

Arizona Girls State Independent



June 3, 2024 • Volume 15, Issue 1 • Tucson, Arizona

Girls State is more than just learning

BY MRS. MEAD
AZGS Managing Editor

Welcome to the 77th 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 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 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 do hope that you consider each experience a stepping stone for your future.

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 fun and 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 cornhole games, chess games, volleyball and much more for leisure time!

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

There will be a talent show held on Friday evening. A fun way for each of you

to show off your talent. Please keep an eye out for the sign up sheet outside of the Directors Office.

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 Saturday!! 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.

B's Stop & Shop!!

B's Stop & Shop is our official Arizona Girls State Store. They have so much to offer, from t-shirts, blankets, stickers, cards, snacks, key chain accessories, 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 throughout the week..

WELCOME TO GIRLS STATE!!

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is published daily by
 American Legion Auxiliary
 Arizona Girls State
 Penny Maklary, Director
 Shannon Mead, Managing Editor

2024 Girls State Reporters
 Mikaela Garcia - Palo Verde
 Jade Navarro - Palo Verde
 Gwen Carter - Juniper
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 Eleanor Ackley - Ocotillo
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 Divya Natarajan - Cholla
 Mya Villalba - Cholla
 Sianna Davis - Manzanita
 Jamie Jordan - Manzanita
 Munai Boehm - Yucca
 Rosaxary Garcia Rojas - Yucca
 Megan Kolisek Blatecky - Saguaro
 Audrina Rodriguez - Saguaro
 Emilia Kim - Sycamore
 Elena Yinh - Sycamore
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Meet Your AZGS Reporters



Say hello to your Girls State Independent reporters. These lovely ladies will be writing articles regarding your cities during our week here at Girls State.

From Palo Verde:

Mikaela Garcia and Jade Navarro

From Juniper:

Gwen Carter & Daviana Herrera Gonzalez

From Pinon:

Nidhi Achanta and Mia Eshelman

From Ocotillo:

Eleanor Ackley and Haarika Raavi

From Cholla:

Divya Natarajan and Mya Villalba

From Manzanita:

Sianna Davis and Jamie Jordan

From Yucca:

Munai Boehm and Rosaxary Garcia Rojas

From Saguaro:

Megan Kolisek Blatecky and Audrina Rodriguez

From Sycamore:

Emilia Kim and Elena Yinh

Prepare to be entertained at the Annual Girls State Talent Show!

Do you have that one special talent that sets you apart 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!

Friday evening 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. The sign up sheet will be down on the window of office on the first floor near flag.

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. Shields in room 637 or Ms. Laughlin in room 414.



77th 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 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!

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 the store and pick up some great items, like shirts, blankets, bookmarks, stickers, snacks and of course WATER!!!

After the bank it was off to yet another room where you were greeted by 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.

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 get those new beautiful blue colored shirts that will tell everyone on campus that WE ARE GIRLS STATE in a sea of beautiful blue. 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 our amazing junior counselors who helped get you headed to your new city.

Here you were greeted by your City advisor as well as your new city citizens. Remember that you will be with these ladies 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 4:30pm in the Great room 140. 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 314.

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



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

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 Daniela Putu-Kang and Secretary of State Paris Long. 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 our County advisors 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.

Following the amazing flag presentation we enjoyed an amazing presentation from 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.

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.

Next we had greetings from two of our state government officials. Senator Sinema was gracious and excited to welcome you all here and wishing you a great week.

Senator Kelly reminded all of us how far women have come in politics and how great it is to see the accomplishments and

legacies being made.

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

We started with our very own Arizona Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes. He gave us a great presentation on the function of political parties. 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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‘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)



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Aurdrina Rodriguez - Saguaro

Emilia Kim - Sycamore
Elena Yin - Sycamore

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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

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 ESELMAN
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



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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.

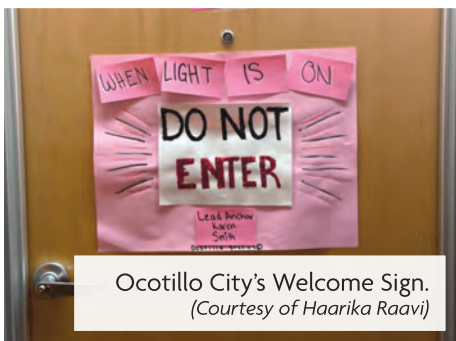
The remainder is adorned with various city utilities and commonly found buildings or attractions, with the theme still maintained in accordance with the beauty of Mean Girls, some of which is contained below.

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
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Show by sending us your
**selfies, group pics and
all out fun times!**

Email to photos@azgirlsstate.com

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 crystalized 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

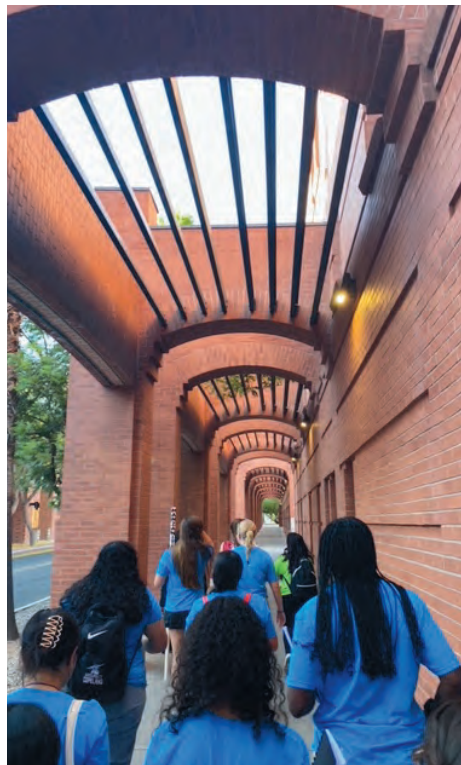
After the Party rallies the citizens met with their neighboring cities to get to know one another. The groups played various games with different objectives to learn more about their future candidates and competitors.

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 led 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.

Arizona Girls State Independent



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The Treasure that is Inspiration

BY MIKAELA GARCIA

Palo Verde City Reporter

Wednesday afternoon Girls State was blessed with a visit by a lady who needs no introduction. Girls State 2024 welcomes alumni and official Arizona State Treasurer Kimberley Yee to speak to our girls about the government and her place in said government throughout the years.

Mrs. Yee has been a guest speaker in years prior, but as time goes on it only becomes more special that she has dedicated herself to inspiring the next generation of young intelligent women into not only politics but also leadership.

Her connection with Girls State runs much farther than just being a guest speaker, because as previously mentioned, Kimberley Yee is actually a previous attendee of the program, so being able to return has been an honor of the highest degree.

It's not just her that is a previous Girls State attendee, but also her own mother and other bright relatives who found themselves immersed in the program. Yup, this program has been around for a long time!

During the wonderful speech Yee provided, our sisters were able to find themselves in her journey of what has led her



to the position of Arizona State Treasurer. Women are able to inspire each other in amazing ways, and Yee's speech captured the hearts of many.

When the speech reached its end, Kimberley Yee informed the girls of a scholarship that they can apply for and earn \$529 in scholarship money for. So if you're

interested, make sure to enter the "My Picture-Perfect Career" photo contest by June 9th by 11:59 p.m. (MST).

All you need to do is make sure you fit the requirements, and take a picture of yourself as your future career. Best of luck to all who enter, to a new day at Girls State!

The Ladies in White Shirts

BY AUDRINA RODRIGUEZ

Saguaro City Reporter

The moment we walk into Linkins Hall we are greeted by individuals wearing white shirts. They greet us with warm smiles and welcoming arms as they hold our hands through the first day as they teach us what we should expect to come during Girls State.

Miss L., the advisor of our Capital City,

Saguaro City, was roped into Girls State by her mother. Miss L. started out being part of the support staff.

In the beginning Miss L. struggled a little bit in keeping up with the rest of the staff though soon realized she was capable of more. Once Miss L. became an advisor the laughs and giggles were music to her ears.

One year one of her delegates ran for

Secretary of State and won. This delegate came up to Miss L. and said to her "Miss L. there is no telling what else I could do because I never saw myself running for something big and getting it. What else is there?"

This memory is glued to Miss L.'s brain as Girls State is a program that pushes young women to discover who they are as people.

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‘Words are literally a double-edged sword’:

Two interviews with Arizona Girls State Citizens on their perceptions of how words impact people

BY ELEANOR ACKLEY
Ocotillo City Reporter

On June 4th, 2024, this reporter made an effort to get to know the people in her city and strengthen her interpersonal skills. So, I asked several people what their favorite word in the English language would be. I received several unique answers. This idea inspired the interviews I conducted on the morning of June 5th. I interviewed Selma Lijan and Emerson Miller. They explain their opinions on the impact of words, particularly at Arizona Girls State.

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.

“So, my name is Selma Lijan. I live in Peoria and I go to Ironwood High School...”

What city are you in at Arizona Girls State?

“I’m in Ocotillo City.”

What is your favorite word in the English language? Why?

“My favorite word in the English language would have to be café and I honestly just really like that word because of the aesthetic or the vibe it brings. It gives out like a brown vibe. It’s just...kinda comforting. I like always sitting in cafes as well.”

Do you believe that words have an impact on peoples’ perceptions?

“Yes, I believe that words do have an impact and, y’know sometimes, I don’t remember who it was during Arizona Girls State, but they said that ‘Words are literally a double-edged sword’...They either bring pain or bring happiness upon people and it just depends on what people I guess think of that word as well.”

Specifically for Arizona Girls State, do you believe that the speeches told by County and State Candidates will impact who you vote for?

“...I feel like...they wouldn’t really impact who I vote for as...I feel most people are very...They’re telling their...what they would be doing. It’s more of like the actions that they would do, y’know? So one can say whatever they want, but it’s more of what they do to prove what I must do to get their vote...Or, I mean, to give my vote to people, right.”

Lastly, are you going to present a speech in front of Arizona Girls State?

“No, I’m not really planning to present a speech

in front of Arizona Girls State but...y’know, because I’ve already taken up positions in my own city. So I feel like I should just stay within the city just to keep it simple for me...”

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.

“Hello, my name is Emerson Miller and I’m in Yucca City and I go to Chaparral High School.”

What city are you in at Arizona Girls State?

“Yucca City.”

What is your favorite word in the English language? Why?

“My favorite word in the English language has to be...I’d say huzzah because it’s just one of those words that when you say it it’s just a good word. Like, it’s just peppy. It brings people love. I love it.”

Do you believe that words have an impact on peoples’ perceptions?

“Absolutely. Words...dictate...The way you use your words and the way you speak not only in your tone and how you present yourself while you’re speaking, but also what you’re saying can have such a big impact on so many people. Whether they’re the ones receiving the news or what you’re saying or whether you hear it from somebody else, words are our most useful weapon and our most dangerous weapon. And it is something...that is both very beautiful and can be amazing and something that can harm a lot of people.”

Specifically for Arizona Girls State, do you believe that the speeches told by County and State Candidates will impact who you vote for?

“Yes. I try to, as much as we love to make friends and stuff, especially when it comes to voting. Whether that’s for a club, Girls State... positions at school... anything like that, I always try to be impartial beforehand. Where I love seeing the signs, I love meeting the candidates, but, honestly, the speeches have the most impact on me. If you have a better speech than somebody else, I’m gonna vote for you. Or if your speeches convince me, yeah, I’m gonna vote for you!”

Lastly, are you going to present a speech in front of Arizona Girls State?

“Yes, I am. I’m running for...Supai County Sheriff, so I will be giving a speech today.”

Bright futures ahead

BY MEGAN KOLISEK BLATECKY
Saguaro City Reporter

June fifth started off with our county and state speakers campaigning, and all the girls did absolutely amazing. The amount of enthusiasm and support after everyone spoke truly showed just how much of a community has formed here in the span of a few days.

The presentations before lunch of grace are so diverse and through the differences in belief we all come together to create an



amazing and inclusive place for everyone.

After the rally the night before there was an environment of mutual respect and it really allowed everyone to showcase who they were and what they wanted for Girls State. So many perspectives and ways of thinking were shared and even though not everyone agreed, the discussions were beneficial and respectful.

These girls have the tact and ability to voice their opinions without needing to resort to yelling or insults, and these are the type of people we really need in our political system.

During the speeches the girls were given a limited amount of time and they used every second to advocate for themselves and every presentation was unique.

Many had extraordinary academics and achievements and others were so passionate they had others in the audience wanting to join in.



The various perspectives and bills proposed showcased just how much diversity in thinking we have gathered at girls state. Overall every single competitor was respectful and anyone can see just how wonderful our futures look with these girls representing us.

Breaking Barriers: Meeting the Arizona State Treasurer

BY DIVYA NATARAJAN
Cholla City Reporter

On June 5th, we had the honor of listening to a former Girls State Delegate and current State Treasurer Kimberly Yee. Her journey started in 2010 when she was elected as the first Asian American woman in the Arizona House of Representatives.

Kimberly Yee is someone I look up to because of her determination, commitment to public service, and respectfulness. Kim-

berly Yee has had her fair share of trials and tribulations, but it is her resilience that I admire.

Her first government job was transcribing official minutes of state board of education meetings. She often described this job as tedious and challenging; however, her determination allowed her to rise up the ranks. Additionally, she faced discrimination due to her age and gender, but that didn't stop her from standing her ground.

I also commend her work in personal

finance as Treasurer Yee appointed Arizona's first-ever task force on financial literacy with the goal of making sure that all Arizonans have basic money management skills.

This is an issue that I am very passionate about and it is one that I aim to help curb in Arizona. Having basic finance skills is vital for everyone in all careers and I enjoy seeing Treasurer Yee's work and how much progress she has made.

Remember to stay hydrated this week as it will be hot!

Girls Nation Candidates: the Future of Our Country

BY HAARIKA RAAVI
Ocotillo City Reporter

With new generations, change is bound to envelop the future of the United States, for better or for worse. Luckily, programs like Arizona Girls State offer great insight as to the ideas and ideals that are present in the minds of plenty of young leaders, whether these topics range from technological safety to healthcare equality.

This reporter decided to peer into the ideas of a Girls Nation candidate, one amongst all those who are more than qualified to head to Washington, D.C. in July, representing the state of Arizona with pride and ambition.

Although this interview was taken before the results of the primary election for Girls Nation, it is safe to say that all candidates' campaigns are of the highest degree, and delegates should most certainly be acknowledged for their aspirations and noble intent.

Interviewed was Tiena Serrano, who runs under the platform of technological

safety and the necessity to protect American children.

She emphasizes the need to protect the next generations in an age during which the internet's domain grows exponentially precarious.

First off, what is your name and what city are you from?

Serrano: "My name is Tiena Serrano, and I am from Saguardo City in Kaibab County."

What school do you come from?

Serrano: "I come from Liberty High School in Peoria, Arizona"

What is your platform as you are running for Girls Nation?

Serrano: "So my platform is internet safety for youth, and I believe that we need to make social media better because [...] we as kids have seen things on the internet that have left us creating bad habits.

Like some of us doom scroll or have other addictions and toxic relationships and such, and I feel that for when we do have

kids, which is the main goal of this, is to protect our kids from all the bad things on the internet.

Social media companies are exploiting children, and that is no bueno. So yeah, we need to have better social media safety for the youth."

Why do you think that you are best fit for Girls Nation?

Serrano: "I believe that I'm best fit for Girls Nation because I believe it is an experience that I wish every one of us could experience, but I would absolutely love to go so I can really understand how our government systems work. And maybe I can learn and find my true passion, as I make a real change for the world."

Those who made the ballot as the final eight were announced just before flag, with Ocotillo's Emma Goldstein being included with her legislative aim to eliminate corporations like Collegeboard in particular, which, from her position, has an unnecessarily influential impact on students' futures.

Work and Play, A Balance

BY MEGAN KOLISEK BLATECKY
Saguardo City Reporter

As Girls State progresses more and more responsibilities are being dishd out and the stress is piling. The counties have met and positions were listed with campaigns being rolled out at full speed.

As all this chaos unfolds and everyone grasps for a hold on normalcy we can see how the balance of work and play is maintained.

All the girls around me putting up their campaigning signs and passing out flyers are doing such an amazing job and we can all see how much time it takes and dedication they all have. These future leaders are taking charge and putting aside their leisure time to campaign and support their cities. Although our schedule is jam packed, girls have taken the time to bond and make connections that will help them for years to come.



This balance between work and play is so important and I sincerely hope that all

the girls out there remember to rest and enjoy this once in a lifetime experience.

May The Best Girl Win!

BY SIANNA DAVIS
Manzanita City Reporter

Campaign Night!

The girls of Girls State entered their first day of campaigning. The exciting day consisted of county and state nominations, where the girls introduced themselves and obtained the signatures they needed.



Girls state gathers in the courtyard to campaign. (Submitted)

For a few hours, candidates in the running used a collection of art supplies and their own artistic abilities to create advertisement for the election.

The candidates filled the walls of the dorms and the outside buildings with funny taglines that caught people's attention.

At the end of the night all of the cities gathered to meet one another and share the ideas and personality traits that made their citizens great candidates for their positions.

After meeting girls from different cities, I can surely say that every candidate is capable and qualified for their potential roles. The colorful and creative posters give everyone at girls state a more comfortable and exciting environment, giving our eyes a break from the standard brick walls.

Take it from Sam!

Samantha Farbarik (Sam) shared her experience campaigning for her chance to be one of the Cocopah County Lobbyists. She says she was really excited to make the posters. Her favorite part was being able to use a variety of different colors to make each



Samantha Farbarik holding one of her campaign posters. (Submitted)

poster unique and different from the other.

She also shared that she liked creating funny and clever catchphrases and added "I especially loved using Frost's (another girl from Manzanita city) stencils".

Election Day!!! June 5th 2024

BY JADE NAVARO
Palo Verde City Reporter

Today around 9:53 in the morning each candidate says their speech for the chance to be heard and considered to be elected for the spots they ran for. All parties coming together in one room to elect the one they feel will be best fit for a state position.

See full video on the Arizona Girls State Blog.



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

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Happy “State” of Mind

BY SIANNA DAVIS

Manzanita City Reporter

The tale of two leaders

In the competitive environment of Girls State, many girls find themselves on edge with nervousness, anxiety, and excitement. In such a limited time, every girl that wishes to run must campaign and win people over with their thoughtful and passionate speeches. A job like this, is not for the weak and requires a lot of confidence and dedication.

During primary elections day, each girl spent hours campaigning and preparing to give their all. As our former Girls State Secretary revealed the names selected in the primary elections, two girls felt especially excited. Their names are Abigail and Michelle.

These two girls from Cholla city became friends in a matter of no time. They supported one another by campaigning together and spreading kindness to those who were around them.

After primary elections results, I got the chance to interview the two of them.



Abigail and Michelle smile in relief after primary elections. (Submitted)

Michelle, a candidate for governor, stated, “I feel a little more relaxed. Being selected in the primary elections gave me more confidence and encouragement to act as a leader”.

Abigail, a candidate for Secretary of State, shared, “I was nervous and scared at first, but after hearing my name, I just feel so thankful to everyone that even considered me”.

Little did these young ladies know, their dreams were not far from reach.

The following day, a roar of cheers filled the room as the Girls

State citizens clapped and cheered as Michelle and Abigail were sworn in as the official 2025 Girls State Governor and Secretary of State. The smiles on the two girls faces showcased the appreciation and gratitude towards the other members of the program.

The reveal of the election’s results stood as a remarkable moment neither of them will forget and a true testament of their hard work and passion.

What’s next?

With the reveal of the elections, the citizens of Girls State are told to focus on their city and county books. Talk of the election results appears in conversations across the dorms and the excitement only grows.

Still, a lingering nervousness resides among the girls. As activities slow down and the sky dims, the results of Girls Nation remain on the horizon.



Abigail and Michelle smile as the new Girls State Governor and Secretary of State. (Submitted)

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American Legion Auxiliary
Arizona Girls State
Penny Maklary, Director
Shannon Mead, Managing Editor

2024 Girls State Reporters

Mikaela Garcia - Palo Verde
Jade Navarro - Palo Verde

Gwen Carter - Juniper
Daviana Herrera Gonzalez - Juniper

Nidhi Achanta - Pinon
Mia Eshelman - Pinon

Eleanor Ackley - Ocotillo
Haarika Raavi - Ocotillo

Divya Natarajan - Cholla
Mya Villalba - Cholla

Sianna Davis - Manzanita
Jamie Jordan - Manzanita

Munai Boehm - Yucca
Rosaxary Garcia Rojas - Yucca

Megan Kolisek Blatecky - Saguario
Audrina Rodriguez - Saguario

Emilia Kim - Sycamore
Elena Yin - Sycamore

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Attorney General Mayes takes Girls State by storm

BY HAARIKA RAAVI
Ocotillo City Reporter

Amongst a contentious general election day, the citizens of Arizona Girls State were granted the opportunity to be in the presence of the Arizona Attorney General, Kris Mayes, who took her speech by storm as she explained her lifelong journey to becoming an elected official, the second woman Attorney General in our state. With passion and apparent genuineness, Attorney General Mayes approached the minds of so many young girls with the absolute ferocity that she holds for reproductive rights, elder affairs, and the current disputes over water for the people of Arizona. Afterwards, she took on much more interactive role as she took on questions from the reporters in the auditorium, many of which were surrounding the Attorney General Office's plans for the duration of her term in office.

As Mayes began to discuss the topics that her office approaches most fervently, she did mention many specific cases and circumstances which she had encountered during her time in office, including that which has pushed her to continually fight for the reproductive rights, most prevalently *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and the recent reappearance of the 1864 Arizona abortion ban, the latter of which was successfully repealed with H.B. 2677 only last month. Attorney General Mayes claimed with a proud stature that she would "never stop fighting for [our] reproductive rights."

In accordance with her passion for our futures as young Arizonian women, a notable statement which she had repeated remained that we, as Girls' State delegates, are the future of not only our cities and counties, but our state and great nation as well, whether we enter the field of government or any other career path. For that, she was determined to ingrain it in the minds of those present that as they approach the voting age, particularly in an election year as contentious as 2024, they should become registered voters. She emphasized the importance of voter registration, stating that from the urgency of lower-level county positions to the more contested federal ones, all be impacted by each individual vote, much like how her own election was won by about 280 votes.



Attorney General Mayes was heard telling delegates, who inquired following the allotted speaking time about when she is up for reelection, that her campaign to be reelected in 2026 will begin in 2025. In finality, the collective consensus seemed to be that the speaker's presence has made a motivational impact upon the delegates of the 2024 Arizona Girls' State session, with various reporters wholeheartedly thanking Kris Mayes for her having taken time out of her day to speak to this group.

'Being able to experience everything'

Two interviews with Arizona Girls State Citizens on their perceptions of what being a reporter is like

BY ELEANOR ACKLEY

Ocotillo City Reporter

Over the past few days at Arizona Girls State, reporters from every city have interviewed, taken pictures, and written several articles. They have helped collect information to make the blog complete. So, I wanted to know how these reporters felt about the work they were doing. I interviewed Sianna Davis and Emilia Kim on June 6th, 2024. They discuss their experiences as a reporter and how reporting will impact their future.

Hi, thank you so much for agreeing to speak with me. Please tell me your name, what city you live in, and what high school you go to.

"So, my name is Emilia Kim. I...go to Basis Oro Valley in Oro Valley, Arizona."

What Arizona Girls State City are you in?

"I'm in Sycamore City."

To start off, why did you choose to be a reporter at Arizona Girls State?

"Yeah, I think there was a lot of different things...Mainly to branch out and meet new people, but I also have a lot of experience, I think, personally, writing...I've really enjoy writing ever since I was, like, maybe, 7-ish, so I run my school's newspaper. I've entered a couple of writing competitions and really enjoyed my time there."

Have you enjoyed your experience as a reporter so far?

"Yeah, I've loved it! I've met so many new people, gotten to ask amazing questions to various, different people here at Girls State...It's been a great experience, for sure."

What is your favorite task to do as a reporter?

"...Definitely talking to people...I love

to yapp, I love to just talk about current world affairs...I was given a...New York Times subscription for my birthday and, so, I've taken a lot of inspiration from some of my favorite reporters that work at the New York Times...Just being able to connect with people."

What is your least favorite task to do as a reporter?

"...I don't know if I necessarily have a least favorite. I think...there are up sides and down sides to talking to people a lot. I've run into conflicts...about political ideology, run into conflicts about communication...So, there are definitely tensions, but being over to overcome them is a big part of being a reporter."

For the past few days, you have written several articles. Which one of your articles is your favorite? Why?

"My favorite article...Definitely, I wrote one article about the Nationalist Party and the rally that we did on...Tuesday. So, the Tuesday rally was definitely one of my favorites. I got to talk to a bunch of different people. We had just an amazing time. It was definitely hectic, definitely crazy, but there was so much excitement and energy, especially since it was so early on in the week."

Are you going to use the skills you gained as a reporter in Arizona Girls State in your real life or career?

"Yes! Definitely...Specifically, I learned a lot about communication, I learned a lot about tensions, about political tensions, especially. I come from a really small school where a lot of us hold the same political ideologies and coming to Girls State has definitely broadened...the experiences and stories that I...A lot of people have shared very specific stories and experiences that I've never had before, never heard of before."

Hi, thank you so much for agreeing to speak with me. Please tell me your name, what city you live in, and what high school you go to.

"I'm Sianna and I'm from Glendale and I go to Ironwood High School."

What Arizona Girls State City are you in?

"Manzanita City."

To start off, why did you choose to be a reporter at Arizona Girls State?

"I really like the idea of being able to write blogs and different articles. I'm a huge writer, so it's very fun to get to write about what's happening at Girls State."

Have you enjoyed your experience as a reporter so far?

"Absolutely! I love it. I love seeing...my articles on the Girls State page."

What is your favorite task to do as a reporter?

"I think my favorite task is probably getting pictures to put on the articles. It's very fun to try to get the right angles and get really good pictures."

What is your least favorite task to do as a reporter?

"Probably coming up with questions to ask for the Whistlestop..."

For the past few days, you have written several articles. Which one of your articles is your favorite? Why?

"Ooh, that's a hard one. I think my favorite might have to be the first one I ever wrote because it was my first time being able to experience everything and seeing how to really write an article for, like, a huge company, I guess, like this."

Are you going to use the skills you gained as a reporter in Arizona Girls State in your real life or career?

"...yeah!...Most definitely. I think it's going to help me a lot...if I do journalism in high school or in college."

Please remember to stay hydrated and drink lots of water!

Leadership in Cholla City

BY MYA VILLALBA
Cholla City Reporter

Once again, all the girls from Cholla city proved themselves and their capabilities. Not only did the city work together but they also took time and effort to encourage the other girls from other cities. Without them having those leadership and interpersonal skills, not as many girls might not have placed in County, State, and Nation. However, there was a “Cholla City Takeover” where many of our very own girls were elected to their desired positions.

These two girls had enough ambition and charisma to secure the positions that they wanted from the second they walked into these doors. They had put in the work and

dedication and it had paid off.

Having leadership is critical in the world and here at Arizona Girls State that is taught and valued. We have spoken with many state officials that gave us the encouragement that not many others receive. Taking all their advice and words of wisdom will only benefit these young women.

Each and every young woman in cholla city has been able to get to know one another but not only have we been given the opportunity to do that but we also were given the chance to find ourselves. Which we did. All the smiles on these faces are genuine and it is because we have all found our inner purpose while being here at Arizona Girls Camp.



Michelle Afanou and Abigail Othman taking the oath of office. (Submitted)



Left, Cameron Mirmelli, Paola Suarez, Abigail Othman, Michelle Afanou, Emily Tarro, Nevaeh Guerro, Nadia Harris, Lizeth Murillo Banuelos, Ava VandenHuevel, Marissa Sybrant, Bryn Gibson, Jesmina Deguzman, Sasha Anand, Isabella Burton, Brecken Deal, Divya Natarajan, Alaina Kempel, Joselyn Barraza Rodriguez, Alessandra Romero, and Mya Villalba. (Submitted)

A bump in the road

BY AUDRINA RODRIGUEZ
Saguaro City Reporter

In the beginning of our duration of our stay at University of Arizona our cities were divided. Soon followed by our counties and state, after elections.

The Nats while campaigning used harmful words against the Feds. Though Feds at first were focusing on hyping our political party up, and not using slander. Girls State delegates are constantly told the life-long

bonds they will make during this rigorous program. We are told by the advisors that our city will become family.

Though as the week progresses it feels as if there is a divide. It feels as if the party divisions are truly becoming real. From an anonymous tip I was informed many of the girls were not clapping for opposing candidates.

Though we have opposing views a level of respect for one another should be kept,

and is deserved by every single delegate. As we all have earned our right full place as Girls State delegates.

The heat is rising in the pot of Likins Hall as there is a diverse range of beliefs. This abundance of beliefs caused controversy among many of the delegates. Disrupting the friendships and community of Girls State.

Will this be a minor bump in the road or will this divide us?

Election results are in

BY JADE NAVARRO
Palo Verde City Reporter

Today at around 2:16 pm after a long three days of hard campaigning, constant meetings and speeches the girls of each county took a vote on who they wanted as their state representatives such as governor and secretary of state.

At 2:00 pm the girls wait anxiously to hear the results of the elections. In the top picture is Abigail Othman girls state newly elected secretary of state taking the oath to do her duty and uphold it.

Amazing work from all candidates and such supportive girls giving personal shout outs to there opposing candidates. The room filled with great happiness and cheer as these ladies were elected!



Meet the Future of Girls State!

BY MIKAELA GARCIA
Palo Verde City Reporter

Amazing job Girls State! Everyone did an amazing job working on their posters, their speeches, and interacting with their peers all in an effort to hopefully gain their vote.

When the time came, our girls submitted their votes by placing their hearts into who they truly believed would be most capable for each and every position. A lot of thought and care went into every campaign, so even if you didn't win the primary or the general election, your efforts are heard and recognized at Girls State and we have all been so blessed to see what you had in store.

With this I would also like to congratulate our brand new county and state office members! You gave it your all and the girls were all able to see it.

I would also like to take this moment to thank our previous Governor and Secretary, Daniela Putu-kang and Ivana Grgic. These wonderful ladies have set the bar for what Girls State represents, so let us carry



on Girls State pride by honoring them and giving a warm welcome to who will be taking their place.

I would like to congratulate our 78th annual Arizona Girls State Governor Michelle Afanou and Secretary of State

Abigail Othman! They will return to next year's Girls State as part of their office, and they will help lead the next set of intelligent girls to run our mythical fifty-first state.

So for the last few days, cherish the girls around you, and join us all in sisterhood.

There is a sale at the Girls State store! Stop in to see all the great prices!

Getting the job done

BY MEGAN BLATECKY

Saguaro City Reporter

On June sixth the roles of Governor (Michelle Afanou) and Secretary of State (Abigail Othman) were filled by two amazing girls. Their speeches showcased their ability to handle the stress and deal with the important and controversial aspects of the job. These girls knew that by signing up they were taking on a huge amount of responsibility and they were up for the task. Both had influential and wonderful campaigns that made such an impact on everyone and they truly deserved their positions.

After the elections all the girls went to their respective meetings and the hard work began. On the county level where I was residing we began by passing out jobs and being assigned to create proposals. By the end of the night there were so many amazing proposals and though not all could be chosen everyone was heard and Kaibab county chose the best ones.

Such ones included proposals to increase resources for immigrants, awareness for the prevention of STD's, creating a stage for performers in the county fair and supporting students who have disabilities in classrooms.

All these and more were proposed and this showcased what the girls were passionate for and what they thought was most important for our community to address.

The future leaders of our community and world are being made here today and it is such an inspiration to be among them. By having these conversations and being assigned these projects it becomes so clear that all these girls are going to go on to make our world better.



**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

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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Audrina Rodriguez - Saguaro
Emilia Kim - Sycamore
Elena Yin - Sycamore
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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

We 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.

