

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Talent show success

BY JADE NAVARRO

Palo Verde City Reporter

After a long week of campaigning and speakers and practicing interpersonal skills the girls get to finally cool off and watch their fellow ladies show off their skills.

Auditions for the talent show were held earlier this week and each girl presented their unique talents from violin playing, singing, dancing to drill and horse back riding!

It was a great night for the ladies the auditorium filled with cheer from every county supporting each girls as they finished up their acts



## Share your city pride at Girls State

BY MIKAELA GARCIA

Palo Verde City Reporter

When it comes to sisterhood, let's just say Girls State has it in the bag. As we approach our final days of the program, we are able to see just how strong the relationships we have formed with one another is.

May your bonds with one another continue to grow even long after the program ends, and may the memories you have made along the way last you a lifetime. While the stress and work dies down, our pride for our cities, counties, and state as a whole begins to roar and roar louder and louder.

Let us take a look at the hard working city of Palo Verde for an example. Every one of their citizens will be found sporting

a fashionable green friendship bracelet to express their love and connections with one another.

You will also find several of their citizens rocking beautiful braided beads in their hair, everyone is completely beaded out! This is just two simple ways a city can show off their pride, how does your city show off yours? Do you cheer every time a citizen of your city does something awesome? Do you take commemorative photos to remember these precious moments?

Well however you show off your pride, remember, we are all family here at Girls State!



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# The End of Beginning

BY SIANNA DAVIS  
 Manzanita City Reporter

## That's a wrap

As the citizens of Girls State finish their last two days of the program, there is a shared bitter-sweet feeling. The memories made during the trip are special to those who experienced the environment and events held within Girls State.

The girls of all cities and counties learned a lot of information from the guest speakers, advisors, and the girls within their dorms.

Mealtimes were a place to practice interpersonal skills and elections were competitive and fun processes every girl enjoyed.

As the end of the program nears, the girls talk about their future careers. Many Girls State participants plan to become government officials or study political science. Others plan to use the knowledge they gained from the program in their own respective careers.

## Home away from home

As a Manzanita reporter, I would like to say that my time in Manzanita city was remarkable. Through ups and downs and only seven days, the city and the citizens within it became a second home for many of the girls including me.

The walks we walked, connections we made, and smiles we shared, will be held in all of our hearts. As we head to talent night, I can speak for Manzanita when I say, every girl is talented and has so much potential for success.



First group photo of Manzanita City. (Submitted)

This may be the end of Girls State, but it is the beginning of many opportunities and careers. One thing that has stuck with me, is that there is a benediction after every meeting.

With this knowledge I present to you a song by Joe Keery, the inspiration of this article," another version of me, I was in it. I wave goodbye to the end of beginning"; and on behalf of Manzanita city, this meeting is dismissed.



Latest group photo of Manzanita City. (Submitted)

# A Base for Building Relationships

BY HAARIKA RAAVI  
Ocotillo City Reporter

At the start of this 77th session of Arizona Girls State, the delegates entering the program were told by a notable guest speaker that the key to aiming far in a campaign, and subsequently achieving that goal, is to build relationships. As the group nears the end of our stay at the University of Arizona in Tucson, one must simply admit that the relationships built here have grown to be immensely strong.

Through interviews with two different delegates, the first being Paola Suarez from Cholla City and the second being Selma Lijan from Ocotillo City, this reporter was able to come to the certain conclusion that although the collective group may be embarking on different paths, Girls State as a program has shaped our futures like never before.

First, let us peer into some insight from Paola Suarez, the aforementioned interviewee, who served her highest position as her county's Clerk of the Superior Court.

## What school do you come from, Paola?

Suarez: I come from Kofa High School, it's in Yuma, Arizona.

## We learned a lot about building relationships earlier this week. How do you think that the relationships you have built this week will impact your life going forward?

Suarez: I think the fact that we have such a short amount of time here and we've already gotten so close, in such a few, like such a few amount of days, I think that just shows that [...] all of the obstacles that we put in front of ourselves, out in the world where we have as much time as possible to build relationships, are nothing. You can get so close to someone in a day, like my roommate, we met on the first day and we were talking the whole day.

## That's sweet! How do you think that the experiences that you have had here at Girls State will impact your future- your career path or your life in general?

Suarez: So I think just being here and realizing... first you get so nervous about all the speeches, and the elections, and the campaigns, but it's all fake. Like this entire thing is fake, so just remembering that makes you more confident.

So you can put that into the real world and say, like, no one's going to remember if you stutter in your speech or something, so just go for it.

## That's a really good point. [...] What's your plan for your career path in the future? Has Girls' State impacted that in any way?

Suarez: Honestly, I had little to no knowledge on the government before coming here, and at first, I was like "I just want to go to get the experience" and you know, it's important to be an informed person when you get to voting and stuff.

So I was never interested in government as a career, and now it's like, it's interesting so now I'll look into it. But, before that, like now, I'm still thinking about the psychiatry field. And it still applies, you know? [...]

You still have to think about how people think, and how to target a certain audience or a certain demographic. So it tied it back together.

Next spoken to was Selma Lijan, another interviewee whose highest position was at the county level, with the role of County Director of Juvenile Detention Center.

## So what's your name and what city are you from?

Lijan: Hi, my name is Selma Lijan and I come from Ocotillo City, and I'm also from Peoria.

## What high school do you go to?

Lijan: I go to Ironwood High School.

## How do you think that the relationships that you built at Girls State, whether they be with your friends from high school or new girls that you've met, are going to impact you going forward?

Lijan: So I honestly truly love the friends

that I made here, and the friends that I have from my high school, and I feel like in the future, we will definitely meet a lot and we'll definitely get a little bit closer.

I mean, we still have our group chat and stuff, so I hope that we'll be able to meet up every once and a while and have fun, y'know? So, yeah, I feel like we'll still be friends in the future.

## And how do you think that the experiences that you've had at Girls State will impact your future? Whether that be in your career or just many friendships, or other things like that?

Lijan: ...throughout Girls State, I learned how to be a lot more open and a lot less reserved. I'm more of a reserved type of person, so like, I feel like towards the future and my future careers and goals like those, I feel like I would be more open to people and try to get to know them more, so it won't be awkward at first, and more like friends immediately.

## What are you thinking about for your career path? Has Girls' State helped with that, or do you think it's...?

Lijan: Yeah, so my future career will be somewhere in the medical field. And honestly, Girls State does not really help with it, but I did learn lots of new abilities like leadership, teamwork, and stuff like that, so I feel like that personality-wise, that would help with my medical career. But other than that, government doesn't help my medical path.

Conclusively, the consensus is that although not each and every 2024 delegate plans on entering the government, this week long session has still managed to make a lifelong impact on those who attended it.

Knowledge of teamwork, leadership skills, and the governmental process will follow them as they continue on their own journeys, effectively meaning that the futures of the state of Arizona and the United States of America are one step closer to continuance of its honor and greatness.

**Congratulations Delegates on an amazing week at Girls State!**

# Sisterhood and makeup

BY AUDRINA RODRIGUEZ  
Saguaro City Reporter

**W**e women live in a man's world. Our society fights against us by slowly stripping away our rights. The rights us women have worked so hard to protect and keep.

Being placed in this situation we women must stick together by supporting one another. The connections between us ladies is an undeniable bond even if we find each other annoying sometimes.

Our stay at University of Arizona

is coming to an end much faster than expected. At first we were strangers but the few clicks we made with our fellow citizens will always be memorable. We have only known each other for a week but it feels as if it's a lifetime.

I myself have been staying up late giggling with my roommate over the most random stuff ever. My roommate also took the initiative to teach me about makeup. I have never been the one to wear makeup but have been dying to learn how to do it. Though why have I not asked my mom to

show me? Well she does not know much about these things either other than the basics, and is not the best teacher.

What I have learned from my roommate is how to curl my lashes. Soon two other girls were crowding around me trying to teach me to curl my lashes. I have never curled my lashes before as I only put on mascara.

After a few attempt, I eventually got it and my lashes were looking good! It has been a long and emotional week, but these bonds make it all worth it in the end.

