansen**  
Juniper City Reporter

As many of those in AZ Girls State are aware, the city of Juniper (District #2 in the county of Cocopah), has been obsessed with what it's citizens fondly claim "Junipuns".

Juni-perfect, juni-protection, juni-poppin', and many, many more. Yakira Flanagan, a citizen of Juniper, and the unofficial "Pun Queen", says that her inspiration comes from her naturally juni-funny nature.

While these hilarious, juni-plentiful puns have encouraged Juniper's juni-pride, they have gone a bit far causing some to say, "can-ju-not?" Recently city officials have passed an ordinance limiting the number of juni-puns to 5 per person per day. So far the ordinance has done little to stop the punnage and the juni-police are considering a heavier juni-punishment.

## Miss Me, Miss Me Not

**Bridget McLaws**  
Ocotillo City Reporter

Seven days total..half way there...not that Girls State is bad, it's actually great! There's just a few things people could have shoved in their suitcases...

Cyria says, "I miss my dogs, siblings, parents, my bed and my friends."

Viviana says, "I miss my parents, my friends, and my daily routine."

Genevieve states, "AC, mom's cooking, dogs and dad."

Megan misses "My shower, bed, mattress, blankets and wifi."

Stephanie states, "Parents, sister, shower, fridge, and mirror."

Bridget misses, "My family, 80 degree weather, good cold water, good views, and bachelorette."

Marley says, "Dogs, hot wings, and definitely pizza."

Monica says she misses "Dog, bachelorette, and mom."

The one thing all of us miss more than anything on the list is: SLEEP!

# Dormitory Endeavors

**Kelly Molloy**  
Ironwood City Reporter

All the Girls State delegates arrived on Sunday afternoon to a pleasant surprise. Each girl arrived to a cozy, clean dorm room with an amazing roommate. Every dorm will serve as a home to two girls for the next week.

Despite only being here for two days, the delegates seem to have overwhelm-

ingly positive reviews about the dormitory. Many commented on the spaciousness and cleanliness of the dorms. Another plus of the building is the large amount of bathrooms located in each hall. The girls especially love this because it allows them to get ready and take longer showers because of the large availability.

There have also been a few comments about the closets. Some girls have said they are super cute and wish that they had

brought more clothes to hang up. But there is one major advantage that trumps everything else about the dorm – the air conditioning. Lisbeth Mendoza, a delegate of the city of Ironwood, stated that "my dorm was really cold on the first night."

However, she went on to say that the chill beats the heat outside. All delegates seem to agree on that. Let's hope that more dormitory adventures will come in the next few days!



# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Cam-punning: A Study on Wordplay

**Anna Hostal**  
Ironwood City Reporter

Alfred Hitchcock, acclaimed horror novelist, posits that, "Puns are the highest form of literature". While a select few (likely objects of one too many a pun themselves) may doubt that particular claim, it is evident that puns and wordplay attract a lot of attention. While wordplay and clever mnemonic devices certainly engrain themselves in the mind (perhaps too deeply), I'd nonetheless like to draw attention to the language-savvy ladies of Girls State who, in their cam-punning (you knew there was going to be a title drop), turned many a last name and memorable quote into a pun or an otherwise ingenious campaigning device.

One particularly memorable twist on the classic "make a pun of your last name" spiel was done by Girls Nation hopeful, Meena Venkataramanan. How, pray tell,

do you get people to remember that? With enthusiastic tone and a smile in her eye, Meena explains how she turned a six-syllable last name into a slogan, "For 17 years my last name has been a burden to me... I realized no one can pronounce my name. [So] I decided to turn my burden into a gift".

Ultimately, despite her inability to make a direct pun of it, Meena was able to succinctly state, "Long last name, long term results". That level of creativity marks how truly creative attendees at Girls State are.

In fact, Juniper city has made a state-wide mark with its proclivity for making "Juni-puns" at every available opportunity. In her run for Paiute County's Board of Supervisors, Megan Key wondered at the county's voting populace, "Are you board of boring puns?"

Another denizen of Paiute County, Jordan O'Brian, stated on her posters, "I don't run very often... But when I do it's

for county sheriff".

Even I decided to join in the fun by making a pun of my own last name to use in my campaign for county attorney. I'm asked by every substitute teacher if I'm "hostile" (as my last name is "Hostal"). In a reclamation of this pun I decided to remind members of my county that they would not want any hostile witnesses in court, but should want to be represented by a Hostal attorney.

The list goes on. Madison Hamilton of Cholla used the hit Broadway musical "Hamilton" as a source of inspiration and puns for her Girls Nation campaign.

The citizens of Girls State have demonstrated exceptional creativity in forming campaign slogans and memorable puns to put their campaigns on the map. Some would argue that anyone who abuses these tricks of language ought to be pun-ished. I disagree. I think (and I hope you agree) that girls just want to have pun.

## Candidates Networking to the Max!

**Cecilia Vargas**  
Manzanita City Reporter

Last night was quite an exciting "Meet the Candidate" night! The entire first floor was an enormous sea of blue. The loud chatter of enthusiastic candidates and participating audiences filled the entire patio.

We also received the opportunity to meet even more new faces. They simply

exuded welcoming and positive attitudes. These great attitudes are the trademark of exemplary caretakers and of the atmosphere promoted by Girls State. Girls State praises those that express their ideas, those that spread benevolent words, and lastly those that see the immense potential that our government system contains. Therefore, many girls are willing to push themselves out of their comfort zones and actively participate.

Girls are striving to be their best because that is especially requested by all Girls State staff. Furthermore, all the hard work that was put into campaigns and networking was incredible. The excitement from the candidates leapt off the walls. It was amazing to see the clever slogans, bright colored drawings, and the creative designs. The overall participation in the campaign process was superb! Keep up the great job ladies!

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 Sierra Garcia - Mesquite  
 Seren Riggs-Davis - Mesquite  
 Olivia Austin - Sycamore  
 Lydia Kellerhals - Sycamore

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# Taking the Girls State experience and applying it to the real world

**TaylorDeYoung**  
 Palo Verde City Reporter

Wow ladies, what a week it has been! Remember first arriving on Sunday and seeing all the long lines for registration? Remember the curiosity you had those days you were debating on what position you wanted to be a candidate for? Remember meeting your city member for the first time? Do you remember?

Throughout this week we have been expanding our own personal knowledge on our state's government and state superior court. Do you understand that going through the actual process involving voting and running for state and county positions allows us to have a well occupied understanding of

how our state is formed?

After Girls State we will have information that we didn't know before. Even though you may not have an interest in government, take the knowledge you've learned back to where your communities and designated schools are. Explain your experience about Girls State to the younger generations, tell have it has impacted you as a young woman. We've put ourselves in positions that have an importance in our states and counties and have acquired leadership skills that have value.

Our speakers this week have left us with words of wisdom, "Share the knowledge you've retained." Girls State has value that every girl should have an opportunity to experience.

## Girls State Talent Show 2016

### Emcees:

**Alexandra Marbois - Sycamore**

**Brittany Franke, Brielle Hansen & Victoria Marbois - Juniper**

1. McKinzi Godfrey - Yucca  
Harp Song
2. Anne Anderson - Ocotillo  
"Sure on this Shining Night" (song)
3. Julian Somers - Manzanita  
"Open Arms" (song)
4. Annie Nicoloff - Mesquite  
Double Reel Irish Step Dance
5. Shannon Watson - Pinon  
"Fantasia" (flute solo)
6. Hannah Green - Ironwood  
"Never be Like You" (dance)
7. Lauren Lord - Ironwood  
"Vienna" (song)
8. Meena Venkataramanan - Mimosa  
Classical Indian Dance
9. Brandie Ramarui - Palo Verde  
"I'm Going Down" (song)
10. Megan DiMaggio - Ocotillo  
"Seven Years" (sing language song)
11. Terryn McDonald - Pinon  
"Work Song" (dance)
12. Geraldine Gomez - Cholla  
"September" (dance)
13. Kylee Bergstresser - Manzanita  
"Bewitched" (trumpet and signing)
14. Juliana Martinez - Manzanita  
Monologue from "Two Gentlemen of Verona"
15. Tessa Prall - Mimosa  
"Cup Song" (sing a capella)
16. Skelyn Riggs-Davis and Seren Riggs-Davis  
- Palo Verde & Mesquite  
Reciting Pi
17. Sarah Alsaeedi - Mimosa  
Song in Arabic
18. Ana Patton - Pinon  
"Over the Rainbow" and "What a Wonderful World"  
(Ukulele and song)
19. Siena Schoelen - Mimosa  
Dramatic Poem
20. Abbie Fowkes - Sycamore  
"Songo" (Italian song)
21. Emma Mones - Juniper  
"Piano Man" (song)
22. Mackenzie Filewicz-Ross - Mimosa  
"How You Get the Girl" (sign language song)
23. Maggie West - Manzanita  
"Counting Stars" (ballet en point dance)
24. Jadette Fortunato - Manzanita  
"Stay" (song)
25. Kendal Clark & Rebekah South - Pinon & Palo Verde  
"Can't Help Falling in Love with You"  
(guitar and song)
26. Lydia Kellerhals - Sycamore  
"In Stiller Nacht" (flute solo)
27. Paloma Maschino - Ocotillo  
Scottish Highland Dancing
28. Jenae Beaver - Juniper  
"Watch What Happens" from Newsies (song)
29. Kayla Galbraith - Manzanita  
"I Miss You, Daddy" (dance)

# Vegetarianism at Girls State

**Meena Venkataramanan**  
Mimosa City Reporter

At Park Student Union, tucked away behind the salad bar and beneath the “Nosh” sign lies the home of the herbivores: the vegetarian section! As a vegetarian, I found myself bonding with my fellow veggie-lovers in the lunch and dinner lines. I’m always curious to know why people choose to be vegetarians. I personally have been raised in a predominantly vegetarian household, and vegetarianism is common among practicing Hindus, so I have chosen to adopt it and simultaneously adhere to family and religious tradition.

While waiting patiently for my food

(vegetable lasagna, rice and vegetables, and grilled cheese- to name a few of my favorite veggie alternatives this week), I took the time to ask some of my fellow vegetarians why they chose to eschew, rather than chew, meat. Alicia Weber from Mimosa proudly declared that she chose vegetarianism “for the animals.” Jaida Grivet, on the other hand, is a picky eater and “doesn’t like the taste of meat.”

A few other girls I met aren’t total vegetarians, but avoid certain meats such as pork for religious reasons. Lexie Grant, a Paiute County Junior Counselor, has an interesting story about her fling with vegetarianism. She had been thinking about becoming a vegetarian, but her mother told her she “wouldn’t be able to last as a

vegetarian.” Despite her mother’s skepticism, Lexie managed to be a vegetarian for a year-and-a-half, and even went vegan for two months during that time!

Ironically, it was 2015 Girls State that impelled her to quit vegetarianism. Her citymates convinced her to eat beef jerky by the end of her week at Girls State, and her long affair with vegetarianism was officially over. Still, I commend her for sticking with it for so long! So while enjoying the last few days of Girls State, I urge you to consider the benefits of vegetarianism and possibly try out a new dietary lifestyle- at least for a short period of time! You’ll never know what you’ll get out of it- an interesting story, at the least!



## Cities are Ready!

**Olivia Austin**  
Sycamore City Reporter

We all know we have been working on campaigning for county and state elections, but the city is still very important. There can’t be a state without a city. I interviewed the Mayor of Sycamore, Kaycee. I asked her different questions about running a city.

From the start Kaycee hoped to win Mayor, which was also her sister’s position. Kaycee feels, “proud that she was elected Mayor”. Everyone in the city loves Kaycee as their Mayor. She has great plans for running the city. She also wants to make sure everyone is contributing to the city book, which has a Superhero theme.

Everyone is contributing to the city as well as creating lifelong friendships. Everyone is close even though we’ve been at Girls State for only four days. Along with bringing knowledge of government back home, everyone will have longtime friends after they leave.

## A Blurb: The bills that fell through the cracks

**Ana Deckey**  
Palo Verde City Reporter

As Primary and General elections were announced for Girls Nation many girls found out their passionate bills were not going to be heard- yet. My message to all girls here in the great state of Arizona Girl State is to not let voting determine who hears your dream. Keep trying, don’t let your ideas fall victim to failure. Just because your bill won’t be heard at Girls Nation continue to spread the word about these topics that ignite your creativity and bravery to the point you put yourself out there in front of 300 girls! Keep working towards your dreams!



# “Bloom where you are planted”

**Sierra Garcia**  
Mesquite City Reporter

The nationalist party hit the floor running with their slogan “Bloom where you are planted.” Their slogan incorporates how the party believes in the enrichment of not only your life, but those of your neighbors as well. Expressing to accept your roots and make the best with what you are given.

Going along with their slogan, their

platform consists of the improvement of the environment, education and well being of the citizens. These focal points all work together to help solve social and economics and all together society.

How you may ask, well some ideas the nationalists have are to have more water conservation, renewable energy programs and make use of solar panels more often in sunny Arizona. To nurture and care for the environment for future generations to come.

Educating the youth and future leaders, Nationalist party aim in having more classes that prepare students for the real world, and creating a way to teach students with different learning styles. Yet, education is not only for the youth, the wish to higher teacher salaries and to offer more classes for adults to take.

All these fold into the well being of citizens. With equal access to education and natural resources, the nationalists are truly blooming where they are planted.



## County or State?

**Kelly Molloy**  
Ironwood City Reporter

The past two days have been a whirlwind here at Girls State. Yesterday girls were given the opportunity to nominate themselves for county and state positions. As we walk around the dorm halls or out on the patio, creative posters and signs can be spotted everywhere.

With all of this dedication put into their campaigns, I started to wonder how girls chose between running for a county position or a state office. I decided to ask a few girls about their motivation for the election.

Yulissa Aldana, a candidate for Paiute County Recorder, said that she chose a county position because it seemed like an appropriate middle ground. “I feel like I have more to do, but I’m close enough to the people,” she said, “I’m scared I won’t be able to hear everyone’s voice in the state level.”

On the other hand, Alisha Kobrick, a delegate from Ironwood, is very excited about running for Attorney General, a state position. She expressed that she wanted to take a risk. Attorney General seemed perfect for her since she plans to study law in college. Despite the intense competition, Alisha remains hopeful and is very excited to see the results.

Applying for a state position allows a candidate to make an extreme impact. Whether running for a county or state job, these girls are inspiring and very hardworking. Best of luck to everyone!

## Service, not self

**Brittney Fulop & Madison Hamilton**  
Cholla City Reporters

Girls State could not function without three things: the venue, the delegates, and the volunteers. These volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that Girls State is not only safe, but also fun. They spend countless hours laboring away before, during, and after the program. So why do they do they do it?

A Junior Councilor, Sara Johanntoberns says “I had such a great experience being a delegate last year and I thought coming back this year as a JC would be even better. It’s proven to be really great and uh... it looks pretty great on a college application, not gonna lie.”

The Cholla city advisor, Ms. Fruehan, says she volunteers at Girls State because she “had an incredible experience when [she] went to Girls State and wanted to give that back. [She] came back once and then wanted to come back again and then [she] wanted to come back again, because it’s such a good experience and it does shape a lot of your lives.”

The planning and zoning director, Mrs. Munchbach says, “I was a Girls Stater and it made a huge difference to me and it’s fun to watch you girls grow and learn and to see the light bulbs go off.”

What do they all have in common? They’re all putting the service above themselves. Volunteering is extremely vital and the people who volunteer for Girls State do not get enough credit or appreciation for all that they do for us. So thank you to all of the people who made this experience possible.

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Change in leadership

**Erica Amaya**  
Manzanita City Reporter

Thursday morning was filled with excitement, nerves and some nauseous feelings from the nominees for County and State positions.

We are all beautiful souls, we are all filled with so many qualifications that make us more than what is needed to run the 51st state, Girls State. We clapped, we cheered and the best candidates were chosen to rep-

resent every soul at county and state levels.

It was also a bittersweet meeting, unfortunately the term for Madam Governor, Maricella Garcia, and Secretary of State Whitney Mason came to an end. We began with a feeling of melancholia, even though it's just been 5 days, saying good-bye to such wonderful and beautiful souls who have encouraged us every step of the way, through heat and tiredness, during the latest hours and all with a smile.

We began standing up, the feeling took

over some girls bodies some even shed tears, a big blue sea of girls arising with head color ranges from ashy blondes to ginger red even some rainbow color bowed to the ladies.

We gave the Pledge of Allegiance, we read the Girls State Creed, and gave a heart warming round of applause as the two ladies stepped back and passed forward their positions to the newly elected Governor and Secretary of State Yakira Flanagan and Shannon Watson.



## Talented and Co.: Thursday Night Show

**Martha Dallman**  
Saguaro City Reporter

The talent show for Girls State took place on Thursday night, after dinner. Many girls, including myself, walked over after eating not expecting anything great. We weren't negative, but neither were we positive. We weren't until the first performer, McKinzi Godfrey, graced us with her harp solo. From there on out

up until the final performance by Kayla Galbraith titled, "I Miss You Daddy", we were astonished and enchanted.

Each performance brought something different, even if they were performing similar acts. No one is the same and these girls really showcase all the different talents that can be represented here at Girls State. The different performances such as different individual dances by Meena Venkataramanan, Terry McDonald, Annie

Nicole, Hannah Green, Geraldine Gomez, Maggie West, Paloma Maschino and the final and emotional last dance by Kayla Galbraith, to different girls signing songs in ASL, to the Cup Song, everything made us exceptionally proud to be there as a single entity of Girls State, watching our peers give us amazing emotional performances. I only hope that we all remember how talented we truly are and never stop growing.

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# Arizona Girls State Independent



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**2016 Girls State Reporters**  
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 Brielle Hansen - Juniper  
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 Kimberly Bittinger - Pinon  
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 Anya Forma - Saguaro  
 Martha Dallman - Saguaro  
 Sierra Garcia - Mesquite  
 Seren Riggs-Davis - Mesquite  
 Olivia Austin - Sycamore  
 Lydia Kellerhals - Sycamore

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# Blast From the Past

**Brittney Fulop & Madison Hamilton**  
 Cholla City Reporters

Looking back on the week, we can all remember some funny and inspiring quotes. We decided to make a collection of quotes from a few different cities. So we are now presenting quotable quotes:  
 “You ain’t chill unless you in cholla” - Cholla cheer  
 “Oh are you from Piñon”. “No, I’m Donja” - Donya Schaefer  
 “I feel like a blueberry today”- Madison Hamilton  
 “This. Experience. MATTERS.”- Shannon Watson  
 “Sleep deprivation, that’s what’s happening” - Madison Hamilton  
 “Oh dear!” - Amy Olson  
 “The only liquor you can have is licorice”- Iridiana Ibarra, a JC  
 “I’m an awkward potato with a side salad” - Yakira Flagan  
 “The cholla history... Well at one point we worshipped majestic cheetahs and then the frogs came carrying the zombie disease and fairy Godmother had to save us all by turning the citizens into fairies” “Ya... Your history is weird...” - On cholla’s

history  
 “This fanny pack holds justice” - Alexandra Mooney  
 “Your nose moves like a bunny” - Emily Nasiff  
 “I’m the Bernie Sanders of girls state and she’s the Hillary Clinton”- Emily Nasiff  
 “I was going to call it triple A but that’s a car company”- Ritika  
 “That’s a weird way to spell Hazel” “it’s Itzcel” - MaryAlice, and Itzcel  
 “I just tell people that my name rhymes with ‘Izanya’” - Danya Schaefer  
 “Then Brad Pitt came and the female population rose” - Piñon  
 “You Yucced up” - Yucca  
 “I’m running unopposed so you could be electing a dictator for all you know”- Brittney Fulop  
 “I’m running unopposed...so let’s make America great again and build a wall!” - Skyelyn Riggs-Davis  
 “We’re Juni-proud of you!” - Juniper  
 “...And we can all dab collectively”- Shannon Watson  
 “You’re half coyote?” - Kelcy Johnson  
 “Sup dude” mrs. White, mimosa  
 Those are just a few from this week. Thank you guys for an amazing and memorable girls state!

## Parting Words

**Hannah Holder**  
 Yucca City

Ater a long, tiring, educational, and inspiring week Girls State is coming to a close. Friendships have been formed and strengthened; ideals have been created and shared; hard work has payed off; and accomplishments have been made.  
 We’ve heard several “words of wisdom” such as “BU”, “Ask yourself, am I a person of integrity”, and “Don’t be afraid to ask questions”. It has been such a lovely experience meeting so many different girls from around the state with big dreams and ferocious ambitions.  
 I wish each and everyone of you the best in everything that our future holds. Whether this is a career in politics or note, I challenge each and every one of you to chase your dreams and passions without fear.  
 We are holding the future in our hands and we have an opportunity to write our own stories and create your own paths. Make a promise to yourself to choose a life that inspires positive change.  
 It has been a pleasure to meet the greatest girls in ARizona nd I’m proud to call you m y sisters. Congratulation to Yakira Flanagan and Shannon Watson of the being elected as our new Governor and Secretary of State!! I know that you will make Arizona proud!

## It’s Good Mood Food

**Bridget McLaws**  
 Yucca City

Before you came to Girls State, what did you think it was going to be like? Full of friends, learning, stress, fun, etc...  
 Did you consider food too? Well in Ocotillo city it’s important to keep your friends close and your snacks even closer! We have all loved our food so dang much, almost a little too much!!  
 But as Sierra Reitmeyer (the store’s cashier) says, “Calories don’t count at girls’s”  
 “I’m sure you all agree because when you add up all the walking and climbing, Stairs, those members are wavy light er than the Community You’ve consumed that day. So always  
 Stair, those numbers are way higher than the calories you’ve consumed that day. So always remember ask not what you can do for your city, county book, ask what’s for dinner tonight!!



# Dorm Norms

**HannahNgo**

Mimosa City Reporter

Girls State has been full of new experiences, one of which is experiencing life in a dorm. The experience of living with a bunch of other girls and having to share bathrooms is new to many. It comes with its convenient moments, and with some disadvantages also.

One of the worries of the citizens of Mimosa was the issue of available showers, and as a quick survey of hands revealed, that majority of Mimosans prefer to take their showers at night. This complication turned out to be less of a problem than expected, however. With six showers to share between twenty-four girls, as long as no girls were taking an extensive amount of time to shower, it would be totally possible for all the girls to shower at their preferred times.

Another worry was the beds. The beds in most of the dorm rooms were unexpectedly high off the ground, creating problems for those going up to their bed and those trying to get down. This wasn't an unwarranted worry. Several citizens have banged their knees and legs simply trying to get to bed, and a few have fallen off the bed, which is approximately a four foot drop. To deal with these height issues, desks are often used as steps to the bed, and various other items such as suitcases or even the chairs facilitate the path to a

snooze.

Despite these drawbacks, the dorm experience has provided quite a few happy moments.

Door decorating and coordinating to a specific, recognizable theme is much simpler with consecutive doors in a dorm as opposed to living in separate houses or apartment buildings. The proximity allows citizens to tie in their efforts to show spirit in their city together.

Projects such as the city book are much simpler to complete in a dorm. Those who work best in more social and noisy areas can find a place for them in the common rooms or the city hall, where an abundance of girls who share similar favorite working atmospheres can spend time with each other. If the preferred atmosphere is solitude to provide better focus, there are their own rooms, which provide essential privacy critical for the productiveness of some citizens. Dorms accommodate those differences, while also letting others be a hop, skip, and a jump away when assistance or collaboration is necessary.

Randomized dorm assignments resulted in a melting pot of backgrounds and people, each who have experiences that differ and ideas that are unique to their own selves. Though it may have been intimidating to not know any other person in the dorms at first, girls often had similar motivations and interests,

something to be expected of participants in an opportunity like Girls State, and these similarities helped girls bond. People were outside of their comfort zone and broadened their horizons.

Dorms are different from homes, but the dorms we live in has grown on us. They've become a new home to a new family, a location where our cities started, grew, achieved, and loved each other. Though they may not come with the comforts of home, a personal bathroom, soft mattresses, or a fridge, these dorms hold a special attachment for the girls attending Girls State. Though we may leave and never come back, we will never forget our city dorms as the home away from home.

## Darby's VeggieTale Part 2

**VictoriaMarbois**

Juniper City

Tragically, Darby Johnson has not lessened in her hatred for vegetables. In fact, it seemed to be increased as the week continued and there was SO. MUCH. SALAD.

Darby prefers her meats and fruits, which is not a bad thing! Darby has a lovely personality that seems to thrive when not dampened by the presence of vegetables.

It seems as if this week will teach Darby many things, but perhaps not to turn to greens as a tasty appetizer.

It's okay Darby, we still love you. Always #juniproud.



## Whistle Stop Questions Around the Counties

**GiselleEnriquez**

Ocotillo City Reporter

Many of the ladies at Girls State enjoyed the whistle stop question portion at Wednesday's general elections. The answers given by the candidates for governor and Secretary of State really helped the civilians decide on which candidate was more like them in what they favored and brought to the table.

The whistle stop questions sparked such an interest throughout the counties that I decided to go around and ask my fellow girls their opinions and answers.

How do you think the broader remaking of the nations paper currency with Harriet Tubman replacing Andrew Jack-

son will uplift minorities and women?

It integrates them on our study of history and shows that women and minorities have really played a role in the building of our nation. - Sanjana Pesari

What president do you look up to most for their leadership skills?

Theodore Roosevelt because he carries around a big stick. - Brittany Franke

FDR because he was a really strong leader who implemented large scale well being programs for the good of the people. Also he was battling with polio and was able to lead a country simultaneously. - Nicole Duby

Who is your idol and why?

My sister is my idol because she's fighting for our country now. - Cyrria Erwin

# “What’s in a School?”: An Educational Showcase

**Meena Venkataramanan**  
Mimosa City Reporter

Here at Girls State, education is a virtue. It’s a part of both the Nationalist and Federalist Party platforms and has been discussed by almost every Governor and Girls Nation Senator candidate in some form or fashion. Education is prized because Girls State girls believe learning and school are keys to success. That being said, girls here hail from a variety of different schools and have various educational backgrounds. As I bonded with my fellow Girls State denizens, I took the time to ask them about their schools. Though many of our girls, like myself, attend comprehensive public, urban or suburban high schools, there are a handful who attend private preparatory schools, charter schools, and liberal arts academies. Nicole Gehret attends Seton Catholic Preparatory. She learns theology, and says that the class has helped her “probe Catholicism, ask questions, and learn the reasons behind certain core values and beliefs.” Still, she does not blindly embrace her faith, and sometimes struggles to come to terms with some of its ideas. But nevertheless, she appreciates the opportunity to learn about reli-

gion at her school and embrace certain aspects of it.

Mariela Montaña attends Grand Canyon High School, a tiny school with no more than 300 students total. Her graduating class has roughly 19 students, but despite its small size, Mariela maintains a close bond with her friends and teachers. She takes two science classes because she loves science, and finds that her teachers teach with a passion, which is important. Anna Hostal, upon hearing this, concurred that passionate teachers are indeed important, citing her mother as one of those passionate teachers she knows and looks up to.

Seren Riggs-Davis attends Westwood High School and is part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. When I asked her what exactly that was and what it involves, she explained one of her IB projects- using calculus and normal distribution curves to measure the correlation between physical attractiveness (measured by the Golden Ratio) and winning presidential elections. She found a strong post-1950 televised presidential election correlation between physical attractiveness and likelihood of winning the election. Her project is just one example of the many unique opportuni-

ties available through IB.

Karen Madlock goes to Chino Valley High School located in the relatively rural town of Chino Valley. Future Farmers of America (FFA) is one of the largest organizations at her school, which boasts a greenhouse, an aquaculture center, and two ponds with ducks. It is a normal occurrence for the ducks to escape from the pond and for the students to leave class to chase the ducks back into the pond. Sometimes, families bring their piglets to school, and across the street from CVHS lays a 48-acre farm with cows and sheep. “There are lots of cowboys and ranchhands at our school,” said Karen, who loves agriculture (with good reason!).

Hearing about these different high schools made me appreciate the diversity here at Girls State. But despite the differences between our educational backgrounds, our similarities bring us together more than these differences drive us apart. Our joint love of learning has culminated in a passion for education which has transferred to both Girls State party platforms and will continue to shape our future goals as women leaders of America and the world.

## Farewells | Americanism

**Cecilia Vargas**  
Manzanita City Reporter

Farewells between friends are always extremely difficult. It is a time where friends must admit and accept that they are going in different directions. Fortunately, there is technology! There are various means of communication that enable us to keep in contact with friends living in far off locations.

This alleviates a little bit of the sadness from goodbyes but not all. The thought of departing from a good friend can often lead to a display of waterworks which is exactly what happened at today’s gathering in the main auditorium.

Throughout the parting

remarks of Governor Mari and Secretary of State Whitney, their great personalities, that we have become very fond of, were easily conveyed. Each one maintained their incredible sense of humor, confidence, leadership, and kindness.

I think our entire GS community can agree that these 2 young women are exemplary role models that have bright futures. Therefore, it has been a privilege to have them.

Luckily, our new Governor and Secretary of State have demonstrated through their speeches and their behavior that they hold the same values as our previous leaders. They will continue creating the beautiful state known as Girls State.

**Ericka Amaya**  
Manzanita City Reporter

During the week, men that have served our country took some time off their valuable schedule to come over to Social Sciences 100 to teach us on the correct way of folding an American Flag.

All steps have a message behind them, The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second is a symbol of our belief in eternal life, the third is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans who gave their life for defense of our country.

The fourth represents our weaker mature; that we turn to god in times of peace and for his divine guidance.

The fifth fold is in tribute

for our country that whether things go right or wrong it is still our country.

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie, the pledge of allegiance, the seventh is a tribute to our armed forces and the eighth is a tribute to those mother’s out there.

The ninth is for womanhood, because thanks to their love and loyalty and faith as well as devotion a great country and its character was molded.

The tenth is a tribute to the father for giving sons and daughters to our nation.

The eleventh is the representation of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the twelfth is in the name of the father, god and holy spirit.

The flag is folded neatly and very tight stars folding up.