



A Week That Will Change A Lifetime



Congratulations and welcome to American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State!

We, the members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Carolina, are excited that you will attend this exceptional program known as ALA Palmetto Girls State. We believe that you are about to be a part of one of the greatest opportunities available to young ladies in high school. Your selection to attend ALA Palmetto Girls State is an honor and is a result of who you are. For you to have been nominated and selected to attend ALA Palmetto Girls State, someone believes that you are a leader in your school and community. Your attendance at ALA 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.

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

Each delegate and her parents should carefully review the materials in this packet. These materials are available on the ALA Palmetto Girls State registration website. Attendance at ALA Palmetto Girls State is a privilege. Every delegate is expected and required to abide by the rules of the program, including adherence to the dress code that is prescribed for ALA Palmetto Girls State. The dress code is explained in detail on the dress code document.

This year's session of ALA Palmetto Girls State will be held June 8-14, 2025, on the campus of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. We expect approximately 650 delegates for this year's session of ALA Palmetto Girls State. We look forward to meeting you and having you become a citizen of the 78th session of ALA Palmetto Girls State.

Sincerely,

Sabra Denny
Director, ALA Palmetto Girls State

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Citizen Pledge

American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State
CITIZEN PLEDGE - 78th ALA PALMETTO GIRLS STATE
JUNE 8-14, 2025

As a Delegate to and a Citizen of ALA Palmetto Girls State, a program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Carolina, I voluntarily make the following PLEDGE:

1. I will obey the rules of ALA Palmetto Girls State. I will show consideration and respect for all individuals participating in ALA Palmetto Girls State at all times, including staff, other delegates, and speakers. I will not use obscene, profane, threatening, or harassing language or engage in any unwanted or inappropriate conduct or any form of harassment or intimidation. I understand the terms "harassment" and "intimidation" include any verbal or physical conduct that unreasonably interferes with another's performance or creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment. I will promptly report any such conduct by others to my Senior Counselor(s) and/or Administrative Staff.
2. I will be present for every portion of the ALA Palmetto Girls State session and will remain in its entirety, unless advanced permission is obtained in writing from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit that sponsored me and from the Director of ALA Palmetto Girls State.
3. I will not leave assigned areas of the Presbyterian College campus, except as the ALA Palmetto Girls State schedule allows or as may be approved by the Director of ALA Palmetto Girls State.
4. I will take a serious and conscientious interest in discharging my duties as a Delegate to and Citizen of ALA Palmetto Girls State.
5. I understand that ALA Palmetto Girls State is an Americanism program established to educate young women in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship. I further understand that the program is a study of city, county, and state government and that the ideals of Americanism, citizenship, patriotism, and "God and Country" are featured throughout the week.
6. I understand the ALA Palmetto Girls State program continually strives to reflect a cross-section of South Carolina, and to further this goal, ALA Palmetto Girls State embraces and encourages diversity among its staff, volunteers, and delegates. I further understand ALA Palmetto Girls State aims to create an environment which promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion regardless of an individual's race, color, religion (creed), nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, location (rural, urban, or suburban) in this state, or political views and beliefs.
7. I understand ALA Palmetto Girls State will not tolerate any forms of intentional discrimination and will address any bias incidents reports. A bias incident is defined as the use of any disparaging or offensive remarks, including slurs, epithets, or stereotypes about race, color, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or religion (creed) and the display or use of any offensive or intimidating imagery or symbols. I further understand that upon receiving a bias incident report, ALA Palmetto Girls State will immediately take steps to reaffirm its nondiscrimination policy and provide a resolution, which may include mediation, education, and/or removal of an individual from the ALA Palmetto Girls State program.

8. I understand ALA Palmetto Girls State recognizes and supports delegates' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of online social networks. However, I further understand that participation in the ALA Palmetto Girls State program is a privilege, not a right, and I represent the American Legion Auxiliary and am expected to portray myself, my school, and the Auxiliary in a positive manner. I therefore agree that any online postings relating to ALA Palmetto Girls State will be consistent with federal and state laws and further agree to the following:
 - A. I understand everything I post online is public information. I cannot control any text, photo, or video once it is posted online, even if I limit access to my post(s). I understand information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posts) may be accessible even after I remove it.
 - B. I understand ALA Palmetto Girls State will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior posted on social media, including derogatory or defamatory language, images, or videos, or comments that create a danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of physical or emotional injury to another person.
 - C. I understand ALA Palmetto Girls State reserves the right to have staff members review and/or monitor delegates' social networking sites and postings regarding the ALA Palmetto Girls State program. I further understand any violation of law or of ALA Palmetto Girls State's guidelines is subject to investigation and possible removal from the ALA Palmetto Girls State program and/or referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.
9. If elected to office, I will serve to the best of my ability and participate in the activities designed for my office.
10. Upon returning home and if requested by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit that sponsored me, I will make a formal report (written or oral) of my impressions and experiences at ALA Palmetto Girls State.
11. I will live in residence as a Citizen of ALA Palmetto Girls State.
12. I will return to my high school for at least one semester of my senior year.
13. I am not a member of, nor do I subscribe to the principles of, any group opposed to democracy or to the forms of government of the United States of America and the State of South Carolina.
14. I will not use the ALA Palmetto Girls State name in any commercial or promotional activity.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The ALA Palmetto Girls State program continually strives to reflect a cross-section of South Carolina. To further this goal, ALA PGS embraces and encourages diversity among its staff, volunteers, and delegates. ALA PGS aims to create an environment which promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion regardless of an individual's race, color, religion (creed), nationality, socioeconomic status, location (rural, urban, or suburban) in this state, or political views and beliefs.

ALA PGS affirmatively and emphatically states that it will not tolerate any forms of discrimination and will address any bias incidents reports. A bias incident is defined as the use of any disparaging or offensive remarks, including slurs, epithets, or stereotypes about race, color, disability, nationality, religion, or creed and the display or use of any offensive or intimidating imagery or symbols. Upon receiving a bias incident report, ALA PGS will immediately take steps to reaffirm this policy and provide a resolution that may include mediation, education, and/or the removal of an individual.

Rules & Regulations

The safety of our delegates and staff is of the utmost importance to ALA Palmetto Girls State. Each person in attendance at ALA Palmetto Girls State is responsible for her own actions. Acts of dishonesty and those in violation of the following rules and regulations will not be tolerated and can result in dismissal from the program. To ensure a safe and effective learning environment, we utilize and enforce the following rules and regulations.

DAMAGES TO PROPERTY

Any damages caused to Presbyterian College property, or ALA Palmetto Girls State property, will result in the party(ies) causing such damage being assessed for the cost of the damages. Intentional acts causing damages to property could result in dismissal from the program.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Possession of (1) fireworks, firearms, air guns, other weapons (knives, daggers, etc.) or (2) illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or e-cigarettes, or prescription medicines without a valid, current prescription are prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal from ALA Palmetto Girls State.

NO-SMOKING POLICY

Presbyterian College has a no-smoking policy. ALL dorms and dorm rooms at Presbyterian College are non-smoking buildings and rooms. **Smoking and/or vaping—or possessing tobacco or e-cigarette products—in the dorms, the dorm rooms, and/or on campus 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 dorms or dorm rooms. Violation of this provision will result in dismissal from the program. In addition to the foregoing, please be aware that ALA Palmetto Girls State reserves the right to contact local law enforcement authorities for assistance should any delegate be found in possession of illegal weapons, illegal drugs, or alcohol.

CELL PHONE USE

Except for clearly announced uses related to ALA Palmetto Girls State, cell phone use is not allowed during assemblies, meetings, or other scheduled activities. Delegates are expected to restrict use of cell phones and other electronic devices (talking, texting, gaming, web-browsing, etc.) to free times and not to allow cell phone/electronic device use to be disruptive. Delegates may use cell phones in the dorms and after dismissal from scheduled activities.

ALA Palmetto Girls State is an educational program and should be respected as an educational program. Non-ALA PGS-related use of cell phones and other electronic devices during meetings and/or assemblies may result in dismissal from ALA Palmetto Girls State. Further, delegates are expected to attend to ALA Palmetto Girls State activities before responding to calls, texts, emails, etc. Use of cell phones and other electronics should not disrupt the activities of ALA Palmetto Girls State and should not be loud, annoying, inconvenient, or otherwise bothersome of others.

Part of the ALA PGS experience is the immersion of all attendees in the program without outside distractions. Delegates should not expect to be able to call, text, and/or email at all times. Also, parents, please refrain from contacting your daughter during the day. We follow a regimented and tight schedule. Your daughter may have the opportunity to contact you during her free time.

ATTENDANCE & EARLY DEPARTURES

Delegates are expected to remain in attendance at ALA PGS for the entire week of June 8-14, 2025. However, each year some delegates seek permission to leave early. Permission to leave early should be requested and obtained prior to online registration and arrival at ALA Palmetto Girls State on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Any delegate requesting to leave the program early must contact the Unit

sponsoring the delegate and ask the Unit to contact ALA PGS personnel. ALA PGS personnel will not approve early departure without the sponsoring Unit approving of the early departure and requesting early departure on behalf of the delegate. Further, early departures must be arranged and scheduled to fit within the ALA PGS schedule. Anyone seeking permission to leave early must coordinate the departure with the ALA PGS Administrative Staff to ensure that the departure works within our schedule.

VISITORS

Visitors are not allowed at ALA Palmetto Girls State. We follow a very tight schedule, therefore 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. Also, please note that the closing assembly on Saturday, June 14, 2025, is not open to visitors as there is not sufficient room in the auditorium for family or friends to attend our closing session.

Only participants of ALA 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 ALA Palmetto Girls State is in session. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal of the delegate from ALA Palmetto Girls State.

DROPPING OFF ITEMS/PACKAGES

Should someone need to bring or drop off a package to a delegate, the package should be taken to the ALA Palmetto Girls State "Delegate Services" office which will be located in Staton Hall. Staton Hall is located beside Georgia Dorm. Please make sure that any package or item 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 drop off or take any items directly to a delegate's dorm, and please DO NOT attempt to meet with a delegate. Also, delivery of prepared food (e.g. take out, delivery, etc.) is not appropriate.

MEALS

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. Meals will be provided on campus through the campus dining services. In addition, snacks are available from vending machines and the ALA PGS canteen. Delegates may bring snacks.

HEALTH & SAFETY

We continue to monitor medical and legal advisories in order to develop a safety plan and protocols that will protect the health and well-being of our delegates, staff, and counselors. Delegates must adhere to the safety guidelines that are in place. These guidelines will be determined closer to the date of ALA PGS. Delegates who cannot follow the guidelines will be dismissed from the program.

ALA PALMETTO GIRLS STATE CITIZEN PLEDGE

Please read the ALA Palmetto Girls State Citizen Pledge before signing. Each delegate is expected to abide by the pledge as it is written. Please realize that violation of the ALA Palmetto Girls State Pledge or the rules of ALA Palmetto Girls State may result in dismissal from ALA Palmetto Girls State. Additionally, violation of the rules of Presbyterian College or damage/theft of property or another person's belongings may result in dismissal from ALA Palmetto Girls State. Further, please be aware that ALA Palmetto Girls State reserves the right to contact local law enforcement authorities for assistance should damage or theft of property or belongings occur.

Pre-Arrival Checklist

☐ **Complete and sign online forms needed for check-in through the online registration system.**

All forms should be completed and signed through the online registration system before arrival at ALA Palmetto Girls State. These forms are part of the registration process and must be finalized by April 1, 2025. The delegate section must be completed before the parent portion can be completed.

☐ **Plan for Registration Fees**

At check-in, each delegate will need to present **\$115 IN CASH** for the following fees:

- \$75 non-refundable registration fee (required)
- \$40 room key/dorm access card deposit (required)

These fees are accounted for separately. Therefore, please have the exact amount in cash for each of these fees. **NO checks, money orders, credit cards, or debit cards are accepted for payment of these fees at registration/check-in.**

The registration fee of \$75 is non-refundable and is required from each participant.

The room key/dorm access card deposit of \$40 will be refunded on the morning of Saturday, June 14, after a room check and after you return the room key and dorm access card at checkout. **Should you fail to return the room key and/or the dorm access card, you will not receive your deposit, and you will be charged the additional costs associated with replacing the dorm access card and/or replacing or rekeying the lock on the room. Currently, Presbyterian College contacts a local locksmith to rekey the lock and make new keys, and the charges for these services are \$150.00.** NOTE: Charges for missing keys and dorm access cards are assessed to Girls State when the Girls State office checks out on Saturday, June 14, 2025. 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.

☐ **Optional - Complete and submit Samsung scholarship (if applicable) online prior to arrival (See page 20 for instructions)**

Check-In Instructions

Check-in for ALA Palmetto Girls State will take place on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Please read these instructions carefully. Please note, all delegates must complete the check-in process before going to their assigned dorm. We will check-in approximately 650 girls during this time period. Please plan your arrival taking into account the number of registrants, the 2.5-hour window to check-in/register, and the probability of lines. Early arrival is highly recommended.

REGISTRATION FEES

At check-in, each delegate will need to present **\$110 IN CASH** for the following fees:

- \$75 non-refundable registration fee (required)
- \$40 room key/dorm access card deposit (required)

These fees are accounted for separately. Therefore, please have the exact amount in cash for each of these fees. **NO checks, money orders, credit cards, or debit cards are accepted for payment of these fees at registration/check-in.**

ARRIVAL

This year's session of ALA Palmetto Girls State will be held on the campus of **Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina**. The address of Presbyterian College is 503 South Broad Street, Clinton, South Carolina. Directions to the campus and a campus map are available on the [ALA Palmetto Girls State website](#), with the Delegate Informational Materials. Upon arrival, please go to **Neville Hall** to check-in with ALA Palmetto Girls State. Neville Hall is located on South Adair Street.

Presbyterian College
Neville Hall
503 South Broad Street
Clinton, SC 29325

DELEGATES MAY NOT HAVE PERSONAL CARS AT ALA PALMETTO GIRLS STATE. Each delegate and her family are responsible for arranging transportation to and from ALA Palmetto Girls State. Please observe the registration times. **On Saturday, June 14, 2025, we will dismiss at approximately 10:30 a.m.;** please make arrangements to depart campus no later than 11:00 am on June 14, 2025. There is no lunch service on campus on Saturday, June 14, 2025.

CHECK-IN TIME

Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end promptly at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Please plan to arrive at Presbyterian College during this check-in period.

PARKING

Parking is available in the lots near Neville Hall and will be marked and monitored. Please do not park

along South Adair Street. Delegates should leave all belongings in the vehicle until after check-in. Following check-in at Neville Hall, we request that cars in the lots surrounding Neville Hall be moved to make way for others arriving. After checking in, delegates will proceed to their assigned dorms. Cars may be moved to the parking areas near the dorms for unloading luggage. Once the delegate has checked in at Neville Hall and unloaded her belongings at her assigned dorm, family members should say their good-byes and allow the delegate to begin her ALA Girls State experience, as well as clear the way for other arrivals.

MOVE-IN

Following check-in at Neville Hall, delegates will proceed to their assigned dorms. Room and dorm assignments will be provided at registration on June 8, 2025. Please make sure that all luggage, bags, cosmetic cases, etc., are clearly marked with the delegate's name.

Each delegate is responsible for carrying her luggage to her room. Please be aware that only Girls State delegates and Girls State staff are permitted in the living areas of the dorms. **Parents, family, and/or friends are NOT allowed into the living areas of the dorms.** Accordingly, each delegate is responsible for transporting her luggage and belongings to her room. Each delegate should pack knowing that she alone is responsible for carrying all luggage and belongings to her room.

Check-in and move-in with this many people/luggage takes time. Overcrowding and congestion are inevitable. Please pack extra patience for this time. You can assist in avoiding congestion by arriving early, by limiting good-byes with family, and, most importantly, by being prepared for check-in with all forms completed and the exact money needed to register.

Important Items to Bring

Below are some of the most important items to bring to ALA Palmetto Girls State. Please clearly mark all bags, suitcases, cosmetic cases, etc., with the delegate's name and address.

☐ **Fees for Registration**

At check-in, each delegate will need to present **\$110 IN CASH** for the following fees:

- \$75 non-refundable registration fee (required)
- \$40 room key/dorm access card deposit (required)

These fees are accounted for separately. Therefore, please have the exact amount in cash for each of these fees. **NO checks, money orders, credit cards, or debit cards are accepted for payment of these fees at registration/check-in.**

☐ **Linens and bedding**

Including: Sheets, blanket, pillow, pillow case, towels and washcloths/loofah. NOTE: Most beds in the dorms at Presbyterian College are twin extra-long (Twin XL). While some rooms may have standard twin beds, we do not know which rooms will have beds which are Twin XL and which rooms may still have standard Twin size beds. Delegates are advised to bring either Twin XL sheets or larger sized sheets which may be "tucked in" to fit either the standard Twin or the Twin XL mattress.

☐ **Appropriate bottoms that meet the dress code**

ALA Palmetto Girls State has a strict dress code. Please refer to the dress code document for more information. For normal daily assemblies, meetings, and activities on campus, Sunday through Saturday, each delegate will wear an ALA Palmetto Girls State t-shirt. Each delegate will be supplied with two white Girls State t-shirts and one colored t-shirt depending on county assignment. These are the only approved t-shirts that may be worn for scheduled daily activities. **ALA Palmetto Girls State will wash delegates' white Girls State t-shirts.** However, extra delegate t-shirts may be purchased in the ALA PGS store at registration and throughout the week. Keep in mind that you will wear the Girls State t-shirt every day with appropriate skirt, slacks/pants, capri pants/chinos, jeans, skorts, or shorts. [NOTE: Skirts, shorts, and skorts must be knee-length. Please refer to the dress code document for a description.]

☐ **Casual clothing for after hours and athletic activities (such as the County Olympics), including athletic shoes**

These items may be worn after the daily activities are concluded and can include jeans, shorts, shirts, t-shirts, etc. Please do not bring clothing with offensive or obscene slogans or words; clothes with offensive or obscene words are not acceptable at any time.

☐ **Comfortable shoes for daily wear**

We walk a lot. This is not the time to break in a new pair of shoes. Rubber flip flops are appropriate

as shower shoes; rubber flip flops are NOT appropriate footwear for assemblies and other scheduled events.

☐ **A pair of thick-soled shoes or athletic shoes to wear to our trip to Columbia**

On Friday, we will walk in a parade along Main Street to the State House. Heels, flip flops, and sandals are not advisable.

☐ **Navy or black appropriate bottoms for the trip to Columbia.**

IMPORTANT: Shorts and blue jean/denim pants of any length are NOT permitted for the trip to Columbia. 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 result in a very uncomfortable time. Slacks, pants, or capris may be worn.

☐ **Shower shoes, bathrobe/cover-up, and shower tote/caddy**

Some dorms have hall/community baths. Shower shoes will be needed for trips to the shower. Also, a small pail or plastic tote (i.e. shower tote/caddy) to carry soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc., to and from the bath is helpful. Shower shoes and a shower tote are recommended regardless of whether you are assigned to a dorm with a hall/community bath or not. Also, a bathrobe or cover-up is recommended.

☐ **Money for vending machines, the ALA PGS Canteen, and the ALA PGS Store.**

A large amount of money is not needed. ALA Palmetto Girls State merchandise such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other souvenirs will be available in the PGS Store and can be purchased with cash, credit cards, or debit cards. Drinks and snacks will be available in the ALA PGS Canteen but can only be purchased with cash. There is an ATM on campus, if needed.

Items Not to Bring / Prohibited Items

- **Fireworks, firearms, air guns, other weapons (knives, daggers, etc.) or illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or e-cigarettes/vaping materials, or prescription medicines without a valid, current prescription. Possession of these items are prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal from ALA Palmetto Girls State.**

Presbyterian College has a no-smoking policy. ALL dorms and dorm rooms at Presbyterian College are non-smoking buildings and rooms. Smoking and/or vaping—or possessing tobacco or e-cigarette products—in the dorms, the dorm rooms, and/or on campus will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

- **Candles, incense, or other flame-producing or flammable materials.**

Violation of this provision will result in dismissal from the program. In addition to the foregoing, please be aware that ALA Palmetto Girls State reserves the right to contact local law enforcement authorities for assistance should any delegate be found in possession of illegal weapons, illegal drugs, or alcohol.

- **Valuable, sentimental, or irreplaceable items like jewelry or large amounts of money.**

Neither ALA Palmetto Girls State nor Presbyterian College assumes responsibility or liability for lost or missing items or damage to personal effects or property. During your stay at ALA 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. If in doubt, leave the item at home. There is an ATM located on campus should additional cash be needed.

- **Campaign materials**

During the exercises and activities at ALA Palmetto Girls State, our delegates will offer and run for various offices in our state of "Palmetto." No prepared campaign materials or campaign supplies may be brought to ALA PGS. Additionally, there should be no campaigning conducted via social media (i.e Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) before ALA PGS begins. After arrival at ALA PGS, all delegates will be advised of the rules pertaining to campaigning. There should be no campaigning for any office conducted prior to June 8, 2025, and the start of ALA PGS.

Dress Code

At all times:

- No tattered or torn clothing.
- No clothing with obscene or suggestive slogans, words, writings, etc.
- Midriffs may not be shown at any time, during daily activities or after hours. ALA PGS t-shirts may not be torn, cut, folded, or otherwise modified to show midriffs.

Event	Dress Code
Daily Activities & Events on PC's Campus	• Delegates will be provided two white ALA PGS t-shirts to wear on Sunday-Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday, and one colored t-shirt associated with their ALA PGS County to wear on Wednesday. These are the only approved t-shirts that may be worn for scheduled daily activities. ALA Palmetto Girls State will wash delegates' white Girls State t-shirts. • Appropriate skirts, slacks/pants, jeans, capri pants/chinos, skorts, or shorts must be worn during daily activities and events. • Skirts, shorts, and skorts must be knee length. Delegates can also wear midi (calf-length), and maxi skirts in addition to knee-length shorts and skorts. • Flip-flops and "spike" heels are not permitted.
Wednesday & Thursday	• On Wednesday and Thursday, delegates must wear an appropriate knee-length, solid-colored bottom, including jeans, skirts, slacks/pants, capri pants/chinos, skorts, or shorts. • This solid-colored bottom can be any color, but it cannot have any pattern. • If they choose, delegates may wear patterned bottoms every day except for Wednesday and Thursday.
Friday trip to Columbia	• A solid navy blue or black pair of slacks/pants, capris, skirt, or skort, are requested—but not required—for Friday's trip to Columbia only. • Delegates will wear a white ALA PGS t-shirt with appropriate skirt, skort, or slacks/pants. Only skirts, skorts, or slacks/pants may be worn on Friday's trip to Columbia. • IMPORTANT: Shorts and blue jean/denim pants of any length are NOT permitted for the trip to Columbia. 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 result in a very uncomfortable time. • Skirts, shorts, and skorts must not be shorter than knee length. • Sandals and heels are not recommended. We will walk several blocks down Main Street in a parade, so please wear comfortable, thick-soled shoes.
"After Hours"	• Casual and athletic apparel are permitted after hours and during the PGS County Olympics.

PACKING LIST	
<i>We cannot anticipate every delegate's needs, but this checklist is intended to aid you in preparing for ALA Palmetto Girls State. Please make sure that all luggage, bags, cosmetic cases, etc. are clearly marked with your name and address.</i>	
FOR REGISTRATION	
	\$110 for Registration and Key Deposit Fees (See page 9 for reference)
CLOTHING	
	Dress-code-compliant bottoms for each day of the week (7 days total) (See the dress code on page 14)
	Casual clothes for after hours and athletic attire for the PGS County Olympics
	Pajamas
	A light sweater or jacket. Meeting rooms are sometimes cool.
	Raincoat and/or umbrella. We walk - rain or shine.
	Athletic shoes
	A pair of thick-soled shoes or athletic shoes to wear to our trip to Columbia on Friday.
	Navy or black appropriate bottoms for the trip to Columbia. IMPORTANT: Shorts and blue jean/denim pants of any length are NOT permitted for the trip to Columbia. (See the dress code on page 14)
	Solid-colored bottom for Wednesday and Thursday (does not have to be navy or black). No patterns are permitted on Wednesday and Thursday. (See the dress code on page 14)
	Multiple sets of undergarments, socks, etc.
TOILETRIES	
	Cosmetics, toiletries, and personal items: → Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, body soap, shampoo, conditioner, face wash → Razors, deodorant, lotion → Makeup, brushes/combs, hair ties/pins, hair products, hair scarf, curling/straightening iron → Any personal items which you use regularly → Items needed for monthly menstrual cycles
	Bathroom items: → Shower shoes or rubber flip-flops to wear while showering → Shower caddy/tote, shower cap, hand soap → Bath towel, hand towel, washcloths/loofah → Bathrobe/cover-up

	Sunscreen
MISCELLANEOUS	
	Linens and bedding. Including: Sheets, blanket, pillow, pillow case, towels and washcloths/loofah. NOTE: Most beds in the dorms at Presbyterian College are twin extra-long (Twin XL). Delegates are advised to bring either Twin XL sheets or larger sized sheets which may be "tucked in" to fit either the standard Twin or the Twin XL mattress.
	Any prescription or medication that you take regularly
	Cell phone charger
	Money for ALA PGS Canteen, vending machines, and the ALA PGS Store. Note: The ALA PGS Canteen will serve snacks and beverages and is cash only; Cash, credit, and debit are accepted at the ALA PGS Store. A lot of money is not needed.
	Snacks, candy, etc.
	Water Bottle • Water bottles should be spill-proof, leak-proof, or no-spill • Note: Water fill stations and fountains will be throughout campus, and you can purchase a refillable ALA PGS Water Bottle at check-in or throughout the week.
	Sunglasses, hats, etc.
	Notebook, pens, pencils, etc. You can also purchase an ALA PGS Notebook from our store.
	5 by 7 inch bag for carrying materials, assemblies and meal times. No large bookbags please. If a bag is larger than 5 by 7 inches it must be a clear bag.
Something you need that's not on our list? Write it below to make sure you don't forget to bring it.	

Additional Important Information

Medical Staff

ALA 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). **We are not equipped for mental health needs and/or emergencies. Should this arise, we will contact the parent/guardian.**

Mail / Packages

Delegates may receive mail while attending ALA Palmetto Girls State. Because mail coming into ALA Palmetto Girls State is routed through Presbyterian College's mailroom, please do not send mail or packages after Tuesday, June 10th, as it may not arrive in time. **DO NOT HAVE MAIL SENT TO THE ADDRESS ON THE LETTERHEAD.** Mail should be addressed as follows:

DELEGATE FULL NAME
ALA Palmetto Girls State
c/o Presbyterian College
207 East Maple Street
Clinton, SC 29325.

ALA PGS Closet

The ALA PGS Closet aims to eliminate any hardship that may arise for delegates when acquiring clothing that meets the dress code for ALA PGS, particularly the solid-color bottom required on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. If you are a delegate interested in having an item of clothing provided for you, we will have more information and a sign up link closer to June so that we can make sure the clothing is available for you when you arrive at ALA PGS! All needs will need to be requested prior to June 8, and we are unable to take requests throughout the week.

Friday Inauguration Information

On Friday, June 13, 2025 American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State and American Legion Palmetto Boys State will hold a joint inauguration on the State House steps at the Capitol in Columbia, SC. Both groups will parade down Main Street to the State House steps beginning at approximately 10:00 am. The joint inauguration will begin at 11:00 am. Family and friends may attend and watch the parade on Friday. However, there will not be time for delegates to interact with family and friends during or after the parade. **Parents and guests are not allowed to attend the joint sessions of the ALA PGS House and Senate or office visits following the lunch.**

Departure Instructions

DEPARTURE

On Saturday, June 14, 2025, delegates will be dismissed to leave after the closing assembly. This should be at approximately 10:30 a.m. Please arrange to depart campus no later than 11:00 a.m. There will be no lunch service on campus for ALA Palmetto Girls State on Saturday, June 14, 2025.

NOTE: The closing assembly is not open to visitors. We are sorry, but the auditorium does not have room for family and friends to attend our closing session.

PICK-UP INSTRUCTIONS

Delegates can be picked up at their dorms. As a reminder, each delegate is responsible for carrying her luggage down from her room. Please be aware that only Girls State delegates and Girls State staff are permitted in the living areas of the dorms. Parents, family, and/or friends are NOT allowed into the living areas of the dorms.

PARTICIPATION CHARM AND CERTIFICATE

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." Therefore, charms and certificates are awarded at the end of the program to those delegates who complete the course of study. Delegates departing from the program prior to the completion of the course of study do not receive a certificate or a charm.

Information about Dorms

Size of Beds/Mattresses:

- Presbyterian College is in the process of converting the mattresses in ALL dorms to twin extra-long (Twin XL).
- We do not know which rooms will have beds which are Twin XL and which rooms may still have standard Twin size beds.
- Delegates are advised to bring either Twin XL sheets or larger sized sheets which may be "tucked in" to fit either the standard Twin or the Twin XL mattress.
 - If a delegate does not have Twin XL sheets, consider using a larger flat sheet instead of a fitted sheet or sheets for a Full or Queen sized mattress.
- The dimensions of a twin extra-long (Twin XL) mattress are 39" x 80".
- Standard sizes of flat sheets 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)

Dorms with Community (Hall) Baths:

- Some dorms at Presbyterian College have community (hall) baths.
- Community (hall) bath refers to a dorm where the rooms do not have adjoining baths but all rooms of the floor share one or more large bathrooms with each bathroom having multiple sinks, showers, and toilets.
- All delegates should consider bringing a bath tote or small pail/bucket to assist with carrying shampoo, soap, and toiletries to the bath. Regardless of whether a delegate is assigned to a dorm with a community bath or not, the tote/pail will assist in keeping shampoo, soap, and other toiletries together.

All delegates should also consider packing shower shoes and bathrobes/cover-ups.

Samsung Scholarship Information

While ALA Palmetto Girls State is not a scholarship program, there are scholarship opportunities available to delegates who attend and complete ALA Palmetto Girls State.

About

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship was created in 1996 from an endowment by the Samsung Corporation. This endowment was made in appreciation of U.S. veterans who came to aid South Korea during the struggle against communist forces in the Korean War. The endowment resulted in a scholarship program, which is administered by The American Legion, to benefit direct descendants of U.S. veterans.

Every Girls State and Boys State program selects one finalist from among its participants. State finalists move to the national level of competition for the opportunity for a \$10,000 scholarship. Additional information may be found on The American Legion website at <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/scholarships/samsung-american-legion-scholarship>. The application can be found at the top of the page in the red “apply” box.

Award Amounts

Samsung scholarships may be used for undergraduate studies and applied toward tuition, books, fees, and room and board. Winners are selected according to academic record, involvement in school and community service.

- Ten National Scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region)
- Ten National Runners-Up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region)
- Remaining Department Finalists receive \$1,250 each guaranteed

PLEASE NOTE:

The application is a lengthy process and ample time will need to be devoted to completing the application. There are multiple documents and signatures needed. All applications are due by the end of the first day (11:59 pm on Sunday, June 8, 2025) in order to be considered. However, there will not be time to work on the application on the first day of ALA Palmetto Girls State. Therefore, interested applicants are encouraged to apply prior to arrival.**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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FAQs

Below are just a FEW of the many questions we are asked about ALA Palmetto Girls State. To see a full list of FAQs, including questions about what to expect, please visit our website at palmettogirlsstate.net/faq/

Is there an ATM on Presbyterian College's campus?

Yes. There is an ATM located on campus should additional cash be needed.

Will my ALA Palmetto Girls State t-shirts be washed?

Yes. ALA PGS will wash delegates' white t-shirts given that delegates are required to wear their white shirts daily. However, additional t-shirts can be purchased in the ALA PGS Store during registration and throughout the week.

Does ALA Palmetto Girls State have merchandise to purchase? How much does ALA PGS store merchandise cost?

Yes. T-shirts and other souvenirs will be available for purchase in the ALA PGS Store. Merchandise ranges in price from \$5 - \$25. Cash, credit cards, or debit cards may be used for purchases in the ALA PGS Store; however, checks are not accepted in the store. The ALA PGS Store will be open during check-in should parents want to purchase items.

Am I required to have a physical examination?

No. We do not require a physical examination. Your parents will complete an online Medical Consent Form as part of the online registration process. We have medical personnel on staff for basic medical needs (not including mental health services), and we will use this information if there is an emergency.

Will there be medical staff on site?

Yes. ALA 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). We are not equipped for mental health needs and/or emergencies. Should this arise we will contact the parent/guardian.

Can delegates receive mail and or packages while attending ALA PGS?

Yes. Delegates may receive mail while attending ALA Palmetto Girls State. Because mail coming into ALA Palmetto Girls State is routed through Presbyterian College's mailroom, please do not send mail or packages after Tuesday, June 10th, as it may not arrive in time. **DO NOT HAVE MAIL SENT TO THE ADDRESS ON THE LETTERHEAD.** Mail should be addressed as follows:

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Clinton, SC 29325.

Can family and friends attend the parade in Columbia on Friday?

Yes. Family and friends may attend and watch the parade on Friday. However, there will not be time for delegates to interact with family and friends during or after the parade. **Parents and guests are not allowed to attend the joint sessions of the ALA PGS House and Senate or office visits following the lunch.**