

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Welcome to Northshore High!

BY HAARIKA RAAVI  
Ocotillo City Reporter

Much of the second day of Girls State had been filled with the excitement of fulfilling county and state duties, but in the city of Ocotillo there was also the completion of city decor and the proper establishment of the theme: Mean Girls. To many of the girls, this theme not only represents the iconic 2004 film Mean Girls, but they rather symbolically incorporate the film's underlying denotation of sisterhood and unity in the face of inherent division.

To begin with the entrance, as one approaches from the start of the hallway, they are warmly introduced to the city of Ocotillo with a sign that hangs from side to side, reading "Welcome to Northshore High," referencing the infamous high school which the central characters, the



A sign from the room of Brooke Thrower (Courtesy of Haarika Raavi)

Plastics and Cady Heron, attend. Then, as one progresses further, the first few rooms cover the "Plastics" of Northshore High, with an array of characters including Regina George, Gretchen Wieners, and Karen Smith.

The remainder is adorned with various city utilities and commonly found buildings or attractions, with the theme still maintained in accordance with the beauty of Mean Girls, some of which is contained below.

In Ocotillo, the spirit of the young ladies who designed the theme is appar-

ent through their indication of a cohesive display and a rather fun theme, exactly as Girls State loves to see.

Other themes in Cocopah County involve a stunning sea theme of jellyfish straight from the city of Juniper and nostalgically eye-catching decor in lieu of Monsters, Inc. from Manzanita.

Overall, the utter spirit and motivation that comes with Girls State has appeared to enrapture its citizens as we move forth through the week, with the city themes certainly bringing the absolute energy intended.



Ocotillo City's Welcome Sign.  
(Courtesy of Haarika Raavi)

# 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)



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# The Duty to Campaign

BY DAVIANA HERRERA GONZALEZ AND MUNAI BOEHM

Juniper and Yucca City Reporters

As Girls State citizens began nominations for state and county offices the importance of involving oneself in the democratic process defined itself.

Through county meetings citizens were informed of their roles and responsibilities to vote and participate within their cities, counties, and state. Being an informed voter is important since every vote is essential.

As voters we have the power to represent our values and beliefs, and enact true change. When one abstains from voting they lose the chance to truly represent the community. Furthermore, citizens involve themselves through campaigning, from posters to clever slogans and badges Girls Staters began promoting themselves and beliefs.

In an interview with a Federalist candidate for Board of Supervisors, the candidate stated that a good campaign is based on confidence, and socialization and networking skills, saying that this “makes you more likely to get elected.”

She continued on to say she makes herself memorable by talking to people and “being confident in yourself.”

A Federalist candidate running for County Attorney began her campaign by using her networking skills creating a snowball effect. This candidate emphasizes “leading with your heart,” because every opponent has a very impressive resume; this is the most effective way to be known.

Nationalist candidate for Attorney General utilizes catchy slogans, saying “Vote for Sasha cause she gotcha!” This slogan cements both the candidates energy and name for when election day arrives.

A candidate for County Recorder says a good campaign comes from utilizing her talents to successfully fulfill her role and connect with her community on the same level.

One potential House Representative advises to “get [your] voice out there, and represent your county and state.” Further, explaining how all citizens are “in this together at the end of the day, and we are women supporting women.”

Ultimately, the campaigning process has crystallized how the best candidates will always strive to represent their own values and community.

**Be sure to drink lots of water this week and stay hydrated! It is going to be hot!**



Campaign posters decorate common areas. (Submitted)



Herrera Gonzalez Daviana next to her campaign poster. (Submitted)



Girls state citizens practice interpersonal and networking skills. (Submitted)



# Rallies, sister cities and ranch

BY SIANNA DAVIS  
Manzanita City Reporter

## Daily News

### Starlit Rallies

Under the stars, the Girls State federalist and nationalist parties gather in their respected groups for a night to be remembered.

Led by the spirit line, the federalist and nationalist parties chant the night away with classic and modern chants.

Marching towards each other, the federalist and nationalist meet in the middle for a chanting battle that challenges the commitment and support within each party.



A crowd of federalist herd together in hopes of a successful rally. (Submitted)

After the Rally, the girls leave for their sister city meetings, where they get together to meet other girls and work on interpersonal skills. The heightened energy from the rally and the sister city meeting left a lasting impression on everyone. Even in the quiet night, the sound of patriotism echoed through the streets of the University.

### Sisters In the city

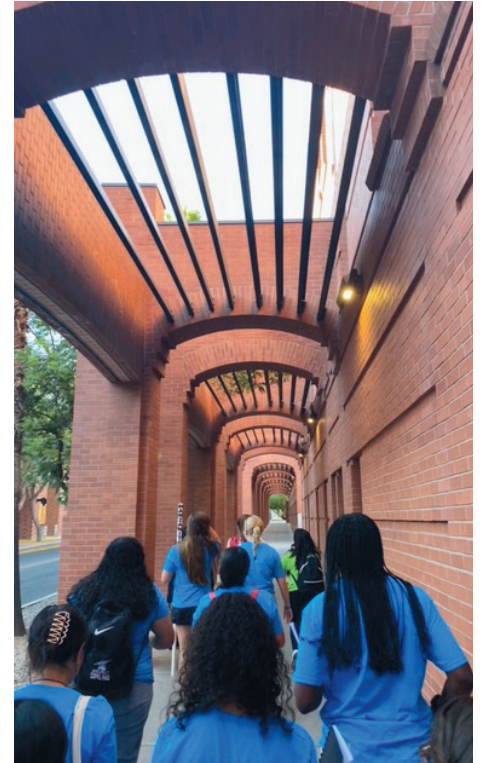
After the Party rallies the citizens met with their neighboring cities to get to know one another. The groups played various games with different objectives to learn more about their future candidates and competitors.

A citizen of Manzanita city says her favorite game was telephone. This game was a favorite for many from the sister meeting with cities Manzanita, Yucca, and Saguaro. With so many people in one space, the girls lined the walls down the hallway and whispered a phrase in each other's ears until the last person stood up and recited the phrase. The game was one of many that lead to a successful and fun "Sister Cities" night.

## Funny News

### What's in the ranch?

When joining the program, the last thing the Girls State citizens considered was the food, but to their surprise one particular item has caught a lot of attention. The Girls State ranch served at the lunches and dinner has already become an infamous part of Girls State. Girls from different cities have shared their love for the ranch! A citizen in Ocotillo shared «I was wondering what



Manzanita city going on one of their walks to the science hall to learn about government. (Submitted)

made the salad so good and it was not the veggies, so it had to be the salad dressing". Others from Manzanita shared "we love the ranch, it's so good".

The ranch has even sparked debates among the citizens of Manzanita, allowing for a peculiar ice breaker among the group. The tasty salad dressing has become very popular among the citizens and has made its mark on Girls State.

# Yuccans Flock to The Polls

BY MUNAI BOEHM,  
ROSAXARY GARCIA ROJAS AND  
DAVIANA HERRERA GONZALEZ  
Yucca and Juniper City Reporters

The first morning of Girls State got off on a strong foot. Within the city level Yucca City elected our wonderful mayor Neveah Gable, and amazing councilwomen Andrea Atrega, Elizabeth Treynor, Camille Hawkins, and Rosaxary Garcia Rojas. With Juniper City swearing in Gwen Carter as mayor.

Much like in the energetic party meeting

tonight, it looks like the Nationalists have the upper hand. Our mayor comes to office with an overflowing heart and eagerness to engage every citizen. Stating her dream is for every citizen to have a job they truly enjoy.

Within the halls of Yucca City citizens became busy, working closely with their neighbors and roommates to decorate doors and allow the city to flourish. Further emphasizing the relationship in which a mayor needs her city as much as they need her.

Supai and Cocopah counties together

kept the energy flowing, attending meetings, being sworn in, and collaborating with other counties. The culmination of the day came in the evening when counties converged to better understand each other and the sisterhood we are in. This event truly educated the citizens of Girls State on the importance of knowing thy neighbor.

When one has talked, laughed, debated, and disagreed they understand each other at a level incomparable. It is only with this understanding that miscommunication and disorder are avoided.

# 'I would hope to bring my stuff back'

## Three interviews with Arizona Girls State Citizens on their perceptions of the Girls State Store

BY ELEANOR ACKLEY

Ocotillo City Reporter

During the day on June 3rd, Arizona Girls State Citizens were allowed to visit and purchase items from the Girls State Store. The store had a large amount of products to choose from.

On the morning of June 4th, 2024, I interviewed several students on their experiences at the Girls State Store. I interviewed Emma Lindsay, Avery Jackson, and Brooklyn Finney. They explain the supplies that they need and what they purchased.

**Hi, thank you so much for agreeing to talk with me today. Please state your name, what city you live in, and what high school you go to.**

"My name is Emma Lindsay and I live in Tucson, Arizona and I go to Catalina Foot-hills High School."

**What city are you in at Arizona Girls State?**

"Ocotillo."

**Are you enjoying your time in your city?**

"I'm having a lot of fun in my city, actually."

**In your opinion, what supplies are absolutely necessary for Arizona Girls State?**

"What supplies? I think comfortable walking shoes...lots of water. I was at the store yesterday and that ice drink hit the spot. So, those are my...picks."

**How did you use these necessary supplies?**

"Just to stay comfortable while I was here at Girls State and to make my time more comfortable, so."

**Are there any supplies that you didn't bring that you wish you had?**

"That's a good question. I wish I brought more sunscreen because I'm almost out, but it's okay."

**Did you buy any items at the Arizona Girls State Store? If you did, what items did you purchase?**

"I bought an ice drink and I bought some Girls State merch. So, I bought like the... AZ Girls State makeup bag and two of the stickers."

**Have you used these items?**

"...I drank the drink yesterday."

**Finally, will you be bringing these items to Arizona Girls State next year? Are**

**you considering coming back to Girls State next year as a Junior Counselor or the Governor?**

"Well, okay, so I'm Mayor, so I'm not able to run for Governor or Secretary of State. But, if I am possibly selected for Girls Nation, then I will definitely be back next year."

**Hi, thank you so much for agreeing to talk with me today. Please state your name, what city you live in, and what high school you go to.**

"I'm Avery Jackson. I'm in Piñon City and I go to Higley High School in Gilbert."

**What city are you in at Arizona Girls State?**

"I'm in Piñon"

**Are you enjoying your time in your city?**

"Yes."

**In your opinion, what supplies are absolutely necessary for Arizona Girls State?**

"Snacks."

**How did you use these necessary supplies?**

"I ate them."

**Are there any supplies that you didn't bring that you wish you had?**

"I forgot a washcloth and, so, maybe having that next time around would be nice because I forgot that."

**Did you buy any items at the Arizona Girls State Store? If you did, what items did you purchase?**

"I bought a lot. I bought a charm, I bought the graduation sash, the water bottle, and the stickers. I bought three snacks and probably some other stuff that I'm forgetting about."

**Have you used these items?**

"Yes."

**Finally, will you be bringing these items to Arizona Girls State next year? Are you considering coming back to Girls State next year as a Junior Counselor or the Governor?**

"Undecided. And if I did come back, I would hope to bring my stuff back, yes."

**Hi, thank you so much for agreeing to talk with me today. Please state your name, what city you live in, and what high school you go to.**

"My name is Brooklyn Finney...I go to Buckeye and I go to Buckeye Union High

School."

**What city are you in at Arizona Girls State?**

"Piñon."

**Are you enjoying your time in your city?**

"Yes, I am."

**In your opinion, what supplies are absolutely necessary for Arizona Girls State?**

"I would say...well, I guess, this isn't like a physical supply, but having a lot of compassion for the people around you, as well as patience because a lot of people, y'know, they're here for the same reason as you. Y'know, they wanna be able to have a fun experience, but you have to have that patience and also the drive to do it or else you won't have a fun time."

**How did you use these necessary supplies?**

"...I was able to use these by being able to communicate with my teammates... and being able to, like, expressing just my voice so we can get further with...whatever we're doing."

**Are there any supplies that you didn't bring that you wish you had?**

"...Bring lots of construction paper. Luckily, we had some given to us, but make sure you do that. Also, scissors. And if you see like a lot of the girls are decorating their doors, so, maybe, like fun little... pieces of paper."

**Did you buy any items at the Arizona Girls State Store? If you did, what items did you purchase?**

"Yes, they're kind of miscellaneous. I got...lip balm because there's like so many different flavors, so that was cool. I got like a bracelet...a chain. And then, also, I got a stoll, but that's coming in the mail, so."

**Have you used these items?**

"Not yet...I just don't use items for a while to, like, appreciate them, I guess."

**Finally, will you be bringing these items to Arizona Girls State next year? Are you considering coming back to Girls State next year as a Junior Counselor or the Governor?**

"...Yes, I definitely have that in mind. I feel like it's such a great opportunity to not only help staff because they already have so much going on, but as well as the students, like Girls who are interested in it, just to see. Let's just see."



# A Day in the Life of a Mayor

BY DIVYA NATARAJAN  
AND MYA VILLALBA  
Cholla City Reporters

Recently, I was elected the Mayor of Cholla City and I am very excited to start my term! So far, I have been able to engage in the voting and election process in many ways.

First off, I was able to speak at the primary and general election to secure my seat for Mayor. During my speech, I tried to focus on issues that I felt were of the utmost importance to me and the other girls in the city.

After being elected, I got to run my first meeting and an orientation later that day. During my first meeting, I was able to create two committees for zoning and budgeting. Later, I learned the importance of communication and organization as I appointed people to city roles and responsibilities for the city binder.

While this week goes on, I will continue to provide a diligent effort to be as organized and effective as possible. I am very excited to see what this week has in store!

## Q&A with the Mayor:

Coming into Girls state, did you expect to get mayor? If so, what made you so

confident you were going to secure that position?

Coming into Girls State, I knew I wanted to have a leadership role. I decided to read the handbook and look through the duties and that was when I landed on the role of Mayor. I enjoyed the duties and the involvement that I would have with my city. I got the opportunity to speak with a lot of girls in our city, so knowing what they wanted made me more confident in being their leader.

**Why are you choosing to get super involved while being here? Given that most people are just here because it looks good on college applications.**

I am choosing to get involved here because this is a great opportunity and I want to learn more about the procedures of our government at both a state and city level. I think that the local government provides an important foundation that is often overlooked, and as Mayor I am excited to explore that.

Additionally, I hope to run for Girls Nation and represent issues that are near and dear to myself- such as financial literacy!

**Do you plan on using the skills that you've learned and gained from this**



Divya Natarajan, Mayor of Cholla City. (Submitted)

**experience in your future occupation?**

I really want to get involved in law in the future, so I plan to also be in Speech and Debate and do Congressional Debate, which is essentially where we simulate the Senate floor and debate legislation. I really love this form of debate and I hope to apply these skills more as the week goes on.

# May the race begin

BY AUDRINA RODRIGUEZ  
Saguaro City Reporter

The Nats and Feds meet in their respected courthouses to discuss county and state positions. Eager hands raise to claim a spot in this vast political race.

Many sit and observe as only a few are ready to run this race. These few girls have an assertiveness to them. They are ready to

fight for their desired positions.

The race begins at 8:30 pm sharp on June 4th, 2024 on the patio. Every candidate is thrown into this melting pot made up of all the cities and counties. Here the candidates social networking skills will be tested.

Each day the race is going to get tougher. To keep up in this race you are going to need an abundance of signatures, posters, and handouts. The main goal is to spread

your name as far as it can go.

The toughest part of this race is getting people to remember your name. Best way to do this is nailing your first impressions as this is what people truly remember you by. Do something remarkable something memorable, so people know your name.

Say your name loud and proud. Good luck to all candidates running in the Girls State political race. May the memorable win.





# Flag retirement: Main courtyard state gathering

BY JADE NAVARRO

Palo Verde City Reporter

Today on June 4 at 6:22 pm all the county's got together to watch the color guard retire the colors. All the girls gathered by city and respectfully observed and paid respect to the retiring of the flags while reciting the pledge of allegiance.

A bit of fun while waiting for flag to get started. (Submitted)



# Let the Campaigns Begin!

BY MIKAELA GARCIA

Palo Verde City Reporter

On the third official day of Girls State we once again saw our sisters put their best foot forward in an effort to not only get the word of their campaign out there, but to also get to know how their fellow members of Girls State are running things.

In the days following, girls were told the exciting news of the eventual county and state elections, and Tuesday was finally the day to start planning for them!

After a hearty breakfast and wonderful inspiring speech from Ms Lisa Matthews, citizens of Cocopah, Kaibab, and Supai listened attentively to their County Advisors as they explained the many important duties of County and State offices.

While the advisors were giving their explanations and instructions, the cogs in the minds of our girls were starting to turn faster and faster. Eventually we had girls deciding to run either for the great positions in their counties, or the challenge of running for a state position.

Immediately people got to work, doing



their absolute best to compose the most creative and memorable ways to grab our attention and tell the campus "vote for me!"

And as the sun set, the brightest minds only shined brighter. Posters were set up left and right, all while we continued to

practice our interpersonal skills.

Good luck to all that are running for office! And may your gifts show through during the elections! Oh but don't be scared, we're Girls State! That means we all got this.