



## PALMETTO GIRLS STATE, INC.

A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
107-A LEGION PLAZA ROAD  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29210  
(803) 772-6366

FLORENCE P. BELSER  
DIRECTOR, PALMETTO GIRLS STATE

June 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Congratulations on the selection of your daughter to attend Palmetto Girls State. Selection to attend Palmetto Girls State is an honor and an accomplishment. Your daughter's selection means that she has demonstrated qualities of leadership, good character, scholarship, and maturity. We at Palmetto Girls State know that you are proud of your daughter's accomplishments, and we are pleased to welcome her as a part of this year's session of Palmetto Girls State.

We anticipate a full week of activities and a very busy schedule. To aid in your daughter reaping all that Palmetto Girls State has to offer, please see that she is well rested before she comes to Palmetto Girls State. The week is strenuous, and those in attendance should be physically and mentally prepared for the week.

The 2010 session of Palmetto Girls State will be held on the campus of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. Your daughter has been sent via email, US Mail, or through her guidance counselor at school a packet of information regarding Palmetto Girls State. **I suggest that you review the materials contained in that packet with your daughter. The packet provides much needed information regarding the week at Palmetto Girls State. It is important you and your daughter are familiar with the information enclosed.** If your daughter has not received the packet of information from Palmetto Girls State, you and your daughter may access the materials from the packet on the Palmetto Girls State website at [www.palmettogirlsstate.net](http://www.palmettogirlsstate.net). The information pages are located under the heading "Letter to Delegates and Information Pages" and the permission forms, consent forms, and waivers which must be completed and turned in at registration on June 13 are located under the heading "Forms to Complete and Bring to Girls State Registration." Information on the Samsung Scholarship and the ACE Network College Credit program are also located on the webpage.

Registration for Palmetto Girls State will take place on Sunday, June 13, 2010, from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. (noon), and each delegate will register at the registration area for her dorm. Room assignments have been mailed to the delegates; therefore, each delegate should know her assigned dorm. If, however, your daughter does not have her room assignment, there will be Girls State Staff members available on the PC campus to assist you in locating the correct dorm and the assigned registration area. On Sunday, June 13, each delegate should report to the dorm to which she is assigned (consult campus map included in the information packet) between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. (noon). Lunch will be served for delegates and Girls State Staff only. I strongly suggest that you plan on delivering your daughter to Palmetto Girls State well before 12:00 noon. Then if delays are experienced in either traveling to Clinton or in registering at Palmetto Girls State, your daughter will not be late or will not miss lunch. (Note: Once a delegate checks-in at Palmetto Girls State, she is expected to remain. She is not to leave campus, even to go out to lunch with parents.) Please observe these

registration times and plan your arrival at Presbyterian College accordingly. In planning for your trip to Palmetto Girls State, please allow enough travel time to arrive at Presbyterian College during the hours of registration.

Upon arrival at Palmetto Girls State, Staff members will be near the dorms to direct you to the appropriate areas. Parking near dorms is limited, and parking in those areas will be monitored and timed. There will be luggage drop-off areas near the dorms. Cars will be allowed to stop for a brief period adjacent to the dorms to unload luggage at the designated luggage drop-off areas. **(IMPORTANT: Please make sure that all luggage, cosmetic cases, bags, pillows, etc. are conspicuously labeled with the delegate's name. Many bags and items look similar, and it is easy for someone to forget an item or for someone to pick up something by mistake. If items are not clearly marked with a name, it is difficult, if not impossible, to find the correct owner if an item is misplaced or left. Having a name on items is also important on the last day of the session as delegates often leave belongings in the rush to leave.)** In the event that extended parking is required, cars must be moved away from the area adjacent to the dorms where unloading is taking place. Cars may be moved to other lots or areas on campus if extended parking is required.

Each delegate is responsible for moving her own luggage to her room. She should therefore pack accordingly. Due to space constraints, neither parents nor friends are permitted in the dorms beyond the lobbies where registration is occurring. Please be aware that only Palmetto Girls State attendees and Staff are permitted in the living areas of the dorms.

We expect over 540 delegates for this year's session of Palmetto Girls State and moving that many people with luggage takes time. Overcrowding and waiting is sure to happen. Please be patient. It is difficult to move so many people in such a short period and everyone's patience is appreciated. Please help us by making your good-byes short. You may want to remain on campus until your daughter is properly registered, but once you have determined that your daughter has registered, please do not encourage her to linger in either the lobby or the drop-off area. It is helpful to the Staff if you make your good-byes and let your daughter begin her Palmetto Girls State experience. She will begin to meet people and make friends upon her arrival, and the delegates will help each other as they move into the dorm.

Please make sure that your daughter is prepared for registration at Palmetto Girls State and has all necessary information and documentation. In order to register, she will need the following items:

- (1) (Required) All forms **COMPLETED** with signatures and properly witnessed. Please have these forms completed before arriving at Palmetto Girls State.  
The forms needed for registration are
  - a. PGS CITIZEN PLEDGE (1 page – front only)
  - b. MEDICAL RECORD AND CONSENT FORM (2 pages front only)
  - c. WAIVER OF CLAIM (1 page –front only) (NOTE: This form must be witnessed, and the witness' information should be completed. It does not need to be witnessed by a staff member of Palmetto Girls State, and it does not need to be notarized.)
  - d. INSURANCE INFORMATION/PERMISSION TO TRAVEL (1 page front only) (NOTE: This page requests a copy of an insurance card be provided. Please attach the copy prior to arrival at Girls State. There are no copying facilities available at registration.)
  - e. BIO/MEDIA INFORMATION (1 page –front only)
  - f. NAME AND ADDRESS RELEASE (1 page – front only)

- (2) (Required) Registration fee of \$30.00 and room key deposit of \$40.00 – Delegates should have the exact amounts in cash (no checks). These fees must be maintained separately so please have the exact amount for each fee in cash (no checks, no debit cards, and no credit cards).
- (3) (Optional) Samsung Scholarship Application – To apply for the Samsung Scholarship, the completed and typed application with all required documentation and signatures must be turned in at registration. No scholarship applications are accepted after registration, and no documentation is accepted after registration. For evidence of a relative's wartime military service, please submit a copy of the document. Please do not submit the original document as neither the applications nor supporting documents are returned.
- (4) (Optional) If registering for college credit for participation in Palmetto Girls State, delegates may register prior to arrival via the internet at [www.ed190.com](http://www.ed190.com). It is suggested that registration for this course be accomplished prior to arrival at Palmetto Girls State on Sunday, June 13. If a delegate needs to register at Palmetto Girls State, we will have a computer available on a first-come, first-served basis to assist with on-line registration. In addition, the delegate will need to provide a credit card in order to complete on-line registration. Registration for this class will be separate from the registration for Palmetto Girls State.

(If any of these forms are missing from the packet mailed to your daughter or if your daughter did not receive a packet, the forms may be downloaded from the Palmetto Girls State website at [www.palmettogirlsstate.net](http://www.palmettogirlsstate.net) .)

Please understand that the week at Girls State is a very busy one and that we operate on a strict schedule. Please do not try to visit during the week or encourage others to do so. We view Palmetto Girls State as a closed campus, and visitors are not allowed. Therefore, please do not plan on visiting your daughter during the week. Also, please do not encourage others to visit.

Should you need to drop off packages or items during the week, please do not try to arrange to meet your daughter to do so. Packages may be left at the Palmetto Girls State Office (which will be located on the first floor of Senior Hall dormitory), and packages should be clearly marked with the recipient's name and room number. While we do all that we can to safeguard packages left for delegates, please realize that neither Palmetto Girls State nor Presbyterian College assumes responsibility or liability for any article or package for pick-up by a delegate. Should you need to leave a package, please call the Palmetto Girls State Office from the lobby and someone will meet you to either escort you to the office or to pick up the package.

Please read the material in the information packet with your daughter. It should help you to understand the program. We have rules at Palmetto Girls State which must be followed. These rules are intended to aid in the orderly administration of the program and to help us care for the girls in our charge during the week. Please pay particular attention to the dress code of Palmetto Girls State. All delegates are expected to adhere to the dress code. Please impress upon your daughter that the dress code will be enforced.

Phone jacks are available in the dorm rooms, but delegates must bring a telephone in order to use a landline phone. If the delegate brings a landline telephone, the delegate may receive calls and make local, collect, and credit card calls from their rooms. Delegates will be provided the telephone numbers for their rooms after arrival. Should you attempt to call your daughter during the week and reach a voice mailbox, please do

not leave a message. In some instances, voice mail was activated by the student who lived there during the year and has not been turned off. We do not have access codes or passwords to the voice mail system, and therefore, we cannot retrieve any messages left on the voice mail.

Delegates may have cell phones while at Palmetto Girls State. However, cell phones may not be used during meetings, assemblies, and other scheduled activities of the program. Talking, texting, playing games, etc. on cell phones while we are conducting the activities of Palmetto Girls State is not allowed. Please discuss cell phone etiquette with your daughter prior to her arrival at Palmetto Girls State. Also please impress upon her that cell phone use is not allowed during assemblies, meeting, or any Girls State scheduled activities. Cell phone use includes talking, texting, games, or any function available on that model phone.

Mail may be sent to the delegates and should be addressed as follows: NAME OF DELEGATE, Palmetto Girls State, c/o Presbyterian College, 503 South Braod street, Clinton, SC 29325. Please be sure and have the recipient's name on the mail. It is amazing how many pieces of mail are received at Palmetto Girls State with no recipient's name. DO NOT SEND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON THIS LETTERHEAD. Any mail delivered to the address on this letterhead will be returned to sender. Also realize that mail delivery is usually delayed by at least one day as it must go through the College mail system. Therefore, do not mail anything after Wednesday, or it may not be received by your daughter.

Also, please impress upon your daughter that the rules of Palmetto Girls State and Presbyterian College will be enforced at Palmetto Girls State and must be observed by those in attendance. The delegates in attendance at Palmetto Girls State are there because of their accomplishments and their character. The delegates are of sufficient age to understand the rules and to comprehend that the rules must be observed. We expect the delegates to abide by the laws of South Carolina and the rules of the program. We stress that no one should be on campus alone and that the "buddy-system" is to be used in daylight hours and during nighttime hours. Further, we stress that no one is to be outside the dorms after curfew without express permission from the girl's senior counselor. The dorms at Presbyterian College are non-smoking dorms, and anyone found smoking in the dorms is subject to dismissal from the program. Further, burning any materials in the dorms, including tobacco products, candles, incense, or any other flammable material is ground for dismissal from Palmetto Girls State. If any delegate is found in possession of any alcoholic beverage or illegal drug or narcotic, campus police will be notified and the offending delegate will be dismissed from the program. Further, 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.

If you need to contact us regarding your daughter's attendance at Palmetto Girls State, you may call the American Legion Auxiliary Department office at (803) 772-6366 through 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 10, 2010. After that time, Girls State personnel will be present at Girls State. On Friday, June 11, 2010, we will be opening an office at Presbyterian College for Palmetto Girls State. We anticipate the telephone number of that office to be (864) 938-3011. You may reach us at that number after 9:30 A.M. on June 11. That phone number will be in our Girls State office at Presbyterian College. Please be aware there are times when everyone is out of the office, and please be aware that we conduct a large volume of business in the office. We typically place and receive a high volume of calls. Your patience in trying to reach us is requested. You are welcome to call to discuss matters related to your daughter's attendance at Palmetto

Girls State; however, please do not call the office for us to relay messages to your daughter. This telephone line is considered our business line while at Girls State, and we do not take personal calls or relay personal messages.

Also, please be aware that we have a very full schedule. We have activities scheduled from early morning until late at night. Therefore, your daughter may not be able to accept calls from you or to call you with regularity. This does not mean that anything is wrong; it is just Girls State.

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Carolina, and the Palmetto Girls State Committee, we look forward to having your daughter in attendance at this 64<sup>th</sup> session of Palmetto Girls State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Florence P. Belser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F".

Florence P. Belser  
Director, Palmetto Girls State

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\***

- We have learned that the mattresses in Georgia Hall are twin extra long (Twin XL).
- The mattresses in the other dorms are standard twin.
- If a delegate is assigned to Georgia Hall, she will need to bring sheets that will fit a twin extra long mattress.
- The dimensions of a twin extra long mattress are 39" x 80".
- If a delegate does not have twin extra long sheets, she might consider using a flat sheet instead of a fitted sheet.
- Flat Sheet Sizes are
  - Twin--66 x 96 inches (or 167 x 243 cm)
  - X-Long Twin--66 x 102 inches (or 167 x 259 cm)
  - Full--81 x 96 inches (or 205 x 243 cm)
  - Queen--90 x 102 inches (or 228 x 259 cm)

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The telephone number for the Palmetto Girls State office at Presbyterian College is 864-938-3011. The Girls State office will open on Friday, June 11, 2010, at 9:30 A.M. However, we receive a large volume of calls and there are times when we are all out of the office at meetings. Your patience in trying to reach us is appreciated.