

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) will be having their 79th session of the American Legion Auxiliary's ILLINI GIRLS STATE (IGS) on June 16th through June 22nd, 2019. Their website is: www.alaigs.org. The program is a simulation patterned after the State of Illinois; it follows Illinois governmental procedure as closely as possible. It is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship which attempts to teach and inculcate in our youth a love of America and a sense of individual obligation to community, state, and nation. It is a powerful, intense learning experience. Several hundred students from Illinois will learn the way a two-party system works. At ALAIGS we have two fictitious political parties, the Nationalists and the Federalists. The students will caucus, have Primary and General elections, and participate in a party Convention. The students will elect city, county, and state officials. They will learn the duties of various public offices – their functions, limitations, and powers. They will have their own legislature where they introduce, debate and pass their own bills. The students regulate their own cities, enforce their laws and prepare county projects. Each student has a chance to learn for herself that her government is just what she makes it. She learns the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities as a citizen of ALAIGS that will help her fully participate as an American citizen. **As a program of an organization standing for God and Country, we may share nonsectarian prayers and religious observations. If religious accommodations are required, please inform Department Headquarters in advance; we will review these requests and determine if they can be met within the structure of our program.**

The American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 80 in Downers Grove, pays all expenses for six students to attend the program. DGN, DGS, Lisle Sr. High School and Montini High School will receive brochures and applications, on February 7th, to forward to their students who may be interested. All six students will take the bus from LaGrange, Post 1941 to Bloomington, IL and return by bus to LaGrange, Post 1941. When the six students have been selected, the Chair person from Unit 80 will be in touch with each student about next steps. This program is an excellent learning experience and the students can put this program on their college applications. If a student is interested, please have her see her Social Studies Chair or the head of the Social Studies Department at their school, to pick up an application and brochure for ALAIGS. Applications should be returned to the same person in the Social Studies

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