

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## ‘Using your voice’

*An interview with Alaina Kempel on her perception of Chris King and his presentation*

**BY ELEANOR ACKLEY**

Ocotillo City Reporter

On June 2nd, 2024, Chris King conducted a presentation on the role of the Precinct Committeeman for the Arizona Girls State Citizens. Mr. King asked the citizens questions and called upon them to voice their own opinions. While the speaker was walking around the room to talk to the students, one citizen named Alaina Kempel spoke up and mentioned that she had met Mr. King before attending the Arizona Girls State program. I found their connection to be fascinating. I chose to interview Alaina on the morning of June 3rd, 2024. She explains her perspective on Mr. King and the information he shared.

**Starting off, what city do you live in and what high school do you go to?**

“I live in Tucson and I go to the Academy of Tucson.”

**What Girls State City are you in? Are you enjoying your time in that city?**

“I’m in Cholla and yes, I am enjoying my time.”

**So, during the presentation given by Chris King, you mentioned that you knew him. Is this true? How do you know him?**

“Yes, it’s true. I know him because he’s been my sub teacher for school since middle school.”

**Due to the fact that you knew Mr. King before attending Girls State, did you already have knowledge on the information that Mr. King conversed about? Do you believe that you learned something new from Mr. King’s discussion?**

“I didn’t really know anything about what he was talking about before, so I definitely did learn a lot except for the fact that he likes to be funny and do jokes.”

**Did your perceptions of him as a person solidify the validity of the information you were hearing?**

Yeah, I would say so because he seems like a pretty credible guy, based off of...our time in school and such.”

**In your opinion, what is the biggest takeaway of Mr. King’s discussion?**

“I think the biggest takeaway of Mr. King’s discussion, for me, was about what politics was about. We went over the most, like, how it’s all about relationships and alliances, somebody else mentioned, just how it works...Just about putting yourself out there and using your voice and having to make relationships, like do those things.”

Overall, I am extremely grateful for Alaina Kempel’s excellent descriptions in the interview, Chris King’s thorough explanation of the role of a Precinct Committeeman, and the entire staff’s dedication in running the Arizona Girls State program.

## Hello green and yellow

**BY SIANNA DAVIS**

Manzanita City Reporter

Arizona Girls State kicks off its second day with city council and mayor elections.

Patriotism fills the rooms as yellow (nationalist), and green (federalist) ballots circulate among the cities. These green and yellow papers are familiar to the new 2024 Girls State citizens as they learn how to complete nomination papers.

As the city advisers count the ballots, the candidates nervously wait for an outcome that may or may not go in their favor. These little yellow and green papers hold exciting decisions that make Girls State the enticing and competitive program it continues to be.

The ballotbox for Manzanita City is filled with voters eager to campaign!

*(Photo courtesy Sianna Davis)*



# INSIDE

Using your voice ..... page 1  
 Go Red, Go Fed! ..... page 2  
 Splish Splash ..... page 3  
 GN Senators Visit ..... page 4  
 Division or Unity? ..... page 5

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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# “Go Red, Go Fed!”

**BY HAARIKA RAAVI**  
 Ocotillo City Reporter

Although many studies have already proven that red tends to be an apparent dominator, both in sports and areas of intimidation, this year’s Arizona Girls State Federalist Party might just be the decider on the contentious debate. On the second day of the 2024 session, the delegates, now official citizens of the mythical state, established a multitude of essential positions regarding the structure of their cities. In the meantime, elected Precinct Committeemen met with their respective parties to establish the foundations of the two-party system and the ideals upon which many candidates in the upcoming days will base their platforms upon.

This reporter found herself as a Federalist Precinct Committeeman, and across two different meetings which took course over the day, garnered much insight as concerns a multitude of the ideals and general spirit that those on the red side of the Federalist-Nationalist party lines find themselves.

The first meeting began with the induction of a clerk, with Maya Bustos of Sycamore City being selected amongst three candidates, proceeded by Jesmina Deguzman of Cholla City’s election to the position of Federalist Party Chair. After these positions were announced and therefore decided, the group proceeded to speak on the topic of the real-world issues which remained of utmost importance to them and could therefore be ingrained into the platforms which the mythical Federalist Party would be set to represent on the city, county, and state level.

Some of the varied topics discussed include prison

reform, mental health services, voter reform and education for teens regarding voting rights, housing and homeless issues, abuse of opioids and other drugs, as well as safety in schools and standard of education.

However, the two themes upon which most ideals aligned amongst the group of around twenty-seven young women were the subject matters under poverty with education as a solution, including reproductive rights and the foster care system. Both issues are incredibly important to the youth of Arizona as both aforementioned discussions continue to be contentious and under constant debate.

Following rather intriguing discussion on these topics, three Precinct Committeemen were then decided to become leads of the Judiciary, Education, and Appropriation.

Towards the end of the initial meeting and well into the second, action was affirmatively taken in the development of the party’s platform, campaigning strategies, and spirit as all delegates from each city joined one of the three sectors to develop the basis of the Federalists. Spirits appeared to be high as the Precinct Committeemen have proven themselves to be widely motivated as they journey forth into the elections.

Common consensus prior to the general party meetings proves that the future looks bright for the Federalist Party of 2024 as they tackle fundamental issues which plague the minds of every Girls State citizen. Delegates from the Nationalist Party’s committee have positive expectations and optimistic high hopes, but as we move forward through the upcoming week, one can imagine that all we will end up seeing is Red.

# Thoughts in the city

**BY JAMIE JORDAN**  
 Manzanita City Reporter

The city is finding spirit in their new styles. Manzanita has continued the tradition of picking a yearly theme. They decided to go with a cute and family friendly design of Disney’s Monster’s Inc. they have the Manzanita Hardscrabble Park, Mike’s movie theater, Monsters Market, the Manzanita Monsters “liscary” and so many more.

This city is more like a town as it is tight knit in these ideas and plans. We hope to see this tradition in the future with the same creativity and gusto as the 2024 Manzanita city.

The Mayor Evelyn Frost is proud of the community being built with courageous hearts. The council women of this town are already working together to put together a city book in hopes of fulfilling the role of being capital of the state.



**Arizona Girls State Picture Show**

Be a part of the Arizona Girls State Slide Show by sending us your **selfies, group pics and all out fun times!**

Email to [photos@azgirlsstate.com](mailto:photos@azgirlsstate.com)

# Party Chants

BY JADE NAVARRO  
Palo Verde City Reporter

Today on June 3rd at around 8:30 P.M the girls separated into their parties that they were assigned to. Nationalists on one side while federalists on the

other.

Here we can see the nationalist ladies practicing their chants uniting into one voice to show they are the best party each showing their loyalty to their party which each voice you hear chant. Eventually

these girls go head on to face the federalist party going toe to toe chanting at each other trying to claim title of best party. The main patio filling with the voices and excitement of each girl showing their support for their party.

## Splish Splash, Pish Posh: The Posh Pirates of Pinon

BY NIDHI ACHANTA  
AND MIA ESHELMAN  
Pinon City Reporters

After only a 30-minute city hall meeting at 8:15 am the residents of the city of Pinon decided on the theme “the Posh Pirates of Pinon.” Beating out other theme contenders: Princesses of Pinon, Penguins of Pinon, and the Minions of Pinon.

The girls of the city compromised incorporating a princessy aspect to the theme; a tiara on the skull of our pirate seal. It’s been only 8 hours since deciding a theme but the

residents of Pinon have already done a substantial amount of work.

With three doors being fully decorated and the other 8 in progress, the crafting room has been left a rainbow-colored disaster waiting for someone with the courage to clean it up.

The girls of Pinon split the rooms labeling them with the essential aspects that a city needs to function. Our very own Sailor School and Looting Library are complemented by the Modiste and Queen Charlotte’s Candy Shop.

The Mermaid Market’s very own Leon,

Mia says, “It’s GOATed.” Which sums up a good deal of the Pinon resident’s room designing experience.

The Apothecary’s Kaplan, Carly speaks on the timelapse we made while decorating calling it a “satisfying end, to a hard-working day!”

Overall June 3rd started our first morning of Girl State with the solemn sounds of knocks on our doors by our resident roosters and ended with us sweaty from the human knot with our sister cities Juniper and Palo Verde.



# Girls State Senators Visit

BY GWEN CARTER

Juniper City Reporter

Today at Girls State we had the pleasure of hearing from Starry Hopkins and Paris Long, the two amazing senators that were chosen last year to be a part of Girls Nation.

This is a great accomplishment, in that only two get chosen out of the multitude of talented young ladies that attend. This was extra special for me because one of these young ladies, Starry Hopkins, is from my very own school.

When I saw the way, she lit up talking about her experience here I knew I had to experience it for myself. She not only encouraged me to attend Girls State but to

run for mayor of my city, Juniper. Thanks to her encouragement I am now the Mayor of my city!

I deeply enjoyed hearing of both these ladies' experience at Girls Nation. Learning about their adventures through the capital was amazing, from meeting our senators to exploring the monuments of D.C.

After hearing their testimonies, I am certainly considering of applying for Girls Nation, even though I did not even consider it before. These girls have both been true role models and I hope to accomplish as much as they did while here.

(Left to right) Michelle Afoniou, Starry Hopkins, Gwen Carter. (Photo courtesy Gwen Carter)



# Party Rally: Nationalists Hit the Ground Running

BY EMILIA KIM AND ELENA YINH

Sycamore City Reporters

In the words of Howard Zinn, "The history of social change is the history of millions of actions, small and large, coming together at critical points to create a power..." It was by this motto the Nationalist Party was able to rally together, inciting a movement that will last throughout the week.

Yesterday, the Nationalist Party Precinct Committee worked tirelessly to compile individual perspectives to create a better Girls State future. These social changes are being brought to fruition through 3 main policies: equity in education, accessible sanitary products, and advancing women's voices. Specific policies include rehabilitation measures, the implementation of climate education, and free breakfast for all K-12 students.

Last night at the rally, the Nationalist Party showed their spirit through five unique chants including, "Nationalists stand tall and true for our home land: red, white, and blue."

Reporters Elena Yinh and Emilia Kim spoke with Elizabeth Gilbert, a Sycamore City Precinct Committeemen, who stated "The Nationalist Party acted as one. I saw teamwork, camaraderie, and sisterhood in a way I never had before."

Girls State is about creating a better society, one run by us for us. The Nationalist Party understands the importance of democracy, and clearly yesterday's rally was just the start.

Right Top, Nationalist Party rises against the Federalist Party... literally. Right Bottom, Nationalist Party Chairman (Sophia Lin), and County Chairman (Sasha Anand, Brooke, and Emilia Kim) with Nat. Spirit Committeemen leading the chants.

(Photos courtesy Emilia Kim and Elena Yinh)



# Division or Unity?



**BY MEGAN KOLISEK BLATECKY  
AND AUDRINA RODRIGUEZ**  
Saguaro City Reporters

Two parties that coincide with their own beliefs. Though in reality there is no real difference between the two parties. What makes the party stand out from one another is the way they approach their issues. If we take a deep dive into the parties and compare the given information we can find the difference is only by 20%. This slight difference divides the parties resulting in them battling out to put their members in office. In reality we get to

choose what party we vote for but in girls state the choice of party was randomly drawn. With having this situation we as delegates do not have a great as a grasp of this division between these two political parties. With this lack of understanding between the parties divisions us delegates do not see an enemy but a fellow companion who is also trying to navigate this vast world of politics.

Now through these differences between parties, beliefs and overall perspectives the girls have come together in other ways. In our cities, counties and girls state in gen-

eral there were so many ways that even in the first few days we've come together. In Saguaro city, the capital city for girls state 2024, we came together by playing uno as a group, and then later at the assembly all the cities clapped and showed respect for their representatives and opponents. We came together and ate a meal and showed our unity through cheers and chants. The week is shaping up to be extremely fun and fulfilling as each girls gets to know one another and we create our own community and form bonds.

## Congratulations City Mayors

Yesterday Arizona Girls State elected their city Mayors. It was an amazing election and cities are now starting to get moving with all elected officials planning and enacting. They are working on their budgets, ordinances and of course decorations of the city to match each individual city theme.

The elected City Mayors are:  
Cholla City - Divya Natarajan  
Palo Verde City - Brooke Waddle  
Yucca City - Nevaeh Gable  
Pinon City - Olivia Valencia  
Saguaro City - Laney Bryant  
Sycamore City - Myla Heuett  
Ocotillo City - Emma Lindsay  
Juniper City - Gwen Carter  
Manzanita City - Evelyn Frost

