

Arizona Girls State Independent



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The Art and Rhetoric of Politics

By Sydney Schurz
Ocotillo City Reporter

As Girls State has begun, so have local elections! In each city, the positions of Mayor, Councilmen, and Precinct Committeemen have all been up for grabs. To obtain these roles though, a 30-60 second speech must be cleverly put together and presented in an impromptu style. This puts much pressure on candidates but is also a great way to test their rhetorical skills.

Many girls at Girls State have taken AP Language, which is a class focused chiefly on rhetoric. By definition, rhetoric is the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, especially the use of figures of speech and other compositional techniques. In political speeches, rhetoric is heavily infused in writing, advertising, and public speaking. Even the teenage nominees know about this idea, and it assisted many in being elected to a city office.

Daniela Putu-Kang of the Nationalist

Party is a strong believer in strong rhetoric. She is currently reading "Win Every Argument" by Mehdi Hasan to learn how to improve her talent in debating. So far, Putu-Kang has learned three essential things: "First, understand both sides of the argument, and even learn more about the opposing side so that you can counter and make your argument stronger. Second, know your audience. Present in a way that they will understand, and in a way that will make them want to agree with you. Lastly, be respectful! No one will choose the side of someone who bashes them throughout their point. Stay calm and collected, do not go for someone personally. Stick to the facts." With the help of this novel, Daniela is glad to serve the Nationalist Party and the City of Ocotillo as a newly elected Precinct Committeeman!

Sonya Colattur and Maddie Carder also ran for Precinct Committeemen for their party; the Federalists. Although these two girls both got elected, their sense of rheto-

ric was approached differently. Sonya's speech was strong and fact-based, and Maddie's was more of a narrative filled to the brim with personal experience. Sonya stated that "...this is Girls State! Women's Rights is what this body of students is all about. We are at the forefront of the future, and women deserve a seat at the table." Her speech inspired many and began with statistics about women in the workplace, as victims of domestic violence, and involvement in politics. Maddie's, on the other hand, began with her experience in clubs, orchestra, and service organizations in her school and community. Her participation in these social and economic areas helped to relate Carder to the rest of the delegates, and therefore would help her represent her peers as a Committeeman.

Whether it be following steps, sharing facts, or enlightening others with personal anecdotes, rhetoric is omnipresent in politics and continues to lead candidates to success!

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Sycamore City... The Sisters We Never Had

By: Gabby Comer and Elyse Gonzales,
Sycamore City Reporters

Since stepping into the dorm yesterday morning, all the citizens of Sycamore City (or Syc City as we like to call it) have known this city is something special. From talking nonstop to planning out how to decorate our dorms we have been able to build a strong bond even though it is only Day 2 of camp.

"The community within our city is very

uplifting and positive. We haven't stopped talking since we got here!" says Emily Topcey

The biggest way that the girls have been able to build a bond is by decorating our dorms under the surfer theme. "We chose the surfer theme because we were really attracted to the humor and irony of choosing something so not Arizona, and the theme just lent itself to some really cute decorations," says Allison Mannon. Each

dorm is decorated with a different aspect of the beach.

Sycamore City has made it our main objective to make our past city sisters proud. The city plans to do big things throughout the week, as well as continue to form these life-changing bonds with the fellow Girls State delicates. Every woman is enjoying their time, making friendships, getting creative, and being hands-on.

Syc City Signing Out!

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Arizona Girls State Independent



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 Arizona Girls State
 Penny Maklary, Director
 Shannon Mead, Managing Editor

2023 Girls State Reporters

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- Jordan Casey - Juniper
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- Delia Riley - Pinon
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- Annika Good - Manzanita
- Sania Patel - Yucca
- Payton Robbins - Yucca
- Reidiny Aguirre - Saguaro
- Megan Burke - Saguaro
- Gabriella Comer - Sycamore
- Elyse Gonzales - Sycamore

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YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Starry Hopkins and Sarah Kibbey
 Cholla City Reporters

Today in Cholla City and the rest of the cities in Supai County there were primary elections held. Primary elections are elections to appoint delegates to represent a specific political party.

The city members were all able to learn and follow proper voting protocols. The two prominent political parties in our Girls State are the nationalists and federalists. In the elections today the mayors and councilmen for each party were selected. The two mayors and eight councilmen selected will now go head-to-head in the general election to win the title of Cholla City mayor and city council this evening!

NATIONALIST- The future is looking bright for the nationalists in city government. Two delegates ran for mayor today, and 5 delegates ran for city council. All the candidates for each position were all equally equipped and had potential to all soar in their jobs. The official councilmen for Cholla City to represent the nationalists are Alaina Tracy, Daniya Siddiqui, Leah Bucher, and Mallory Hooper. The elected mayor on behalf of the nationalist is Starry Hopkins. Congratulations to all of these great ladies!

FEDERALIST- The Federalist primary was a tight race amongst six well-qualified candidates

who all presented themselves as hard-working and caring for the city the best. Four girls were chosen for City Council: Sarah Kibbey, Xuan Tran, Erika Ghassemi, and Gabriella Tafoya who are all equally excited and ready to take on their new jobs for the City! The elected mayor for the Federalists is Alexa Hernandez.

All the girls in Cholla City enjoyed taking part in the city's nomination and election processes, each learning the most they could for the upcoming state races.

Candidate for Mayor for the Nationalist Party, Starry Hopkins, would like to say good luck to her opponent. "The well-being of Cholla city is the most important thing to me. I believe I will be an asset to our government, but whether I am chosen or my opponent; Cholla will be in great hands!"

Alexa Hernandez, mayoral candidate for the Federalist, would like to say, "To the city of Cholla, thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you this session. I want to bring us together as a community and work as one. Good luck to the other candidate, Starry, in the race!"

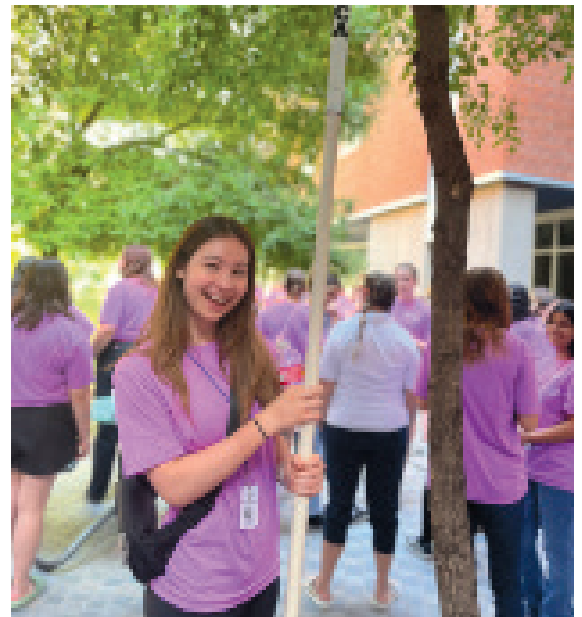
JUST IN: Mayor for Cholla City is Starry Hopkins!! Elected Councilmen are: Erika Ghassemi, Xuan Tran, Alania Tracy, and Daniya Siddiqui! Congratulations and we hope you all will represent our city with great pride!!!

Remember to stay hydrated this week!

Morning Colors

By Payton Robbins
 Yucca City Reporter

Before the selection process, Arizona Girls State delegates had fully recognized and understood the importance of honoring our nation's flag through ceremony and respect. We were told that each morning and evening, however, we would experience and grow to understand the value of teaching and recognizing this ceremony. This morning, as the start to the week of Girls State, we witnessed the beautiful presentation of colors... and the sky seemed to present its colors as well, in accordance with the ceremony. On this beautiful morning, harmony of music, the sky, pride for our nation, and more than 200 girl's hearts swelled with longing to leave a legacy on our nation. The violin accomplice to play the national anthem pulled on our heartstrings as the flag was raised. For the Yucca ladies, this moment especially holds the memory of giggles, smiles, and an infamous photograph of our pole holder.



Ocotillo's Day One

By Juliana Li
Ocotillo City Reporter

When asked what emotions the newly arrived delegates were feeling, one sentiment prevailed amongst all of Ocotillo city: excitement. Whether that emotion was preceded by nerves or hopefulness, excited was the most common word when asked to “describe your first day.” All delegates felt they were thrown into the complex and confusing environment, but with the kind support of their peers, they quickly became hopeful of what is yet to come.

In the first Ocotillo city hall meeting, the air was tense, partially thanks to Ms. J Solis' bad intuition of how high the AC should be blasted, but also because being placed into a group of twenty-two strangers feels deeply uncomfortable. But, as we introduced ourselves, we quickly found commonalities.

We giggled as we struggled to find our hometowns on an Arizona map, we broke tensions when asking each other for pens, and all gained more insight into the exciting program we had ahead of us.

Before our first election, I went around the hall and interviewed Ocotillo city citizens on how their first day went, starting with the holistic question: day one, one word? My second question was: how long was the drive, and how was it?

When realizing the first emotion for Girls State was often nervousness and not excitement, the drive can have a lot to do with why. Over the course of a long drive from Phoenix, Glendale, or Buckeye, the nerves seem to set in, and spending a week

away from your family starts to become real.

I wanted to take a deep dive into everyone's personal experience, since despite the nerves being universal, the experience that accompanied the nerves was not. Some interviewees also commented on their outlook for the rest of the week.

Jazmine McKnight, my roommate, was the first interviewee. Her answer to the one word question was, “exciting, because I was surrounded by people who are willing and eager to learn. I'm looking forward to something new every day going forward.”

Next, Hailey Helm's answer to the first question was, “Eventful. It was crazy in a good way because I was learning how things work and meeting new people.” Her comments on the drive were, “I am from Bukeye, and the drive is 2.5 hours, so it was long.”

Claire Catkins, Hailey's roommate, was next. Her answer to the first question was, “Exhausting. You think you have time to chill and then you're bombarded with info... but it's helpful!” Claire also thinks that the next steps of Girls State will have, “A lot to learn, a lot to do, and a lot to get done.”

It's clear that the girls have already become close, as leaving the interview, Claire and Hailey said they already get along so well, as seen by their similar sleep schedules: going to bed and waking up early.

Daniela Putu-Kang shared the same senti-



ment. She said she felt, “excited, and meeting new people was easy because they were very kind. I liked getting involved.” However, her drive was more tumultuous than most. It was described as being two hours from Glendale in a hot car with the AC off.

Finally, Sonya Colattur also felt the day was hectic. She said it was, “eventful! There was a lot of stuff happening back to back.”

Her drive was described as a little boring with no scenery, but there was a surprise Ostrich farm coming from Phoenix! Sonya says she's now excited for what's to come but has no idea what to run for.

Overall, it seems like spirits are high going into the rest of the week, with some nerves remaining, but only because there's so much to get done. Ocotillo looks forward to the future, with our second election happening right now!

Elections, Meetings, and More!

By Sania Patel
Yucca City Reporter

The 2023 ALA Girls State Program is in full swing at the University of Arizona! Throughout the day in Yucca city, students could be seen running from one meeting to the next as they participated in Precinct Committee meetings, primary elections, clubs, and more. Claire Lewis, Yucca City's Precinct Committeemen, and Clerk, describes the day as “exhausting, but totally worth it.”

The main focus of the schedule today was completing the primary and gen-

eral elections for Yucca City's Mayor and Councilmen.

The nominated students met for two hours just before the general election. Claire Lewis states that the meeting mainly discussed “the numerous responsibilities of the Mayor and the challenges they may face throughout the process.” When asked about the jobs of the Mayor, Claire Lewis responded with a seemingly un-ending list, all of which involved proper communication and leadership skills.

Despite the challenges and the workload, many members of the Girls State

program report feeling excited about the program itself and what is to come.

“The opportunity of this program is really profound,” Claire Lewis states, “I mean, it's hard - no doubt - but the stuff you get from it is great. I mean, without this program, I would have never gotten the chance to apply to the Samsung Scholarship or even have a shot at the Girls Nation [an opportunity for two selected students to travel to Washington, DC, and work with Senators and Representative members to pass proposed bills]”.

Speaking off the Cuff

By Delia Riley
Piñon City Reporter

“You will have one minute to speak, I will cut you off after that.”

This phrase has become a familiar one in the last day and a half of Girls State. Advisors say this like it is the hard part, that girls have so much to say they just can't stop.

However, the harder part is the implied “you have about fifteen seconds to think of something to say.”

In Piñon City, things have been heating up--well not really, we're all quite chill. However, with city offices being elected today, many girls had their first experience with the one minute speech.

Some had their speech almost automated by the end of their 15 seconds, others didn't use the time the advisor was talking to prepare at all.

A theme throughout, though? Bravery. It is a rough world here at Girls State, everyone already stressed and tired.

But, these young women have built up enough courage to make something of their time here, and with only one minute to show it.

It is an exciting thing to know that we will continue to see such extraordinary things throughout the week.

One of many morals I'm sure we will learn in our time here at Girls State is that of making the most of our time. With one minute, or seven short days, we have to prove ourselves.

First Day Jitters in Palo Verde City

By Maria Leon
Palo Verde City Reporter

Palo Verde City accomplished so much on the first day of Arizona Girls State. The City started off with a bang by welcoming all the girls when they first arrived, walking each other to their rooms and having our own get to know each other circle before any official meetings started.

This allowed us to become close with one another and it was shown during a series of interviews held after the first day of Girls State was completed.

The girls who were interviewed were: Jane McAplin, Amaya Henderson, Taylor Downey, and Sarah Haak. Each of the girls were asked the same questions and they all had similar but unique answers. The questions asked were:

- 1) What was your favorite part about your first day of Arizona Girls State?
- 2) What can be done better for the first day of Arizona Girls State next year?
- 3) How do you like your city so far?

Starting with Jane McAplin her answer to the first question was, “meeting my roommate Maria”. Not to be biased but that was an excellent answer given by Jane!

Her answer to the second question was, “They should give us more time to interact with each other and get to know each other. I feel like when we got here there was a little amount of time to interact with each other and we went straight into stuff. I think there should be more time to do ice breakers and get to know each other better”.

Her answer to the last question was, “I love it! Everyone seems pretty chill and

nice here”.

The next person interviewed was Amaya Henderson. Her response to the first question was, “My favorite part was when all of my roommates and people on the floor we all met up and played name games and it was good finding out what everyone wanted to do with their future. It was nice being surrounded by a group filled with beautiful intelligent ladies!”.

Her answer to the second question was, “Definitely organization, dinner was supposed to be at 6 and some girls did not eat until 7 so definitely just organization and how things can be run more smoothly. WATER! Water situation, they didn't tell us where we could fill our water bottles up and I was thirsty so basically just more information for the girls”.

Amaya's response to the final question was, “I love my city, like I love flowing with the energy. It's so nice we all get along so well there is no arguing, there is no hidden animosity, it is just a good city. I love the girls I'm with, I love their energy and personalities. I was nervous when I was first coming in like I told my mom “mama I hope i'm not with no weird people”, I was so nervous but I like it”.

The next person that was interviewed was Taylor Downey. Her response to the question asked was, “Meeting every girl here in my city, experiencing dorm life, and seeing how we run as a government, city, county, stuff like that”.

For the second question she responded with, “Having less meetings, planning out the meals better, having it more organized

because it did take forever for us to get the meal and we had to eat really fast or eat while standing because our food would get cold. Not having many meetings on the first day because it was a lot. I was exhausted and was not able to get to bed until 10:30 and woke up at 5:30 just to drive here was a lot”.

For her final question Taylor responded with, “I love it, I love each and every girl here. They all have amazing personalities, we all fit this group so well. I love it”.

Last but not least Sarah Haak was interviewed and her answer to the first question was, “My favorite part was meeting my roommate and all the girls and getting familiar with them which set the vibe for the whole day. Everyone on the floor was really fun, really amazing and it's nice knowing that I have a good group to go through this with”.

For the second question Sarah responded with, “The first day was a little rough and I think it was poorly timed and I think times for things should change. The important parts like us eating should change as well, when there are so many girls eating at the same time. I think they could organize certain parts of that better”.

For the final question she ended the interview with, “So far the city is really cool. It is still very confusing on the jobs and what each job does. Also on how everything works together but the people in the city are really cool and the atmosphere is really cool”.

All of the girls had one common thing. They all lifted up each other in their responses. This shows that even with our “First Day Jitters” the Palo Verde City is united together.



LEFT: New Precinct Committeemen: Magdalena Annala, Ashley Castaneda, Alejandra Cortez Martinez, Giselle Figueroa, Eniselina longi, Gargee Tamboli (not in order of image); **CENTER:** City Council Members and Mayor: Shelby Anderson, Eva Da Silva, Michelle Laynes, Emma Rial, Celeste Rivas (not in order of image); **RIGHT:** Our wonderful pole bearer!

PINON CITY ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

By Gargee Tamboli
Pinon City Reporter

The citizens of Pinon City woke up bright and early this morning to vote for and nominate city officers which included precinct committeemen, mayor, and city council.

Precinct committeemen were nominated on Sunday night, and mayor and city council members were nominated following the election of the precinct committeemen.

Each of the candidates were asked to present a short and brief speech on why they were qualified to fill the position on the spot. Each party showed immense support towards not only their own candidate, but to other candidates from the other party as well.

The girls maintained a respectful and

extremely supportive environment for everyone running, and it was heart-warming to see everyone in the room being so encouraging to one another.

The newly elected precinct committeemen for Pinon City are Giselle Figueroa, Gargee Tamboli, and Ashley Castaneda (chairman) for the Nationalist Party, and Enselina longi, Alejandra Cortez Martinez, and Magdalena Annala (chairman) for the Federalist Party.

Shelby Anderson (Nationalist), Eva Da Silva (Federalist), Michelle Laynes (Nationalist), and Emma Rial (Nationalist) have been elected as the city's new council members.

"I'm very excited to fulfill this position. I can't wait to work with everyone in my city, and I'm ready to advocate for the

members of my community." Eva Da Silva, new city councilmen stated.

Finally, the citizens of Pinon City voted for the most anticipated city position: mayor. After going through the proper election process, it was determined that Celeste Rivas (Nationalist) would be the new Pinon City Mayor.

"I'm honored to be the new mayor of the city of Pinon. I'm looking forward to working with my fellow citizens and emphasizing the meaning of teamwork and leadership throughout this session of Girls State. I think it's important to work as one united group of strong, independent women, and my goal is to appropriately represent Pinon with integrity and resilience," stated Celeste Rivas.

We are so excited to see what our new city leaders will accomplish!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

By Payton Robbins
Yucca City Reporter

On the itinerary for Monday of Girls State, the cities elect their representatives for city council and the mayor. In this process, the Yucca ladies had fun throughout the entire day, with enthusiasm and Yucca spirit, silly faces, and yelling across the room to announce names for the ballot; day one of elections was one of the most creative sessions ever to grace the hallways of Girls State.

The Yucca's ladies produced a pag-

eant of individual talents, artwork, public speaking, and wit. The "lucky Yuccs" had powerful campaign speeches, and showed heart amongst other leaders during campaigns.

One of the fondest memories of the day was during the primary elections with the selection of the Election Boards, where the Inspector, Judges, Marshall, and Roster Clerk were selected for voting procedures.

The Marshall, Frances Robertson, had a particularly interest-

ing job, announcing the beginning of the voting session by proclaiming, "hear ye, hear ye" to the citizens of Yucca city. The ladies all had a lovely laugh from the experience, and enjoyed their Marshall's spirit and excitement for the beginning of the primary elections.



Gaining Trust In 60 Seconds

By Megan Burke
Saguaro City Reporters

Monday's agenda has consisted of election after election, as each city is constructing their own governments.

From running for Precinct Committees to larger campaigns such as Mayor, citizens are told to prepare a one minute speech. Delegates are faced with the challenge of gaining the trust of the fellow girls whom they have met less than 24 hours ago. We have barely connected faces with names, therefore, to elect a leader in our city is a huge undertaking.

However, the delegates have taken this challenge and defied all odds. After a morning of speeches, I have learned how to gain the trust of voters in simply 60 seconds.

First of all, starting your speech strong is a key component in gaining votes. Many delegates began their speech with "Hi my name is ... and I am running for ...". However, when

delegates began their speeches with statistics, questions, or other openers, voters were hooked. Especially after listening to endless speeches after speeches, a strong unique start immediately grabs the attention of the voters.

Next, personal connections are crucial. Delegates consist of a diverse melting pot of experiences and backgrounds from various corners of Arizona. I was even shocked to learn that one of the delegates drove five hours to the camp!

No matter our differences, candidates found unity. For example, one of the delegates running for candidacy noted how all the girls had numerous leadership experiences.

She explained that instead of simply reading her resume in her speech, she gained votes by labeling her goals if elected. She was able to unite the strong leadership community while making herself memorable.

Finally, uniqueness also allows for success. During elections for chair positions, one delegate began her speech by comparing herself to JFK!

Throughout her speech, I can assure you that no other delegate in the room knew what would be said next. I was on the edge of my seat for the entire one minute campaign speech and with no surprise, she won the votes.

In a camp of 200 girls, it is easy to hide within the crowd, however those who made themselves stand out fall among the few leaders of Girl State. Uniqueness is encouraged and the speeches opened the door into the personalities and hidden humor of fellow delegates.

Overall, day one of speeches has taught delegates, including myself, new public speaking skills. I am amazed by the strength and poise of my fellow AZ State Attendees and filled with anticipation as we approach the County and State Elections.

As the time limit expands in future elections, I know my admiration for these future world leaders will as well. Being able to demonstrate such skill in simply 60 seconds, the world is these girls' oyster. The future of our nation is in great hands.

Manzanita joins sister cities in recreational meeting

By Annika Good and Amelia Cooney
Manzanita City Reporters

Manzanita City hosted the annual open house for her sister cities, Palo Verde and Sycamore, after their first political party rally. The girls headed to the Manzanita lounge after a chant battle to display their party affiliations. With spirits high and broken voices, the girls excitedly went up the stairs.

The three cities congregated together after exchanging warm greetings and opened the night with their unique chants. Each selected a particularly enthusiastic city member to deliver the chants. Palo Verde started off with a Power Ranger-themed motto, "Go, Go, Palo Verde!" Sycamore followed with a classic "I say 'Syc' you say 'city.'" Manzanita wrapped up the city chants with "Manzanita, Man-Man-Zanita." However, all the cities came together to pay tribute to the Manzanita City theme, The Lorax. Annika Garrison led the group with the "I say 'Let it' you say 'grow.'" Annika Garrison described the event, saying "It was an interesting experience to partici-

pate in such a large group of people with such diverse backgrounds and lead them in a unifying chant. It's an experience I'll never forget." The girls felt excited and ready to carry on with the night.

Candy was passed out as the cities began their prepared games. Sycamore suggested a creative mash-up between Rock, Paper, Scissors and Musical Chairs. This game provided an opportunity to further familiarize the girls with their sister cities. Manzanita Mayor, Amelia Cooney, played classic songs as the girls mingled around. When the music stopped, the girls had to find someone from a different city and interact while playing Rock, Paper, Scissors.

After the light-hearted game, the citizens gathered in the lounge once more to present the gifts the cities made for each other. The girls enthusiastically read each other's words and bonded over the gifts.

To finish the night, Palo Verde led the girls through a game of charades. While



Annika Garrison leads the Sister Cities through the group chant.

there was no clear winner, the citizens enjoyed each other's company and laughed whole-heartedly together. Mayors Isabella Nicholls (Sycamore), Paris Long (Palo Verde), and Amelia Cooney (Manzanita) closed up the night with a grateful message and hopeful wishes.

The Beginning of an Era

By Jordan Casey
Juniper City Reporter

All of us come from different backgrounds, different areas, and different types of lives. Be that as it may, we are all women living and facing the world together. And we might have more in common than what the naked eye perceives.

I interviewed all my fellow city members (Juniper City), specifically asking what they want to learn from Girls State. The answers were common, yet complex. Everyone had different responses, yet all were similar in multiple ways.

Most of these girls responded in a similar manner of wanting to learn more about the government functions - how it can be related to real life and gaining experience with hands on learning in government situations: Kaitlyn Espinoza, Aria Everett, Blythe Brown, Savannah Harrell, Hannah Harding, AnnMary Terrence, Sarah Witte, Niamh Waddell, Bailee Ramierz, Camila Lavayen, Chloe Chun, Kaiya Chun, Evangelia Sai Pen, and Amutha Rajasundaram.

Further, the rest of the girls here at Juniper City ranged in answering with wanting to develop interpersonal skills and gain social connections, then some others wanted to learn the true meaning of leadership: Abigail Rasmussen, Ashley Vega-Rosales, Leah Callahan, Sofiya Galanyuk, Ayushi Setia, Skyla Bird, Brittany Noriega, Sierra Titus, and London Bonelli.

The other question I followed up with asking was what my city members want to get out of Girls State. The greatest common answer here was friendship and knowledge. I believe that as a group we will all get what we want from this situation, and I hope they believe that, too.

What I want to learn from Girls State is the considerable understanding of how politics really work, and the motivations from all ends from any person involved. I'm here to learn all opinions, because different viewpoints are relied upon in democracy. Whether those opinions are agreed upon or not. I want to leave Girls State knowing how to develop my opinion and what to develop it on in relation to politics. I want to create my own voice. One that's heard

and echoed.

I also want to leave Girls State with memories. Memories that cloud the mind and I'll think back to forever. I want to remember this era of my life. This little week of my life, and yet, it will have such a big impact on how I think, behave, and go on into the age of adulthood. Womanhood.

We might be rival parties. Rival counties. Rival cities. But the raw truth of our situation is that we all live in the same world. We walk the same ground, breath the same air, and look up at the same stars. We all welcome the same beginning in the stages of life. Well, I have a challenge for you; lets welcome this beginning at Girls State together. We will walk through the ups and downs of Girls State as one. We will take the obstacles and face them together. And when we leave this little era of our lives on Saturday, we will remember the laughs and smiles we all shared.

Will we remember the knowledge we retained? Yes, we will.

But most of all, we will remember each other.

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