

Arizona Girls State Independent



June 6, 2022 • Volume 13, Issue 1 • Tucson, Arizona

Girls State is more than just learning

BY MRS. MEAD
AZGS Managing Editor

Welcome to the 75th Annual Arizona Girls State session. 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.

Established in the early twentieth century, the Auxiliary has grown to nearly one million members. In 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) was created, dedicated to supporting the United States Armed Forces and all of the veterans.

Today, the ALA has over twenty national programs that benefit through money and other donations. Two of the ALA's most well known programs are Girls State and Girls Nation.

New Experiences

This week is going to be full of new adventures and new experiences. Some good and some perhaps not so good. We hope for more good than bad.

Your first day brought you to a dorm filled with new and exciting young women who were just as nervous as you. Yet, each of you took time to either stand out in the hall and create a greeting line or wander from room to room introducing your self and saying hello.

Each day here will bring more fun and more learning with all the 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. Yet, the lack of sleep will be worth all the great memories.

The week to come

During this week you will learn about city, county and state government with emphasis being placed on political parties, campaigns and elections.

That is right, there will be Federalist and Nationalist parties. *Party rallies here we come!!* Also there will be voting and a general meet the candidate night. This night gives you a chance to get out there and show the entire state why you would be perfect for each office. Get out there and be creative.

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. Did we mention that you will get to decorate your city. Each door in your city will represent a business within your community. Be creative and show your design side, *These will also be judged for awards!!!*

While the cities are important please do not forget about the county and state positions as well. There will be lots of county positions to run for as well as state positions. Did we mention Governor or how about Secretary of State? Don't forget the illusive Girls Nation Senators as well.

Fun, Fun and MORE FUN

This week there will not only be meetings and speeches, there will be FUN. There will be leisure time in the dorms and perhaps some outside activities to keep down stress.

We have glee club that will be practicing all week to sing us some amazing songs during our Magical Evening.

There will be a talent show held on Thursday evening. A fun way for each of you to show off your talent. Please keep an

eye out for the sign up sheet.

Did you see the mention of the magical evening? Oh yes we have a wonderful evening of dinner and harmony planned with some very special guests.

We will round off our week with an awesome court trial on Friday!! Your court officials that you elect later this week will be working on that one.

Oh and of course there will be PIZZA!! Yes there is even a pizza party this week.

Don't forget all of our wonderful guest speakers that are sure to keep you laughing and learning.

Please Remember

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

DO NOT FORGET THE 3 B'S:

- Book - *Girls State Book*
- Bag - *If you carry one*
- Bottle - *Water bottle*

Be mindful of your things in your rooms. If you have valuables that you would like to have secured please see your City Advisor. Keep an eye on those room keys as you do not want to get locked out of your room.

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 5th floor (Arizona Hall).

Togs and Treats!!

Togs and Treats is our official Arizona Girls State Store. They have so much to offer, from t-shirts, blankets, stickers, cards, snacks, roses, and SO MUCH MORE!! Stop by the store and see what wonders they have to offer. Do not fret there will be a day of shopping for each city this week as well as plenty of time to stop by this week.

WELCOME TO GIRLS STATE!!

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2022 Girls State Reporters
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 Bryn Murphy - Manzanita
 Nina Rowal - Yucca
 Caralea Vest - Yucca
 Hannah Dean - Saguaro
 Leeza Jones - Saguaro
 Annie Goodykoontz - Sycamore
 Farrah Muhammad - Sycamore
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Say hello to your Girls State Independent reporters. These lovely ladies will be writing articles regarding your cities.

- From Palo Verde:**
Emily Shanafelt & Ariana Williams
- From Juniper:**
Sophia Bell & Anna Davis
- From Pinon:**
Josie Callahan-Santo & Rowan Russell
- From Ocotillo:**
Andrey Aitchison & Spencer Wareing

- From Cholla:**
Kamille Campos & Grace Meadows
- From Manzanita:**
Emma LaPointe & Bryn Murphy
- From Yucca:**
Nina Rowal & Caralea Vest
- From Saguaro:**
Hannah Dean & Leeza Jones
- From Sycamore:**
Annie Goodykoontz & Farrah Muhammad

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 on the first floor near the front desk and mail boxes.

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 405 (Sonora Hall).

73rd Annual Girls State begins with registration and greetings

BY MRS. MEAD
AZGS Managing Editor

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 you started out in line waiting to get your first set of instructions and see just how this week was going to be.

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 you were off to have your amazing picture taken for your photo ID badge that you will be wearing during your week here at Girls State. *Please be sure to always have this on as it is part of your uniform.*

Then 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!

After the nurses you got to meet more of the UofA staff to help you get the room key for your new home away from home for the week! Please be sure and keep those keys on your lanyard and do not lose them!! Also be mindful when closing your doors so as not to lock yourself or your roommate out of your room.

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, blankets, bookmarks, stickers, snacks and of course WATER!!!

Then it was off to get those new lime green shirts that will tell everyone on campus that WE ARE GIRLS STATE in a sea of beautiful green. Don't worry about only getting

two, there will be laundry days, we promise.

Finally it was off to the elevator where the 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 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.

Have a great week and enjoy every moment!



Calling all Glee Club enthusiasts

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 and auditions will be

held on Monday starting at 4:15pm in the Arizona Hall Lounge. 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. McMullen in room 402 (Arizona Hall).

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



Opening Session At Girls State

BY MRS. MEAD
AZGS Managing Editor

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

We had a wonderful flag ceremony presented by Post 36's Copper Knight Color Guard and Mrs. Montijo. 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.

We enjoyed an amazing presentation for the lovely ladies on staff. This presentation explained all about the American Legion Auxiliary and how we help not only our veterans but our communities as well. Awesome job ladies for the great presentation.

This evening we had a very special guest, American Legion Auxiliary Department President Jenny Molina. What a wonderful inspirational speech. Reminding us to go out there and reach for the stars. Be the light in the darkness and shine bright.

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 "Stop N' Shop" has all that you are looking for while you are here at Girls State. From clothes, blankets, stickers and all sorts of snacks and drinks.

After dinner we enjoyed more learning and fun from two guest speakers.

We started with our very own Arizona

Secretary of State, Katie Hobbs. She gave us a great presentation on the function of political parties. We learned that she is a Girls State Alumni and has such passion. Her fondest memory of Girls State was a speech given by Rose Mafford and how to be gracious even when faced with difficulty. What a great start to our week of guest speakers.

Next we closed the night with Chris King speaking on the role of Precinct Committeemen. He started us off with some dad jokes and then really got into some great information. He really kept us all captivated with all sorts of information. Such an interactive speaker.

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.

As our Governor stated, remember to participate and stay involved.



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Yucky Yucca Duckies Fight for Mayor

Nina Rawal and Caralea Vest
Yucca City Reporters

Today in Yucca City, the elections for mayor took place. Two candidates from both the Federalist and Nationalist party competed for votes to win the prestigious position.

First, there were primary elections, in which the Federalist Party selected Sofia Westblom while the Nationalists selected Nicole Herrera.

When speaking to both of these candidates, we got the inside scoop about their future plans as Mayor.

We spoke to Herrera about how she was feeling with the elections coming up: "I'm so excited about the election process! I would be honored to serve as Mayor. But, both candidates are wonderful, so either way our city is in great hands!"

Her main focus as Mayor would be to ensure that everyone is represented equally and fairly. She is looking forward to creating a family-like atmosphere where no one feels out of place.

Herrera will be concentrating on attacking the education problem in our city, guaranteeing that all schools are well-funded, as well as making certain that all students are attending school regularly and are engaged in the material they are learning.

The next candidate for Mayor from the Federalist Party is Sofia Westblom. Having a natural inclination and aptitude for leadership, Westblom strives for a smaller-scale leadership position to connect with Yucca's citizens. Westblom seeks to create a community where everyone is educated on the inner-workings of the political world, especially the voting process. She looks forward to a future where everyone is cast-



Nationalist candidate Nicole Herrera (middle) posing with fellow Nationalist Tatum Benson (back) and Federalist citizens Savannah Starks (left) and Abigail Walker (right)

ing a vote and is represented equally in government. When asked about which age group she would focus on, she mentioned, "I would love it if students were actively involved in the political world, even before they have the opportunity to vote. If they get involved from an early age, there is a higher chance that they will be educated enough in politics to vote for the candidates that will enact the change they wish to see."

It was a close call in the final election with these promising candidates. Yet, ultimately, Sofia Westblom has taken the title as Yucca City's new mayor. We look forward to a successful future for Yucca City!



Federalist candidate Sofia Westblom (right) autographing fellow Yucca City citizen Sophia Rowan's Girls State Handbook

Don't forget to send in those photos to photos@azgirlsstate.com

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The Future Looks Bright

Emily Shanafelt
Palo Verde City Reporter

Reporter Emily Shanafelt asked the citizens of Palo Verde where they will be ten years from now. Check out all of their answers below:

“I will just be finishing med school and getting started in my neurosurgery career.” -- Satine

“In 10 years I will be a certified actuarial scientist and working in the health-care industry.” -- Noel “In 10 years I hope to be just finishing up school and starting out my career.” --Isabella

“10 years from now I’ll be graduating from Stanford with a Master’s in Chemical Engineering.” -- Jay

“I want to graduate with a Bachelors of Science in Cybersecurity and possibly live in Australia with a snake and a hairless cat.” -- Makeda

“Going to college and studying astronomy to eventually work up to become an astronaut for NASA.” -- Miranda

“Finishing up college and working in the medical field while living in an apartment with my boyfriend and dog.” -- Daya

“In my future, I will be going to Tennessee for college to be an ultrasound tech.” -- Rhyen “Finishing up med school and doing my residency for plastic surgery. LET’S GO PV!!” -- Evelyn “Working on residential houses and architecture.” -- Anne

“I will be working for Nasa and focusing on career.” -- Hana

“Finishing law school and finding a career within law or consulting.” -- Jayla “Finishing med school and finding a career in the medical field.” -- Kenzie

“10 years from today I will be working as a paramedic and have a family.” -- Vyla “Working on a



The city of Palo Verde is having a blast so far!

master’s or in a different country in AF.” -- Mia “I think I will be working as a TV meteorologist?” -- Ari

“Most likely working in a nuclear power plant and celebrating my golden birthday!” -- Haley “My life 10 years from now will involve running a bakery in Maine.” -- Riley

“Graduated with my master’s degree in marketing or non-profit organization. Start a family?” -- Jayne

**Responses were lightly edited for clarity, completion, and to eliminate spelling errors*

Top Sites to See in Piñon

Rowan Russell and Josie Callahan-Santo
Pinion City Reporters

Piñon offers many sites to see, from hot springs to the local university. Let’s take a look around. Explore your creative side and tune into one of the Universities finest business: Rocking’ Squirrel Records.

They offer a variety of vinyls from way back in the 20’s to pop songs you hear on the radio today. So pop on by to find the music and songs you love.

Next on the tour you can visit the University of Piñon, where business is the focus. The university

partners with stores and restaurants throughout the city to provide real world experiences in business. This gives students a jump ahead of the rest.

After touring the college stop by the Piñon diner and grab a cold coke and a slice of pie. Cherry pie is the staple at the diner, made fresh everyday.

Finally, rest your head or go on an adventure at our Ski Lodge. Race the slopes of Piñon with family and friends, or go take a dip in the hot springs right next door.

So, if you’re looking for a fun place to bring family and friends, consider Piñon.

Little Apple Starts Big: The Beginnings of Democracy

Emma LaPointe and Bryn Murphy
Manzanita City Reporters

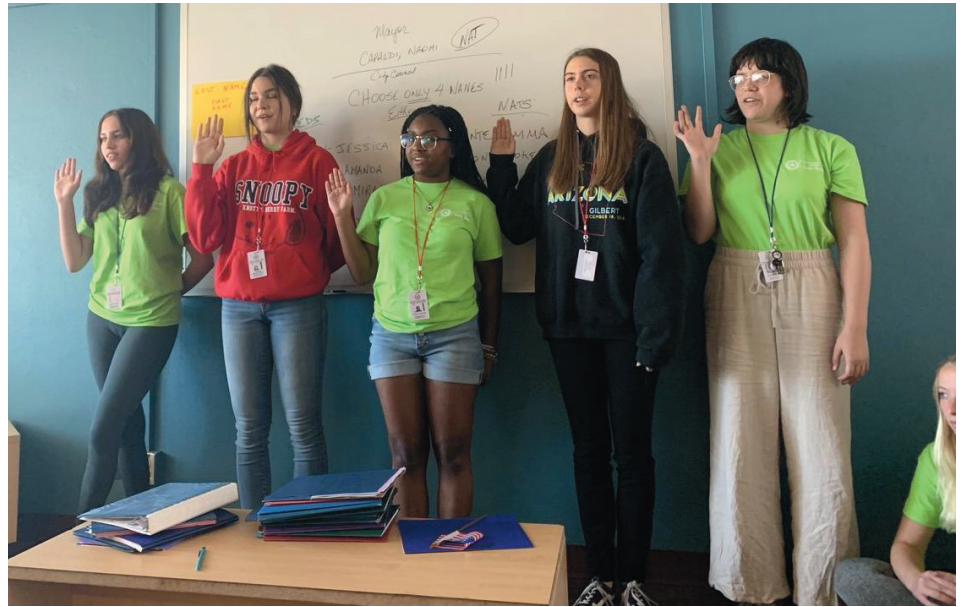
Manzanita City held their first general election. First an election board was formed, which then ran the ballot casting process and ensured the absence of voter fraud. It was important to Manzanita citizens to hold a free and fair election.

Delegate Amanda Wolford says “the process allowed us to better understand what it’s like to vote and run for election. It really shows what it takes to be an active member of the community and its government.”

The delegates had to listen to all of their fellow citizens’ speeches and aspirations for the city, and were then given the task of deciding who they believed would be the best fits for their city.

Now that the elections have concluded, Manzanita City has a newly appointed Mayor and City Council members, who have been hard at work appointing their fellow citizens in jobs to better the community.

Some of these roles include Budget Director, and the Judge and Librarians for the city. While some may see these roles as insignificant, they are very important in



Delegates Naomi Capaldi, Miranda Medlen-Ursell, Trinity Ragland, Amanda Wolford, and Emma LaPointe are sworn in as Mayor and the four city councilwomen.

setting the foundations of the community and creating a strong foundation.

However, a major struggle that the city had is trying to give everyone positions without overwhelming them. While most cities consist of around 20 delegates, the city of Manzanita has 15.

While this may seem like a setback, in Manzanita’s own words, they are “small but mighty.” The city is working hard to keep ahead of schedule and to keep pushing through, and we are excited to see what the “smallest city” has in store for the rest of the week!



Ocotillo, The Wettest City in Arizona

Andrey Aitchson
Ocotillo City Reporter

“I’ve got big money for the speak-easys now,” said one four year resident of Ocotillo, Haley Walsh while out for a stroll on main, alluding to the times when money, “just wasn’t as easy to come by”.

A once dry and desolate town with a plummeting population has finally been quenched, in what some residents can only describe as a miracle.

Last fall, after the mysterious death of

Morgan Eastwood and the subsequent stepping down of her father, Mayor Clint Eastwood, rumors circulated that the death of this beloved town icon might have brought good fortune and an end to their misery.

Their prayers were answered when the water in the Oco River suddenly began flowing again, bringing the first bloom of the ocotillo flower in over three years.

The riverside was quickly converted into a place for healing and celebration, and then the tourists began to pour in.

“Tourism brought in massive economy!” said newly elected Mayor Darlene Herrington when asked about continuing changes in the community. According to officials, lavish hospitality with new fresh influences are being erected on the waterfront, in what is shaping up to be a stunning boardwalk avenue.

It is truly an exciting time for development in the Ocotillo river valley area and business as well as residents encourage you to pay a visit!

Our Leaders and Their Favorite Dinosaurs

Spencer Wareing
Ocotillo City Reporter

Hello Girls State and the Internet Beyond,

To start off our wonderful week of Girls State, Ocotillo Associated Press interviewed our lovely staff — everything from City Advisors, to Nurses, to Jr. Counselors! OAP would love to take a moment to thank all of the collaborative efforts and kindnesses that the staff has given us in the first two days alone! We couldn't do this without you, and now onto the interviews!

What's your favorite memory from your time as a Girls State Delegate?

J. Solis, our very own Ocotillo Advisor, commented how when she was a delegate, her favorite memory, “was the bonding with everyone from my city and getting to know people from other schools throughout the state and getting to see how things run in their schools. Just the bonding basically.” Personally, I find it incredible that she, “still keeps up with them online and it's all very cool.”

That favorite memory was a common one, shared by the Sycamore City Advisor I. Solis, Cholla City Advisor Owen, Juniper City Advisor Griffin, and Jr. Counselor Allison Gingold.

Jadyn Ocampo and Annie Traugutt, the 2021 Governor and Secretary of State, both agreed their favorite memory was learning from their fellow delegates and bettering themselves through discussion.

However, Party/HoR Advisor Tincher's favorite memory easily won the top prize: “Pretending as a part of the mock trial to ‘injure’ our mayor by throwing a hair dryer in the shower with her to ‘electrocute’ her.”

What inspired you to become a leader?

J. Solis (City Advisor for Ocotillo City) said, “I think it was the way they said it Monday night; I believe in the Girls State program and what it does. It's a great learning experience. It gives you a different perspective on the government.”

Griffin (City Advisor for Juniper City) described how she wished, “for the next generation in girls to be in office and go all the way to President!”

Allison Gingold (Jr. Counselor) and Annie Traugutt (Secretary of State), their families were their inspiration in lead-



Nobody beats our Staff's dinosaur impressions!

ership: “My whole family is a bunch of leaders in one group so I think that helped me overcome my fears and take initiative...” (Allison Gingold) and “My dad is in the military. I see the way he interacts with the AIT soldiers. During COVID, he sat down and facetedimed their families during Thanksgiving to keep the spirit alive despite the pandemic. Over the years, I've witnessed the way he interacts and leads as a person. And, he has inspired me to do the same...” (Annie Traugutt).

What advice do you have for future Girls State Staff and Leadership?

All of the Girls State Staff were more than happy to provide OAP with loads of advice, so to all the delegates and future-delegates reading right now, go out there and pursue your passions! You have an entire roster of GS faculty backing you!

J. Solis (City Advisor for Ocotillo City) — “Get all the experience you can, because your experience you can pass it onto the girls who come here. The staff is very diverse — medical professionals, teachers, and I was in the military. Different experiences will give the girls a different perspective.”

Solis (City Advisor for Sycamore City) — “Go for it! Be a city advisor!”

Owen (City Advisor for Cholla City) — “Go out there and be involved and have lots of fun!”

Griffin (City Advisor for Juniper City) — “Never stop being you!”

Queen (City Advisor for Manzanita City)

— “It's the best program around education-wise and learning all about government for upcoming ladies to become citizens. It's a wonderful program!”

Becca Hall (Jr. Counselor) — “Make sure you know what you're getting yourself into when you commit. Make sure you're willing to work. Commit to it!”

Allison Gingold (Jr. Counselor) — “Don't be afraid to branch out to the staff and the girls! People are so nice, don't be intimidated. Don't be afraid to ask questions.”

Montijo (Office Staff) — “Step out of your comfort zone, try something new. Enjoy your life and don't have any regrets!”

And last — but certainly not least — what dinosaur would you like to bring back to life?

What started as a fun, random question about dinosaurs quickly dissolved into a turf war between what the staff deemed ‘the superior dinosaur’.

Monday ended with four votes for T-Rex, two for Brachiosaurus (“It's like a giraffe but much larger. You can take it for a ride. Velociraptor is cooler though,” said Jr. Counselor Becca Hall), two for Velociraptor (my personal favorite), two for Triceratops, and one for Stegosaurus and Pteradactyl respectively. The day ended with T-Rex as the dinosaur champion!

Signing off,
Spencer Wareing, Ocotillo City Reporter

Juniper shoots for the stars one note as a time

Anna Davis and Sophia (Phia) Bell
Juniper City Reporters

On the first full day of Girls State, the great city of Juniper is already making its mark! Juniper's own Luna He represented her city this morning by playing the star spangled banner on her violin.

Luna has been playing violin since she

was three and a half—four years old. She got involved because her dad was a professional violinist for over 20 years.

Luna said that she was excited to play for Girls State. "It kind of took me by surprise but I was really glad that I was able to show my talent."

Luna is hoping to represent Arizona in Girls Nation this summer. "I want to run

for Girls Nation because I actually have a bill I want to pass.

I want to join the military when I grow up... I want to pass a bill that guarantees veterans life support plans after they leave the military." If she gets to go, He also said that she would bring her violin to do the same at Girls Nation.



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Girls State Campaign Chaos

Anna Davis
Juniper City Reporters

Girls State is in full swing of campaigning. Juniper City is no exception. The majority of Juniper is running for a county or state position, and had to jump through some hurdles to do so.

Anna Davis, who is running for Governor, said that “I had to do 15 pushups on one floor, on another I had to do sprints, and then my favorite, I had to tell some school drama— all to hang up campaign posters. It was all super crazy, but I had so much fun doing it.”

Juniper’s own Ava Clark, had a similar experience, but part of it she was helping administer.

One of Juniper’s challenges was to race Clark down the hall and back to be able to hang up a poster. Clark said that “I was completely joking, but the first girl I asked was totally up for it. We raced up and down the hallway, I won, and we let her hang her posters anyways.”

Overall, campaigning, while chaotic, has most definitely been memorable not only for Juniper, but for the State as a whole.



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Campaign Crazy

Rowan Russell
 Piñon City Reporter

Girls throughout the cities have begun their campaigns for county and state positions. With posters littering our walls we see the creative side of Girls State. From posters full of stars to superheros we see girls running strong.

With frequent visitors asking to hang campaign ads in hallways,

we have seen many new faces we had yet to see. It is amazing to see all the hard work girls are putting into these amazing positions.

Mayors have come up with fun challenges, some are challenging girls to do the “Jack Sparrow” run and others are asking fun questions to get to know more about each candidate.

With all the campaigns beginning, both slate committees are

looking to fill the rest of their ballots. The Nationalists are short on House Representatives and are looking for girls courageous enough to take the challenge.

The Federalist are looking to fill spots for the Lobbyist, waiting for girls to sign their names on a nomination form. As we head into Primary election stay head strong and proud of your party.



Frantic, Yet Fantastic Feelings

Nina Rawal and Caralea Vest
 Yucca City Reporters

These first couple of days at Girls State have been crazy and challenging, yet so much fun. With exciting, informative activities ranging from Lisa Matthews (the Assistant to the County Administrator in Pima County) coming to talk to us to the race for city, county, and state offices, Girls State 2022 has been one for the books, to say the least.

As we are all getting used to the craze that is Girls State, some girls have been feeling excited, but exhausted. Tatum Benson of Yucca City, for example, claims she is “having fun, but it is a little overwhelming”.

Although the week’s plans were initially overwhelming, we are slowly but surely getting used to

the stress political figures undergo as they are running for offices.

When interviewing girls about their experience so far, Tiare’ Goss said, “It’s a lot to take in. It really is. But it’s a learning experience and I’ve never done anything like this. It’s really fun and I’ll keep up my smile.”

Hannah Bumm, a candidate for Supai County Treasurer, has nothing but praise for her Girls State experience so far.

When asked how her first few days have gone, Bumm exclaimed, “I love girls state so far. I love the connections with everyone I’ve made. I feel as if everyone around me has the same common likes and interests as I do, which is hard to find in today’s world. This has been an amazing opportunity for me to spread my wings and try

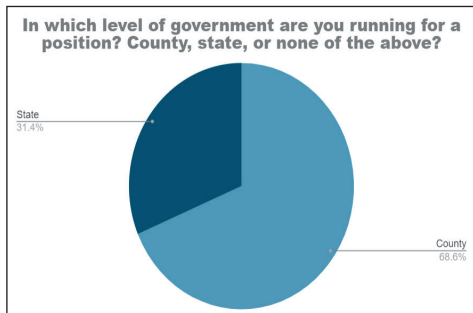
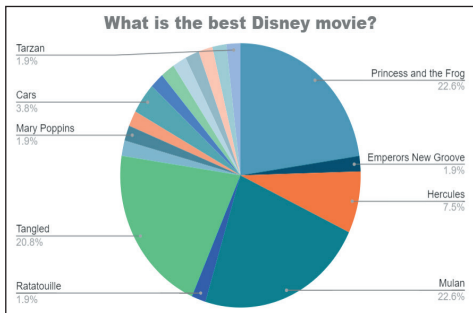
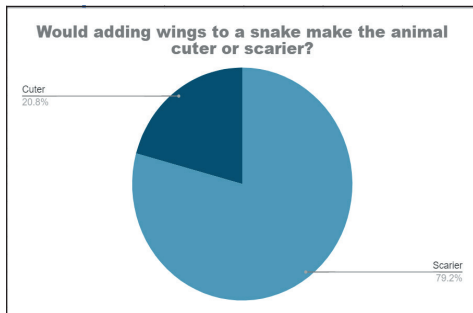
things I wouldn’t have otherwise, such as running for different leadership positions. I also love the community and love in our city, no one feels left out.”

Though Girls State can be taxing, the friendships made and lessons learned so far will undoubtedly stick with us for the rest of our lives.

For example, Kaylee Woods from Yucca City stated, “When I came to Girls State, I did not know it was going to be as intense, but I’m so grateful for my experience here, as I’ve been learning about the inner workings of the government.”

Girls State has provided us with the foundation needed to embark on a career in politics or in any other career field. The opportunities here are endless.

Polling Political Protectors!



Spencer Wareing
Ocotillo City Reporter

Hello Girls State and the Internet Beyond, Ocotillo Associated Press realizes that readers at home may not grasp the criteria of a Girls State Delegate. Fear not! I, Spencer Wareing (and a proud City Reporter), have searched far and wide (AKA the cafeteria city tables during meal times) for answers to your most burning questions. After all, one's thoughts on winged

snakes, favorite Disney movies, and government-level aspirations are the perfect foundation for new friendships all week long! Read below to understand the secrets of the Arizona Girls State Delegates! Through my travels, I have discovered the City of Yucca as an incredibly anti-winged snake; having their entire polled section voting 'Scarier'. Onto Disney movie marathon time! My personal favorite is Peter Pan — who wouldn't love to fly across the sky and

battle pirates in your pajamas? Though I'm definitely Team State, it was fascinating to discover the variety of responses across the cities. Everyone this week is so engaged and determined, it's no surprise we have so many young, talented women interested in running for County and State positions! Good luck to all candidates, I'm so excited for the elections! Signing off, Spencer Wareing, Ocotillo Associated Press

Something 'Sus' in Juniper City

Phia Bell
Juniper City Reporter

In 2019, a meteorite landed in the city of Juniper. At first everything seemed normal, but after the animals of Juniper's city zoo suddenly died, citizens have realized something has traveled along with

that meteorite from 3 years before. Small aliens are now living 'Among Us' on floor 6 of Sonora Hall! There is an imposter on the loose! "I'm stressed" says Juniper Mayor, Viviane Carroll. "We need to make sure that everyone is safe."

To make matters worse, a 'crewmate' corpse has already appeared! "It's scary," says Clara Oldham. Even still, she is still feeling secure. You see, Oldham is proudly running for Cocopah county sheriff. "I feel very confident that Clara Oldham will be able to solve the problem."



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Wins & Losses: Election Season in Full Swing

Emily Shanafelt
Palo Verde City Reporter

With every election, there are winners and losers. It's an obvious fact, but one that is rarely discussed.

That's why today's report is all about what happens when you lose an election. It can bring up a whole host of emotions like disappointment, anger, embarrassment, or even confusion that can discourage you from running in future elections.

However, I strongly believe that losing is just as valuable as winning because it gives you a more determined mindset.

At first after losing, you might feel knocked off your feet and hesitant to try again. But then, you can come to the realization that the outcome of an election is not a reflection of your self-worth.

When confronted by a roadblock, your dreams should not be shaken. Instead, you should find your true passion, and channel it to find the courage to continue.

I was speaking with other girls during our meet-and-greet time and identified a general consensus: losing an election can be disheartening, but you are not the only one going through it, and even though you lost, there are lots of girls here supporting you for who you are. You should feel proud of yourself, whether you win or lose.



The girls of Palo Verde are working hard on their campaign posters.



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Yucca City's Smart Senators

Nina Rawal and Caralea Vest
 Yucca City Reporters

Girls Nation is an esteemed, nation-renown program held in Washington D.C. from July 23rd to July 30th this year. Every year, girls from each state's Girls State compete for the two senator spots for Girls Nation.

To run for these available spots, they must first pass primary elections. Then, they must present their 2-minute bill to their County and be one of the top "senators" in their County. Finally, they move on to the final voting step: the State level.

As part of the trip, each "senator" connects with girls from all over the nation interested in the same field: politics. They hold a similar program to the one in Girls State, but on a much larger scale, meeting with country officials, such as Senators of the United States and maybe even the President.

Once done with the program, the girls all have the necessary foundation they need to embark on their journey to being elected officials in our nation's political system. They leave with long-lasting friendships, which may even follow them into their future careers.

Our very own Yucca City's Abigail Cramer is running for the spot of Girls Nation senator, with a bill focusing on better instructing teachers on dealing with children with learning disabilities. Enjoy our podcast with Cramer below!



One of our very own Yucca reporters, Carralea Vest with Abigail Cramer, our potential Girls Nation senator!

Lizard-Mania Hits Girls State

Emma LaPointe and Bryn Murphy
 Manzanita City Reporters

In the past few days, lizards have been spotted intermittently across campus, most notably, crawling near the feet of delegates Bryn Murphy and Leilani Chuning on the Global Center stairs. However, the lizard sightings increased tenfold on Day 4.

As delegates were walking to the county courthouse following breakfast, lizards were spotted crawling along the bushes and sidewalk. As the delegates passed the fountain outside Old Main, three lizards appeared and were lounging on the fountain ledge, basking in the Arizona sun.

Miranda Medlen-Ursell said, "Look, he's doing pushups!" The lizard family spotting brought some much-needed levity to the delegates as they were highly stressed about the beginning of the primary elections.

Funnily enough, another lizard spotting appeared in Cocopah's county house! Delegates from Ocotillo, Juniper, and Manzanita were preparing to get their nomination papers, when a lizard appeared in the county house.

He was running around under chairs, frantically trying to escape. Two delegates were "appointed" to



Lizards spotted congregating at Old Main fountain. Photo Credit: Jessica Womack

the job of rescuing the lizard, mostly out of the rest of the county's fear of touching the lizard.

Although it caused a lot of commotion, it was a fun way for everyone to relax a bit and have a humorous distraction before the stress of elections restarted.

While reptiles are very exciting visitors at Girls State, we wish all our human delegates luck in the county and state elections!

Stellar Sunset at State

Anna Davis
Juniper City Reporter

Today at Girls State we were reminded of why Arizona is so great. Last night's sunset was so vibrant that it

truly lit up the evening after a long day of elections.

Juniper city took full advantage of the beauty of the sunset. Juniper decided to do a mini photo shoot with the sunset.

Although not all of their group members were present, it was still something that they won't forget.



Arizona Girls State Independent



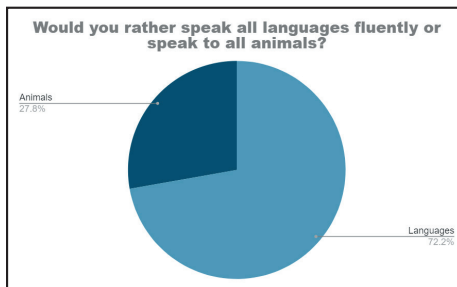
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Please Remain Seated As The Roller Coaster Comes To A Stop

Spencer Wareing
Ocotillo City Reporter

Hello Girls State and the Internet Beyond, Emma Hartley once said, “Time is a construct. Love is a force...” and this especially rings true at Girls State. While my laptop calendar may read Thursday the 9th, I’d honestly swear at least two weeks have passed; a blur of dorm rooms, lecture halls, and elevator waiting lines. But, truth be told, it’s great. The love and camaraderie felt by the delegates encircles the State Courthouse, Global Center, and U of A campus sidewalks.

Yesterday, I traveled up and down the cafeteria tables, polling and laughing with some of the most talented young women I’ve had the honor of meeting. The question of the day: Would you rather speak all languages fluently or speak to all animals?



Nearly two hundred girls strong and ready to take on the world as rising Seniors; the majority jumped at the possibility of understanding each language our Earth has to offer.

Next, I used my spare minutes of leisure to explore the decorated hallways of the dorms. And, oh my gosh, the creativity I witnessed in each city astounded me — from the Octopus named Herbert and his sand-crab friend who call the Palo Verde Pirates his home, Juniper’s star-lit hallways, the Coraline Button-Store with



an enticing tunnel entrance in Cholla, Sycamore’s Sentential theme that honored women from our nation’s history, the Yucca Yucky Duckies’ shops selling Star-ducks Coffee and all sorts of ducks, and so much more. And, of course, back at home, the friendships, stories, and aspirations I’ve shared with my fellow Ocotillins. I don’t know how many of you are reading, but you all mean so much to me.

Our week is nearly up and, as our 2021 Secretary of State so eloquently put it, we are about to start our year of lasts. Sev-

enty-five thousand, six hundred minutes of opportunities. I can’t promise that we will change the world. That’s something that only time will tell — but, honestly, after meeting Arizona’s next generation of leaders, my hopes are high.

The love that I’ve felt here is a force to be reckoned with; Emma Hartley’s certainly right in that respect. Sue me, I’m feeling sappy. Thank you, staff, and thank you, delegates.

Signing off,
Spencer Wareing

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Delegates cheer on a performer at the talent show. (Photo courtesy Emma LaPointe)

Talent Show Performers Bring Down the House

Emma LaPointe and Bryn Murphy
 Manzanita City Reporters

The Girls State Talent Show on Thursday night was a roaring success. Delegates presenting songs, poems, comedy, and dances were wildly popular with the audience. Not only did the delegates have fun, they celebrated different cultures and identities.

Luna He performed a traditional Chinese dance, and showed the delegates the beauty of Chinese ethnic traditions. Lillian Martinez-Ross performed a poem she wrote about her Pasamaquoddy native heritage. Emma LaPointe performed “Just Breathe,” a celebration of her identity and that of many others at Girls State.

Delegate Hailey Mace says, “I knew everyone was

academically talented, but I had no idea how culturally talented everyone is. It was amazing and I am so excited and proud to be a part of Girls State 2022!”

The mood was absolutely ravingly positive, nary a moment passed laughter, cheering, chanting, or clapping. Music played an important role in the buzz, as Clara Davis, Noel Steinbeck, and Kirsten Buelt played beautiful songs on the harp, piano, and flute, respectively.

At the end of the show, a surprise video debuted, displaying pictures from the past week. The photos were humorous and sentimental alike, reminding delegates of all the fun they had in the past few days, the friendships formed, and the lifetime memories created. The authors thank you for your support and wish you a wonderful last two days!



Blastin' Birthdays

Nina Rawal and Caralea Vest
Yucca City Reporters

Birthdays are a special day for everyone. A day you spend with your close friends and loved ones to celebrate the many years you have lived and the memories you have made.

Here, in Yucca city, we have celebrated two birthdays! Our very own Tatum Benson and Mary Sannapu, both have had their birthdays during our time here at Girls State.

First, in our city, Mary Sannapu celebrated her 16th birthday on June 8th. When asked about her birthday, she stated, "It was definitely weird being away from home and my family. But, all the girls here made me feel so loved by giving me cards and gifts! So, overall, it was an enjoyable day."

Our city had each given her cards along with some fun treats to celebrate her special day.

Secondly, we celebrated Tatum Benson

on June 9th, another one of our beloved city citizens. We woke her up with birthday wishes, along with giving her cards and small gifts.

Although we could not provide Tatum or Mary with anything big, the little presents brightened their days immensely, especially since they were not at home with their families.

Tatum mentions, "Although it is getting a bit stressful towards the end of camp, the friends I have made here have made my birthday so special. I am so grateful for the opportunity to spend my 17th birthday with the friends I have made here, even if I am not with my family."

It is undoubtedly challenging for our Yucca city girls to spend their birthdays away from their homes and families. However, with the fun, small celebrations we have been having for the birthday girls, they seem to be having amazing days celebrating their 16th and 17th birthdays!



Tatum Benson (left) and Mary Sannapu (right) pose for a quick photo.

What's Going Happening On Floor 6?

Leeza Jones & Hannah Dean
Saguaro City Reporters

On Floor 6th in the Sonora building, lives Saguaro city. During the whole week, we've made it a tradition to gather around in room 621 to watch the Netflix show: "Heartstopper."

This happens every night after everything for the day has been done. (Everyone's gathering around watching it right

now as this is being typed up in fact!)

Not only that but numerous dance parties, competitions and so much more have been going on.

We've had a plank contest while waiting for the results of our city meeting, and witnessed an amazing rough draft of our Kaibab's county sheriff practicing her speech.

Boredom is a non-existent thing in Saguaro, there's always something happen-

ing. Whether it's practicing our speech in front of each other numerous times while gymnastics stunts are being performed in the corner of the room, playing games outside of the hallway while waiting for ballots to finish being filled out, to singing along in one direction while running to our next location.

Saguaro can be found doing something fun in our city almost anytime you stop by!



Above are pictures of our plank competition, which ended up with a winning time of 3 minutes and 30 seconds! Why not get abs at Girls State, right? Beside it is a picture of Kaibab County Sheriff Ava Cure showing her patriotism while practicing for her campaign speech.

Election Exhilaration

Andreya Aitchison and Spencer Wareing
Ocotillo City Reporters

Hello Girls State and the Internet Beyond,
The Ocotillo Associated Press has been hard at work polling, campaigning, and applauding as — over the course of the last 32 hours — our new State and County Government was elected. Yesterday at lunch and dinner, the tensions were high. The polls were in. Each candidate waited with bated breath for the ballots to arrive.

Ocotillo City Reporter, Spencer Wareing, took the opportunity to survey the masses; how were we feeling? Excited? Nervous? Indifferent?

Though Manzanita maintained they were feeling ‘baddy’, others were not so cheerful, a mixture of emotions as the leaders of our nation were soon to be announced.

In the blink of an eye, the Primaries were done. Our two party candidates, one from Federalists (“Clearly the superior party.” - Spencer) and one from Nationalists (“We can’t say that, that’s not true.” - Dreya) stood in front of their Girls State delegates, their friends, and poured their heart out over the loudspeaker microphone.

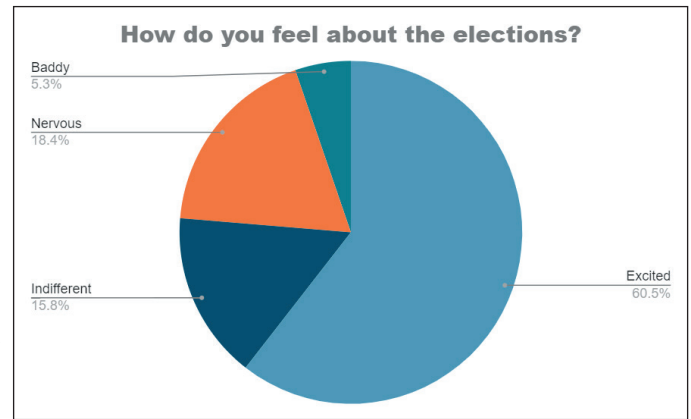
Again, we departed to our dorms. Again, the Marshall called for voting to begin. For the very last time, Arizona Girls State voted.

Our very own Ocotillo City Reporter, Dreya Aitchison, has taken it upon herself to walk the readers at home through the events of June 9th, 2022. Now, sit back and enjoy her play by play:

“Today, June 9th, 2022, at 10:00 am in the UofA Social Science building the fate of our mythical state was decided. The energy in the hall was pulsing with excitement and terror as the results of the General Elections were revealed at last.

“I could not contain my pride for the new office holders from my city and county, and I was suddenly aware of the intense sisterhood and solidarity I felt for these women who were only recently strangers. The thunderous applause was a testament to the unconditional support we feel for one another.”

The highly sought after roles of Governor and Secretary of State were soon filled by Esther Malish and Stella Lipson and then the former position holders, Jayden Ocampo (Governor) and Anneliese Traugutt (Secretary of State), delivered their



parting remarks. These speeches, addressing the value of your time on earth and the dichotomy between fear and excitement for the future, were so tender and authentic that many in the crowd were moved to tears.

“The state members that I spoke to all expressed that this election cycle was one of the most gratifying experiences thus far at Girls State and all of them were more than ready to take on the mantles their positions presented before them. The newly sworn in candidates expressed extreme gratitude and the community seemed ecstatic to support them.”

Signing off,
Andreya Aitchison and Spencer Wareing,
Ocotillo City Reporters

The Red Feds

Ariana Williams
Palo Verde City Reporter

Girls State Federalists
As the primary election draws near, young women in their respective cities begin mingling in their parties. With this, I think its about time that the Girls State Federalist community finally recognizes and gets a feeling of what being a Federalist really means.

Here I have Noel Steinbeck, Palo Verde’s very own Precinct Committee Chairman, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Girls Nation.

What are some Federalist ideas?

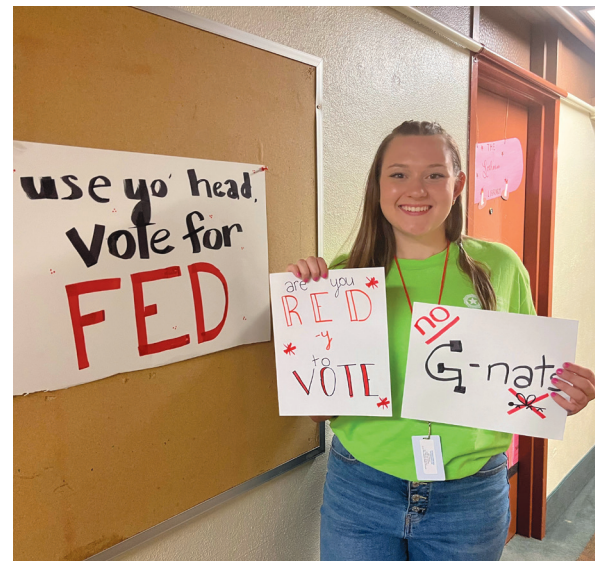
“We call our platform based upon three important questions: How? Why? and Who? Represented by economy, social justice, and public service respectively.” She goes on to say that “We should be focus-

ing on Women’s Rights, with more female anatomy and sexual education, accessible female hygiene, and standardizing equitable healthcare costs.”

“I’d like to thank Esther Cho, candidate for Girls Nation and State Senate, Party head, as well as Mrs. Tincher, our supervisor, for their support and guidance.”

“We are very supportive and proud of our federalist candidates, but overall, we want to make sure that Girls State 2022 is the best Girls State legislation ever!”

The Red Feds
“Feds, feds
We are red
Get in your head
Vote for fed.”



Noel Steinbeck, Palo Verde City Precinct Committee Chairman