



PALMETTO GIRLS STATE, INC.  
A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Dear Palmetto Girls State Citizen:

Welcome to Palmetto Girls State! We, the members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Carolina, are excited that you have been chosen to attend this exceptional program known as Palmetto Girls State. We believe that you are about to partake in one of the greatest events of your life, and we hope that your time at Palmetto Girls State will be a truly remarkable experience for you. Your selection to attend Palmetto Girls State is an honor and is a result of who you are. For you to have been nominated and selected to attend Palmetto Girls State, someone believes that you are a special individual and that you are a leader in your school and community. Your attendance at Palmetto Girls State offers you the opportunity to participate in mock political activities on the city, county, and state levels of government and to develop relationships with other young leaders from across the State of South Carolina.

Girls State is a program developed and sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. In each state with a Girls State program, the state American Legion Auxiliary (known as a state department) sponsors the Girls State program. The South Carolina version of the Girls State program is Palmetto Girls State which is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Carolina. Palmetto Girls State, like similar Girls State programs being conducted across the nation, is a program in government, Americanism, and citizenship. As a program of the American Legion Auxiliary, Palmetto Girls State operates under the tenants and principles of the American Legion Auxiliary. At Palmetto Girls State, we respect the Constitution of the United States, as well as the Constitution of South Carolina, and we respect and salute the flags of the United States of America and South Carolina. Girls State also recognizes the history and importance of "God and Country," and vesper services (sessions of evening devotion and reflection) are held daily at Palmetto Girls State. All in attendance at Palmetto Girls State are expected to participate in these daily activities and observances.

To achieve all that Palmetto Girls State has to offer requires only desire and enthusiasm on your part. Palmetto Girls State is not a summer camp designed solely for your entertainment and relaxation. To reap all that Palmetto Girls State has to offer, you must make a commitment to being involved and to participating in the activities of the week. As you give of your best while participating in the activities and mock governmental campaigns and elections in the mythical state of "Palmetto," you will not only learn of our government and the political process, but you will learn much of yourself, will make new friends, and will have an enjoyable experience. Palmetto Girls State has the potential to be an unforgettable and rewarding experience, as well as an inspiration for years to come, but only if you want it to be.

This year's session of Palmetto Girls State will be held from **June 13 – 19, 2010**, and marks the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the program. We look forward to June 13 and your arrival at Presbyterian College. **Plan to arrive at Presbyterian College between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. (noon) on Sunday, June 13.** Presbyterian College is located at 503 South Broad Street in Clinton, South Carolina.

Upon arrival at Palmetto Girls State and Presbyterian College, there will be luggage-drop areas near each dorm. Please make sure that all luggage, bags, cosmetic cases, etc. are clearly marked with the delegate's name. Each delegate should proceed to her assigned dorm to unload luggage and then proceed to the registration area for her dorm. (NOTE: Room assignments will be mailed to all delegates on or before June 1. A campus map and directions to Presbyterian College will also be included in that mailing.) Cars will be allowed to stop and unload luggage in the parking areas near each dorm, but parking is limited in those areas. Therefore, parking near the dorms will be monitored. If for some reason, extended parking is needed, cars may be moved to areas away from the immediate area of unloading and registration. Staff members will be available near the dorms to direct you to the appropriate areas. After unloading luggage, delegates will enter their assigned registration areas. **At registration, delegates will need to present (1) the \$30.00 registration fee, (2) the \$40.00 room key/dorm access card deposit (please have the exact amount in cash for each of these fees), (3) the completed medical record and consent form, (4) the completed waiver of claim form, (5) the**

completed insurance information/permission to travel form, (6) a signed Girls State pledge, (7) completed "Bio/Media Information" sheet, (8) completed Release of name and address sheet, and (9) (if applicable) the completed Samsung scholarship application. If you elect to register for optional college credit, you should register for the class prior to arrival at Palmetto Girls State by using the on-line registration at [www.ed190.com](http://www.ed190.com).

After registering at Palmetto Girls State, each delegate may move her belongings into her assigned room. Each delegate is responsible for carrying her luggage from the curb to her room. Please be aware that only Girls State delegates and Girls State Staff are permitted in the dorms. Neither parents nor friends are allowed in the dorms. Each delegate is responsible for transporting her luggage and belongings from the luggage drop area near her dorm to her room. Please keep this in mind when packing.

We expect over 500 delegates for this year's session of Palmetto Girls State and moving that many people with luggage takes time. Overcrowding and congestion is inevitable. Please be patient. You can assist in avoiding congestion by arriving early, by limiting good-byes with family, and most importantly by being prepared for registration by having all forms completed and the exact money available to register. Also, you should consider the fact that you are responsible for moving your own luggage from the curb to your room when you are packing and limit the amount of luggage you have.

After check-in, you should use any free time to unpack and get your room straight and to eat lunch in the Presbyterian College cafeteria. You may also use the time to meet others on your floor and help others as they arrive. Lunch will be available for Girls State participants on Sunday, June 13, 2010. If you do not plan on eating lunch at Palmetto Girls State, then please eat prior to arrival. (But note the 12:00 P.M. (noon) arrival deadline.) Once you check-in at Palmetto Girls State, you are not to leave, even to go out to eat with family members. Meetings within each city and then the first assembly and scheduled to begin after lunch on June 13, and all delegates are expected to be present.

**DO NOT BRING VALUABLE OR IRREPLACEABLE JEWELRY OR LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY. YOU WILL BE ISSUED A ROOM KEY WITH WHICH YOU MAY LOCK YOUR ROOM, BUT NEITHER PALMETTO GIRLS STATE NOR PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSONAL EFFECTS OR PROPERTY.** During your stay at Palmetto Girls State, you are asked to lock your room, but even though you may secure your room, you still should not bring valuable belongings or large sums of money.

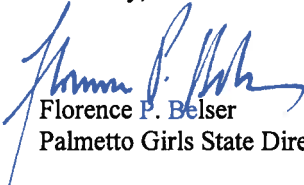
A non-refundable registration fee of \$30.00 is required from each participant. Also, a deposit of \$40.00 for your room key and dorm access card is required. This room key/dorm access card deposit will be refunded on Saturday morning after a room check and when you return the room key and dorm access card at checkout. Should you lose or fail to return the room key and/or the dorm access card, you will be charged any additional costs associated with replacing the dorm access card and/or replacing the lock on the room. NOTE: Charges for missing keys and dorm access cards are assessed to Girls State when the Girls State office checks out on Saturday, June 19. Therefore, delegates cannot return the dorm key or dorm access card by mail. Missing keys and dorm access cards must be paid for before delegates depart campus.

**DELEGATES MAY NOT HAVE PERSONAL CARS AT PALMETTO GIRLS STATE.** Delegates are responsible for arranging for transportation to and from Palmetto Girls State. Please observe the registration times of 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on Sunday, June 13. On Saturday, June 19, we will dismiss at approximately 11:00 a.m.; please make arrangements to depart campus no later than 12:30 p.m. on June 19.

Delegates and their parents should carefully review this letter and the enclosures accompanying this letter. Attendance at Palmetto Girls State is a privilege, and all delegates are expected and required to abide by the rules of the program, including adherence to the dress code that is prescribed for Palmetto Girls State.

We look forward to meeting you and having you in attendance at the 64th Palmetto Girls State.

Sincerely,

  
Florence P. Belser  
Palmetto Girls State Director

## INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES TO PALMETTO GIRLS STATE

1. **Arrival time is 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (noon) on Sunday, June 13, 2010.** Please observe these arrival times.
2. **Delegates are not allowed to have personal cars at Palmetto Girls State.** Delegates and their families are responsible for arranging transportation to and from Presbyterian College. Please observe the times for registration on Sunday, June 13 and the time to depart campus on Saturday, June 19. (See paragraphs 1 above and 5 below.)
3. Room assignments will be mailed to all delegates approximately one (1) week prior to June 13. Delegates will be advised of their room assignments, assigned registration places for each dorm, and directions to the registration locations. Directions to Presbyterian College and a campus map will also be provided in that mailing.
4. On arrival day, parking will be monitored in the areas near the dorms. Cars may only park in these areas in order to unload luggage at designated areas. Registration areas will be set-up for each dorm. After dropping off luggage, delegates should proceed to the registration area for their assigned dorms to register. If parents must park and leave cars for any reason, cars must be moved away from the monitored areas. There is no extended parking in these monitored areas as we are trying to have accessible parking for arrivals to drop-off luggage. Family members should ascertain that delegates have all necessary registration materials, fees, and belongings and then should make their good-byes. Good-byes with family should be made quickly, and then family should leave to clear the way for other arrivals.
5. On Saturday, June 19, 2010, delegates will be dismissed to leave after the assembly and ceremony. This should be at approximately 11:00 A.M. Please arrange to depart campus no later than 12:30 P.M.
6. Delegates are expected to remain in attendance at PGS for the entire week. However, some delegates may seek permission to leave early. Permission to leave early should be requested and obtained prior to arrival at Girls State on Sunday, June 13. Any delegate requesting to leave the program early should contact the Unit sponsoring the delegate and ask the Unit to contact Girls State personnel. Girls State personnel will not approve early departure without the sponsoring Unit requesting such permission. Please be advised, however, that the Constitution of Palmetto Girls State provides in Article VIII that “Each citizen **completing the course of study and activities** of Palmetto Girls State shall receive a Certificate of Merit and a charm.” (Emphasis added.) Therefore, charms and certificates are awarded at the end of the program to those delegates who are present to receive them at the graduation ceremony.
7. **Please clearly mark all bags, suitcases, cosmetic cases, etc. with name and address.** Luggage will be deposited at the luggage drop areas near each dorm. After registration, each delegate is responsible for moving her luggage from the luggage drop area near her assigned dorm to her room. However, many bags and packages look alike and could be picked up by mistake. If items are not marked with a delegate’s name, it may be impossible to determine the correct owner or items.
8. **Visitors are not allowed at Palmetto Girls State.** We follow a tight schedule at Palmetto Girls State. We have neither the time nor the space for visitors (this pertains to both family and any other persons who may want to visit). Please do not “drop by” to see your daughter or encourage others to do so. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this regard.
9. Should someone need to deliver a package to a delegate, the package or delivery should be delivered to the Palmetto Girls State office located on the first floor of Senior Hall. Please make sure that the delivery is clearly marked with the delegate’s name, and if known, her room assignment. The office personnel will contact the delegate to let her know she has a package. Please **DO NOT** make deliveries directly to the dorm, and please do not try to arrange to meet with the delegate.
10. **Only participants of Palmetto Girls State (delegates, counselors, and staff members), designated staff or officials of Presbyterian College, or a person or persons with the permission of the Director are allowed in the dorms during the time Palmetto Girls State is in session.** Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from Palmetto Girls State.
11. Phone jacks are available in each dorm room. Delegates must provide the telephone in order to use the landline in the dorm room. Delegates may make local, collect, or credit card calls from their rooms. Delegates will be provided with

telephone numbers after arrival. Please inform potential callers not to leave messages on any voice mail service which may be activated on the phone, as we do not have access codes to retrieve messages from the voice mail system.

12. Delegates may use cell phones in the dorms and after dismissal from scheduled activities for the day. Cell phone use (including calls, texting, emails, games or any other use or application) is not allowed during assemblies, meetings, or other scheduled activities. This is an educational program and should be respected as an educational program.
13. Meals will be provided in the dining hall. In addition, snacks are available from vending machines. You may want also want to bring snacks for nightly sessions with friends. However, take out food deliveries are not allowed. This applies to deliveries from take-out places or from friends or family. Parents please respect our position in this regard.
14. **Do not bring valuable or irreplaceable items such as jewelry, large sums of cash, computers, etc. Neither Palmetto Girls State nor Presbyterian College assumes responsibility or liability for lost or missing items.** Please exercise discretion with any sentimental items. If in doubt, leave the item at home. While we urge everyone to keep their rooms locked, there may be times when you leave your room open. The best safeguard is to leave valuables at home.
15. **REMEMBER THE \$30.00 REGISTRATION FEE AND \$40.00 ROOM KEY/DORM ACCESS CARD DEPOSIT.** Please bring the exact amounts in cash– i.e. three (3) twenty dollar bills and one (1) ten dollar bills or any combination where you have exactly \$40.00 and \$30.00. These fees are accounted for separately and are maintained separately. **Cash is required** because checks or money orders require additional work and time on our part. Credit cards are not accepted for payment of these fees at registration. The Room Key/Dorm Access Card deposit will be returned on Saturday, June 19 provided the room key and dorm access card are returned. If the room key or dorm access card or both are not returned prior to leaving on Saturday, June 19, then the delegate not returning these items is responsible for paying the charges levied by Presbyterian College to cover the costs of replacing the dorm access card or of changing the lock to the room. If the deposit does not cover the replacement charges levied by Presbyterian College, the delegate is responsible for any additional amount that Presbyterian College requires to replace the room key and the dorm access card.
16. During the week, we schedule Talent/Stunt night. Come prepared to participate. This is a time to share your talents. However, due to the number of participants, acts are limited to 2 minutes each. Remember to bring any items you may need for your talent/stunt/skit.
17. Each delegate will be provided two (2) Palmetto Girls State T-shirts (white with blue lettering) for use during the week and one T-shirt designating her party affiliation for the week (either yellow or blue). Additionally, extra T-shirts and other souvenirs will be available for purchase in the PGS Store. T-shirts range in price from \$10.00 – \$20.00. Other items available in the store may include sweatshirts, baseball style caps, visors, tote bags, and other souvenirs. Credit cards or debit cards may be used for purchases in the PGS Store, but a small administrative fee will be charged to cover the bank charges on the credit card.
18. Please read the Palmetto Girls State Pledge before signing. Each delegate is expected to abide by the pledge as it is written. **PLEASE REALIZE THAT VIOLATION OF THE PLEDGE OR OF THE RULES OF PALMETTO GIRLS STATE MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM PALMETTO GIRLS STATE. ADDITIONALLY, VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE OR DAMAGES TO PROPERTY OR ANOTHER'S BELONGINGS MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM PALMETTO GIRLS STATE.**
19. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE AND PALMETTO GIRLS STATE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ENTER ROOMS AT ANY TIME FOR PURPOSES OF MANAGEMENT, SAFETY, HEALTH, AND MAINTENANCE, OR TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. Please be further advised that Palmetto Girls State supports Presbyterian College in this regard and will assist Presbyterian College as needed. **Possession of (1) fireworks, firearms, air guns, other weapons (knives, daggers, etc.) or (2) illegal drugs or alcohol are prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal from Palmetto Girls State.** Presbyterian College has a smoking policy and violation of that policy will result in immediate dismissal from Palmetto Girls State. ALL dorms and dorm rooms at Presbyterian College are non-smoking rooms. Smoking in the dorms or the dorm rooms will result in immediate dismissal from the program. Also no candles, incense, or other flame producing or flammable materials are to be used in the dorm rooms. Violation of this provision could result in dismissal from the program.

20. Each person in attendance at Palmetto Girls State is responsible for her own actions. Any damages caused to Presbyterian College property, or Palmetto Girls State property, will be assessed to the party(ies) causing such damage. Intentional acts causing damages to property could result in dismissal from the program.
21. Palmetto Girls State will have a staff member available for simple “nursing” duties, such as band-aids, aspirin, and Pepto-Bismol. We will also rely on “doctor’s care” facilities or a local hospital’s emergency room. All costs and charges incurred for medical care or medical treatment are the responsibility of the delegate’s parent(s) or guardian(s).
22. **DRESS CODE:** Throughout the week we have numerous dignitaries who visit Palmetto Girls State. All participants are expected to adhere to proper dress and the dress code. For normal daily activities, delegates are expected to wear a white Girls State T-shirt with appropriate skirt, slacks, skorts, or shorts. Some activities will require a dress or suit. Please refer to the “Checklist of Needed Items” for specifics on what to bring. Dresses (when appropriate), slacks, skirts, skorts, and shorts must be neat and of the length stated herein. *The hem of dresses, skirts, and skorts, must be at least one inch below the fingertips when standing naturally with the arms by the side. Shorts must be knee-length.* (NOTE: This means that shorts must be to the knee; accordingly, the hem of the shorts must be well-below the fingertips. Bermuda shorts are acceptable. Shorts above the fingertips or just below the finger tips are not acceptable.) Capri pants are acceptable. Short shorts, cut-offs, ragged or “holey” clothing, bike shorts, athletic shorts, nylons, jerseys, and tops with slogans or writing **are not** permitted during normal daily activities but may be worn for lounging after hours in the dorms. Additionally, please do not wear shoes with “spike” heels. We do not want to mar the floors of some of the areas we use for meetings. Also, tattered or torn shoes and rubber flip flops **are not acceptable** footwear. PALMETTO GIRLS STATE IS A VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY AND ATTENDANCE AT THE PROGRAM INDICATES ACQUIESCENCE WITH THE RULES. FURTHER, ATTENDANCE IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT, AND ANYONE WANTING TO ATTEND THE PROGRAM MUST ABIDE BY THE RULES – INCLUDING THE DRESS CODE. The dress code will not be debated. This is the dress code, and it is expected that delegates will abide by this dress code. Please see the “What to Bring with You” page for further information on the dress code and acceptable clothing.
23. Mail may be addressed to you in care of: NAME OF DELEGATE, Palmetto Girls State, c/o Presbyterian College, 503 South Broad Street, Clinton, SC 29325. **DO NOT HAVE MAIL SENT TO THE ADDRESS ON THE LETTERHEAD.** Because mail coming into Palmetto Girls State is routed through Presbyterian College’s mail room, please advise anyone who may send you mail not to send anything after Wednesday, or you may not receive it.

### WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

1. Appropriate clothes that meet the dress code. For normal activities, Sunday through Saturday, each delegate will wear a Girls State shirt. Each delegate will be supplied with 2 white Girls State shirts and 1 blue or yellow shirt depending on party assignment. (These are the only approved T-shirts that may be worn for assemblies.) Additionally, extra white delegate shirts may be purchased. Keep in mind that you will wear the Girls State shirt everyday. Slacks (including Capri pants), skirts, skorts, and shorts may be worn with the Girls State shirts for on campus activities. (NOTE: Shorts must be knee-length, and skirts, skorts, and dresses when appropriate must be at least an inch below the fingertips.) Please refer to dress code in paragraph 22 of the “Information for Delegates” page for a description of what constitutes acceptable clothing.
  - A light sweater or jacket. Meeting rooms are sometimes cool.
  - Raincoat and/or umbrella. We walk – rain or shine.
  - A dress or suit (church-type attire) for the tea on Thursday afternoon. Appropriate shoes are also needed to wear with the dress. The Tea is held at the President’s House at Presbyterian College. Rubber flip flops, reef shoes, rainbows, or tattered/torn shoes are not appropriate footwear to wear to the Tea.
  - A dress for the farewell banquet on Friday night. A church-type dress is appropriate. Prom dresses or formal dresses are **NOT** needed for this event.
  - Comfortable shoes for daily wear. We walk a lot. This is not the time to break in a new pair of shoes. Also bring a pair of athletic or thick soled shoes to wear in the parade on Friday. Please no spike heels for daily wear. We do want spike heels to mar the floor of meeting rooms with wooden floors.
  - Appropriate length skirt or slacks for the parade in Columbia -- On Friday for the parade and joint inauguration with Palmetto Boys State, it is requested that each delegate have a navy blue (or black or other

dark colored) skirt or slacks. Navy or dark color is only requested, and if you do not have an acceptable length skirt or slacks, any color is acceptable. Blue Jeans, denim pants of any color, and shorts are not permitted for our off campus visit to Columbia for the parade, inauguration with Boys State, and visit to the State House. Skirts must be of appropriate length as described in the dress code. Be advised that delegates will be sitting on the steps of the State House during the inauguration ceremony. Seating is crowded. Past experience has proven that tight skirts and short skirts will result in a very uncomfortable time. (Navy skirts, while not required, are available through many mail order clothing stores such as LL Bean, Eddie Bauer, and Lands End and may also be found at school uniform supply stores.)

NOTE: Shorts and blue jeans are not acceptable attire for our trip to Columbia for the parade, inauguration, and visit to the State House. Therefore, every delegate should bring at least one skirt or pair of slacks which meets the dress code. A skirt of appropriate length is acceptable if it has flaps on the front and back and looks like a skirt.

- Undergarments, socks, hose, etc.
  - Casual clothing –jeans, shorts, and shirts – for after hours. (These items may be worn after the daily activities are concluded.) Please do not bring clothing with offensive or obscene slogans or words; clothes with offensive or obscene words are not acceptable at any time.
2. Cosmetics, toiletries and personal items – toothbrush, toothpaste, brush, soap, shampoo, any personal items which you regularly use, and those items needed for monthly period. Any prescription or regular medication.
  3. Linens for a bed (sheets and pillow case), blanket, and pillow. Also towels and washcloths. NOTE: The beds in some dorms are regular single beds, and the beds in other dorms are single extra long. A list of the type beds in each dorm will be included in the letter providing the room assignment.
  4. Alarm clock, camera, film, radio, items needed for talent/stunt show, change for vending machines, some spending money. (A large amount of money is not needed, and there is an ATM on campus.) Please label cameras with name; every year, we have lost cameras.
  5. If there has been any publicity in your local paper or school paper about your selection as a delegate to PGS, please bring that article for inclusion in the 2010 PGS scrapbook.
  6. Registration materials – completed forms (medical record and consent form; waiver of claim; insurance information/permission to travel form; PGS Citizen Pledge; bio/media info sheet; name and address release; Samsung scholarship – if applicable; and registration form for college credit with registration fee – if applicable); \$30.00 PGS registration fee; and \$40.00 room key/dorm access card deposit.

**DO NOT BRING:**

1. Alcohol
2. Tobacco
3. Illegal drugs
4. Weapons (including pocket knives) or fireworks
5. Campaign materials
6. Candles, incense, or other items requiring burning.

Although most people realize these above-listed 6 items are inappropriate at Palmetto Girls State, we just want to make sure that everyone understands that these items are not allowed.

THIS CHECKLIST IS NOT INTENDED TO BE ALL INCLUSIVE. IT IS INTENDED TO AID YOU IN PREPARING FOR PALMETTO GIRLS STATE. IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL NEED, THEN PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE IT!