

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Girlhood

BY CADY TRAUSCH
Manzanita City Reporter

As this is my last article for this Girls State week I wanted to touch on the culture that is created by all the young women who got to be a part of this program.

Throwing it back to the beginning of the week on Sunday when no one knew each other, I could still see the community that girls will always hold in their hearts for one another no matter if they have known each

other for 10 years or 10 days.

I can confidently say I have never been surrounded by so many teens/young adults that are such good conversationalists. All the girls are not only friendly to each other, but are genuinely interested in your life and are always rooting for your success.

As the week went on I saw all the girls now becoming friends instead of just roommates or acquaintances. Girls are wearing each other's clothes, asking for advice from one another, and truly becoming friends.

It has been such a privilege to experience this week because of how much I have learned, but it also gave me a much needed reminder of the built-in community women can always find in each other.

Although there are many very scary and annoying things that accompany being a woman, I can confidently say I would take the period cramps and stereotypes every time if it meant I got to keep the universal camaraderie all women have.

Talent Show Night at Girls State

BY VICTORIA GOESER
Juniper City Reporter

Friday, June 6th, 2025 was a special night for me because of the talent show.

I played the Star Spangled Banner on trumpet to start us off. I was followed by other girls who gave it their all singing, dancing, and playing music on other instruments.

We even had Tierney Eden preform "All

I Wanted Was You" by Paramore in Sign Language.

Huge congratulations to all the amazing girls who put themselves out there and made our talent show fun and exciting!



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A Bird's Eye View of the Senate

BY ELIZABETH BENNETT
 Cholla City Reporter

After the conclusion of elections, citizens of Girls State were sworn into their positions. From the Governor to County Supervisors, girls stood proudly and took oaths, one after another, officially committing to their county and state responsibilities. As cities retreated from state hall, we split into our respective groups for afternoon meetings.

In the Senate, the first matter of business was determining the party chairs for Federalists and Nationalists. Afterwards we voted on a Senate President, Samantha Wang, who then appointed senators to additional leadership positions. We split into committees including judiciary, education, and appropriations, and began working on bills.

From wind farm grants to abolishing the death row

to civic education, senators worked tirelessly on their bills and gracefully accepted constructive criticism. Lobbyists continued to move between the House of Representatives and the Senate, keeping track of the bills in development and discussing bills with Senators.

I have genuinely enjoyed working in the senate for these past two days and I am so grateful for the thoughtful conversation I am able to participate in with the other intelligent senators of Arizona Girls State.

While some bills may be silly, such as “The Anti-Ethan Safety Bill” and “The Truth Bill,” others are absolutely giving young minds the platform to discuss and perhaps eventually create real change in our communities.

Winner! Winner! The Best Dinner?

DEBORAH MOLINA-URIBE
 Palo Verde City Reporter

After talking to countless Girls State citizens, the winner for the best dinner has been decided. The people have spoken: the best dinner this week was on Tuesday.

The menu consisted of cheese pillows, pasta, salad, focaccia bread, and cake. We had cuisine and, the classic Italian cuisine rose to the top once again.

Overall, there were many mixed opinions on the food this week, but the general consensus was that it was pretty good. No one can deny that there were definitely many obstacles when it came to what we ate this week (if you know, you know), but even still,

the citizens of Girls State are so grateful to have been so well taken care of.

There was always an abundance of food, and a lot of girls were able to get seconds every single day. Those with allergies were still able to enjoy delicious meals, an experience that is not always found in different environments.

Being able to have dessert, and even ice cream, brought so much joy to each city within our state. The discussions that we had at dinner brought each city so much closer every single day as we talked about our interests, hobbies, and families. Dinner is not just about food, but about the conversations and community that is built around the dinner table.

Campaigns, Elections, and Fashion!

BY DEBORAH MOLINA-URIBE
 Palo Verde City Reporter

Elections here may be done at Girls State, but the friendship building is most definitely not. Throughout this week there have been many different fashion trends that have emerged and taken all the citizens of Girls State by storm.

Some cities have creatively made different accessories to show off their city pride. The city of Cholla made construction paper crowns with their own “cutie” marks to match their city theme of My Little Pony.

Similarly, the girls of Palo Verde made golden leaves attached to bobby pins to put in their hair in order to match their theme of Greek mythology.

Some citizens, like Lydia Parks and Joanie Tarleton, have been openly donating their time and accessories to everyone here at Girls State.

Hair tinsel by Lydia has been a highly popular addition, and everywhere you look there is a girl with shiny, colorful hair.

Henna by Joanie has also been incredibly trendy, where lots of girls are vying for an “appointment” to get their very own designs beautifully painted on their arms.

Girls State has not just been an incredible opportunity to learn about government and apply our passions, but also connect with other like-minded, driven girls who care just as much about changing the world as we do.

Teamwork & Artwork

BY ERIN WALLACE AND JULIA WATSON
Sycamore City Reporters

Although Girls State is known for leadership and government, creativity still managed to find its way into the week, thanks to the door decorating competition. Armed with construction paper, markers, and a dream, my roommate, Julia Watson, and I set out to create the most legendary dorm door design in Girls State history.

What began as a quick arts and crafts project quickly spiraled into a full-blown masterpiece, complete with blood, sweat, tears, and, most importantly, an unbelievable amount of time.

I, Erin Wallace, am unfortunately not an artistic person by any means. So, that meant a large chunk of the process was unduly given to Julia—although I would like to credit myself for creating the beautiful name letters and ombre background.

Julia set out to create our vision: a Wide West cowgirl riding her trusted horse. Since we first arrived at Girls State on Sunday, Julia had been working day and night to create a realistic rendition of our imagination.

She finally completed the multiple page longer design on Wednesday. Since then, I have shamelessly been showing off our amazing design to anyone who was willing to look.

While I handled the buzzing publicity, Julia was the one who truly brought the magic to life. Since she's the mastermind behind our wonderful door, I'll let her take it from here.

I, Julia Watson, came into Girls State excited to showcase my talents in order to assist my city's visual appeal.

From a young age, I've always loved doing art. However, most of my art involves a small piece of paper or canvas. Therefore, the greatest challenge going into door decorating was the size of the art piece.

To navigate this issue, I began the lengthy decorating process by sketching out my ideas on a small piece of paper.

Once I got my general idea drafted, I taped different pieces of paper together to roughly align with the size and colors of the final piece. Then, I sketched out the cowgirl and her horse, spending the most time on her face.

Even sketching took a decent amount of time and work over a couple days. I had to focus on making each component propor-



tionate to one another. For example, once I completed sketching the head, I had to adjust the size of the torso to match.

Once it was sketched out, I outlined my pencil marks with black marker. Once the ink was dry, I erased all pencil marking. As for coloring, I used a variety of materials. To color the face, I used colored pencils to build warmth and depth, and bring life to the face. For the shading on the horse and shirt, however, I used markers to save time.

After completing the coloring stage, Finn and I began cutting out and taping the figure onto the gradient background.

Once we had finished attaching the drawing to the door, I realized that it was

lacking a lot of details. To conceal parts of the drawing that appeared awkward or unfinished, I cut a variety of green papers into grass. This added dimension, color, and visual interest to the overall design of our door.

To conclude, the final product wouldn't be what it is without both of our contributions to decorating and planning. Though it took a long time to create, the end result was well worth the effort.

Additionally, working on the door served as a time where I could relax and unwind from a very chaotic and challenging day. Overall, I really enjoyed working on it, and I cannot wait to see what we can do to further enhance our city.

