

About Buckeye Girls State

What is Buckeye Girls State?

Buckeye Girls State is a program designed to educate Ohio's young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of good citizenship. By getting involved in the process, you will learn more about City, County and State Government in one week than you may learn in an entire semester of high school.

The young women selected for this honor are called Delegates and are assigned to one of two political parties – Federalist or Nationalist. As an active member of your party, you will learn political party structure and have a definite function in the government system. Through hands-on experience you have the opportunity to not only learn the mechanics of local and state government; you have the opportunity to learn citizenship and patriotism; you gain self-confidence, poise and character. Attendance also makes you eligible to apply for or be selected for awards, honors and scholarships as outlined in this packet.

Buckeye Girls State has a policy that all delegates must stay for the entire program, which lasts seven days; from Sunday, June 16 beginning at 1:00 pm through Saturday, June 22 at about 12:15 pm. If a Delegate leaves early she forfeits all rights to any honors, awards and scholarships presented or announced at the closing program. She is not permitted to say that she attended the program. Unlike a camp, Buckeye Girls State is a week long process for learning about government, campaigning and running for office and then operating in the elected or appointed position for the rest of the week. And it's not fair to other citizens who are counting on her to perform those responsibilities throughout the week. If she leaves the program early she will not get the full benefit of participating. We recognize this is a difficult decision for young women. But this is just one of the decisions she will be making as an adult and only one of the life lessons she may learn by attending Buckeye Girls State. If a Delegate elects not to attend, please contact the American Legion Auxiliary Unit sponsoring her so that they can notify their alternate.

Benefits of Attending Girls State

The Ohio American Legion Auxiliary has been a proud sponsor of Buckeye Girls State for the past seventy-two years. The program has been honored by such organizations as Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Girls State is a nationally recognized program. Past participants have included:

Jane Pauley
NBC Broadcast Journalist

Jessica Mitchell
VP of Design/Director of Apparel
for Liz Claiborne

Kate Shindle
Miss America 1998

Lynne Cheney
Wife of former US Vice President

Jennifer Dunn
US Representative - Washington

Ann Richards
Former Governor of Texas

Captain Michelle Johnson
First woman to serve as Wing Commander,
US Air Force Academy

Ericka Dunlap
Miss America 2004

Helen Jones Kelly
Director, Ohio Job and Family Services

Marilyn Byers
Ashland County Commissioner

Where is Buckeye Girls State?

Buckeye Girls State 2019 will be held on the campus of University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. Delegates and Staff are housed on campus in university residence halls. Each girl must provide her own transportation to and from Buckeye Girls State. If you drive your personal car, you must turn your keys in to the Girls State Information Center upon arrival. You must also complete the **Delegate Vehicle Identification Form** included in this packet and return it in the large, self-addressed envelope contained in this packet by June 1, 2019. Registration begins at 1:00 pm on Sunday, June 16th. Delegates are not allowed to leave the campus until after the closing session of Buckeye Girls State on Saturday, June 22nd.

Buckeye Girls State On-line Orientation Program

Completing the On-line Orientation is mandatory for all attending Delegates. This new, innovative process of preparing Delegates for Girls State will be available on the website (www.buckeyegirlsstate.org) by mid-April, 2019. Delegates must complete the On-line Orientation by June 15, 2019 and notify their sponsoring Unit upon completion.

BENEFITS OF THE ON-LINE ORIENTATION

- Consistent dissemination of information
- Sponsoring Unit has on-line confirmation of completed individual Orientations
- Convenience (available at the Delegate's home, school or local library)
- Required travel to Orientation sites unnecessary
- Delegate Information Packet remains on-line for easy reference or replacement of misplaced documents
- Delegates, Alternates, Parents, Unit Members have access to the same information resulting in improved communication and better prepared Delegates

In order for you to complete the On-line Orientation the following actions must have occurred:

- You have received the "***Delegate Information Packet***"
- You have carefully studied the "***Delegate Information Packet***" contents

In order to complete the On-line Orientation, log on to the website (www.buckeyegirlsstate.org), click on the "On-line Orientation" button, enter your First Name, Last Name, and Application Number as found on the address label on the Information Packet you received and correctly answer all the multiple-choice questions. To gain credit for completing the On-line Orientation you must enter your First and Last Name exactly as spelled on the envelope label along with your Application Number.

You are also encouraged to attend a District Orientation in your area. While the District Orientation is not mandatory, it is a good place for you and your parents to learn how the session proceeds and to meet other Delegates and Alternates in your area. The District Orientation schedule is on the Buckeye Girls State web site under "Class of 2019".

Buckeye Girls State Policies

These policies were developed for your safety. Anyone who does not adhere to the Girls State Policies (detailed on Page A-7) or creates disturbances to the point she disrupts the program and/or other Girls State Citizens, will be subject to immediate dismissal and will be sent home from the Girls State Program. Some violations may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Registration—Sunday, June 10, 2018

Registration for the 2019 session of Buckeye Girls State opens promptly at 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 16th and closes at 2:30 PM in the Peterson Field House, #28a on the campus map. Arrivals prior to 1:00 PM are unnecessary since registration will not open prior to 1:00 PM.

Please follow the Girls State Traffic Control personnel and the Ohio State Highway Patrol officers who will move you quickly in and out of the Registration Area. You will be directed to a convenient parking area.

Do not unpack your luggage at the registration site. After you register, you and your parents will be directed to your residence hall where you may unpack near your assigned room.

At the Registration Area, please line up at the proper Registration Station by your last name. Stations are divided in groups based on the first three letters of your last name (AAA-ARC, ARD-BAE, etc.). At the Registration Station you will be handed a 3 x 5 card with your housing location, your assigned Buckeye Girls State City and County, and other information. **Before leaving the Registration Station, check your name, address and school information on the card.** Ensure the information shown on the card describes you and not another Delegate with the same or similar name. Once you have officially registered you are on your way to becoming a Citizen of Buckeye Girls State.

If you are an Alternate replacing a Delegate at the last minute, please find the Staff Registration Manager who will assist you. You will be given further direction by her. You must know the name of the Delegate you are replacing.

The University Bookstore will be set up at Registration so you may make purchases of BGS apparel after you register or while waiting to register.

Personnel from the Alliance Community Pantry will have a truck located outside the Peterson Field House to accept and load your contributions to the pantry.

Medical Information/Registration

The **Medical Record and Consent Form** must be fully completed, signed, and returned in the large, self-addressed envelope contained in this packet by June 1, 2019. If you have had a physical (for sports, etc.) in the past year, then your parent may complete the form. Otherwise, you must get a physical before arriving at BGS.

Be sure that all required signatures are included on the form before returning it!

A nurse's station will be set up at Registration to answer any questions you or your parents may have. If the Medical Alert box is checked on your Registration Card you will be required to visit the clinic in the Dewald Chapel, #25 on the Campus Map, after you have completed the registration process and have completed the check-in process at your assigned Residence Hall.

What to Bring from Home

Community Service Project

This year Buckeye Girls State is supporting the **Alliance Community Pantry** as our Community Service Project. Delegates are encouraged to bring up to three items of non-perishable food items to donate. Items needed include but are not limited to: cereal, peanut butter, and canned meats – tuna fish, chicken, etc. Arrangements will be made to get the food items to the pantry. Collection will take place at Registration on June 16th. See the letter from Department President Kathy Heichel included in this packet for further details.

Apparel

Bring enough comfortable cloths to last a week. We suggest you make sure that your entire luggage and other belongings are clearly marked, inside and out, with your name and address.

Event Description	Day of the Week	Required Dress
Opening Ceremony	Sunday	Dress/Suit or Blouse & Skirt
City Pictures	Sunday	Dress/Suit or Blouse & Skirt
City Government Celebration	Wednesday Evening	Dress/Suit or Blouse & Skirt
County & State Government Celebration	Thursday Evening	Dress/Suit or Blouse & Skirt
Joint Session of the House & Senate	Saturday	Dress/Suit or Blouse & Skirt
All Other Functions	Refer to Daily Program	Slacks, Walking Shorts, Jeans
State Highway Patrol Participants	Wednesday – Friday	White T-Shirts w/Black Shorts or Slacks
Note: See the required Dress Code on the BGS web site www.buckeyegirls.state.org , click on “Class of 2019” then “Dress Code”. Also bring rainwear and comfortable shoes (citizens do a lot of walking).		

Linen

You must also bring at least two single sheets for a twin size bed, one pillow and pillow case, a light blanket or quilt, personal care items, towels, washcloths, soap, a fan (most of the Residence Halls have no air conditioning), clothes hangers, alarm clock, and, if desired, a hair dryer, camera, calculator, and radio. NO TV’s or other appliances.

Checklist

✓	Items to bring with you:	Required/Optional/Suggested
	Buckeye Girls State Delegate Information Packet	Required
	Dress/Suit or Blouse & Skirt (as specified above)	Required
	Slacks, pant skirts, walking shorts, or jeans. NO short shorts, mini-skirts, or tattered/torn jeans.	Required
	Rainwear	Suggested
	Comfortable walking shoes	Required
	Two single sheets for a twin bed	Required
	One pillow and pillow case	Required
	Light blanket or quilt	Required
	Personal care items	Required
	Towels and washcloths	Required
	Soap	Required
	Shampoo	Suggested
	Hair dryer	Optional
	Fan (no air conditioning in most sleeping rooms)	Suggested

	Clothes hangers	Suggested
	Alarm clock	Suggested
	Camera	Optional
	Calculator	Optional
	Radio (No TV's)	Optional
	Band instruments	If you plan to join the band
	Cell Phone (usage restricted to free periods)	Suggested
	Snack foods based on any dietary restrictions	Suggested
	Markers, paper, scissors, rulers, etc.	Optional – in great demand
	Sunscreen	Optional
	White T-shirts Black shorts or slacks	Required if you want to participate in the BGS Highway Patrol

Entertainment

There will be plenty of music at Buckeye Girls State. If you plan to play in the BGS Band, bring your musical instrument. If you sing or play the piano, the BGS Chorus needs you.

If you are interested in participating in the BGS Band or Chorus, **complete and send the enclosed Band and Chorus Information Sheet by June 1, 2019** in the large, self-addressed envelope contained in this packet.

Housing

You will be housed in a Residence Hall on the campus of University of Mount Union. Your Residence Hall and room number will be given to you at registration. You will stay in a 2 or 3-person room and will be given a key to your room by your City Counselor. This key is your responsibility and must be returned to your City Counselor before you leave on Saturday, June 22nd. There will be a \$50.00 charge for any key not returned. Free washers and dryers are located in each residence hall. Residence Hall Counselors will always be there with friendly words and to see that the residence halls are quiet after “lights out” every night.

General Information

All of your meals will be served on campus.

You will be able to send and receive mail. Outgoing mail is taken to the Post Office daily. Incoming mail is picked up by BGS or University personnel on a daily basis and will be routed to you through your City Counselor. To receive mail, please advise family and friends to address your letters: *Your Name, Your BGS City, Residence Hall Name*, University of Mount Union, 1972 Clark Avenue, Alliance, Ohio 44601.

You are welcome to bring your cell phone with you to Buckeye Girls State. However, please understand that you may use it only during meal times, recreation periods, and free time before lights out. Use of your cell phone during scheduled program activities, government functioning, or at assemblies is **strictly prohibited**. This includes both voice and text messaging.

Publicity

The BGS Director of Public Relations in association with the University of Mount Union will notify your local newspaper and your sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Legion Post about your accomplishments (office attained, awards, etc., while you are at Girls State). Sign and have a parent sign the release at the end of the Social Networking Policy included in this packet.

Medical Care

Licensed nurses and hospital facilities are available at all times for the citizens of Buckeye Girls State. The **Medical Record and Consent Form must be completed** by each Delegate and sent in the large, self-addressed envelope contained in this packet by June 1, 2019. **Be sure to attach a copy of your medical insurance card and a copy of your prescription card (if it is different from your medical insurance card) to the Medical Record and Consent Form.**

Be sure that all required signatures are included on the form before returning it!

*Delegates with special medical or nutritional requirements **must notify** the Buckeye Girls State office in writing prior to your arrival at Girls State. Send your correspondence to The American Legion Auxiliary's Department Headquarters in the large, self-addressed envelope contained in this packet. (See page A-10 for the address)*

While you are attending Buckeye Girls State, you are covered by a blanket Accident and Sickness policy maintained by the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary. This coverage is excess coverage to insurance maintained by your parents. In the event you receive treatment at Girls State, a bill will be directed through your parent's Health Insurance.

Buckeye Girls State Souvenirs and Available Items for Sale

Group pictures of each Buckeye Girls State City and other photographs will be taken and available for inclusion in the picture album which will be available on-line. You will be given a link to access the photos. Pictures will be included as the week progresses with the final version available after the session ends.

For your convenience the University Bookstore, which is located on the 1st floor of the Hoover-Price Campus Center, will carry such items as Girls State Apparel and other souvenirs as well as postcards, stationery, and small gift items

How Much Money Will You Need

Your sponsorship fee paid by the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Legion Post covers the full expense of your meals and accommodations, but you may want to bring additional money for personal use (snacks, City party, stamps, souvenirs). A variety of beverages and snacks are available in vending machines so you may want to bring some change.

There will be items available from the University of Mount Union Bookstore. A separate sheet indicates the items and approximate prices. All clothing items have BGS or Buckeye Girls State imprint.

Policies

The Buckeye Girls State Board of Directors developed these policies for the safety of BGS Citizens and Staff.

<i>Smoking Policy</i>	Smoking and the use of other tobacco products is <u>strictly prohibited</u> . Violators will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program. Smoking both with tobacco and electronic are strictly prohibited anywhere on the UMU campus..
<i>Drugs, Alcohol and Weapons Policy</i>	Use or possession of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, and/or weapons is <u>strictly prohibited</u> . Violators will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program and possible criminal prosecution
<i>Hazing Policy</i>	Hazing in any form is <u>strictly prohibited</u> . Violators will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program and possible criminal prosecution
<i>Creating Disturbances Policy</i>	Creating disturbances to the point that they disrupt the program and/or other Girls State Citizens is strictly prohibited. Violators will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program.
<i>“Mock” Activities Policy</i>	Any “mock” activities which in “real life” would cause either physical or emotional trauma to the victim(s), and to those associated with the victim(s), and for which the perpetrators would be <u>subject to criminal prosecution</u> are <u>expressly prohibited</u> . Violators will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program and possible criminal prosecution .
<i>No Boys Policy</i>	Boys on campus during Buckeye Girls State are <u>expressly prohibited</u> . The Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers will escort them off campus.
<i>Leaving Campus Policy</i>	All citizens are restricted to the University of Mount Union campus and the facilities used by BGS. Citizens will only be permitted to leave the campus during scheduled and supervised field trips. Violators are subject to <u>immediate dismissal</u> from the program.

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Endowment Fund Scholarship – Two outstanding Buckeye Girls State Delegates will be selected to receive the \$1,000 Buckeye Girls State American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio Endowment Fund Scholarship. This scholarship is funded by donations from local Auxiliary Units across the state of Ohio.

Girls Nation – Two Buckeye Girls State Delegates will be selected to represent Ohio and Buckeye Girls State in a week-long exercise in the operation of the Federal Government through the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation Program. The American Legion Auxiliary National Organization underwrites the transportation as well as the housing and meal costs of all Delegates selected to participate in the Girls Nation Program. Delegates must complete the enclosed application and go through an interview process. Selection is based on leadership, cooperation, attitude, interest in government, and desire. In addition to the two (2) Girls Nation Delegates, two (2) Alternates will also be selected in the event one of the Delegates from Buckeye Girls State is

unable to attend. A Girls Nation application and program requirements document is enclosed. The application **must be completed and returned by June 1, 2019** in the large self-addressed envelope enclosed in this packet.

United States Senate Youth Program – Literature detailing this honor is included in this packet. Should you wish to be considered for this honor, the Senate Youth Scholarship application form **must be completed and returned by June 1, 2019** to the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters. Please use the large, self-addressed envelope contained in your Buckeye Girls State packet.

The SAMSUNG Scholarship –The application is only available online and must be completed online at www.legion.org. Scroll over the “Programs” headline at the top of the page, and in the drop- down box, click on “Scholarships”. The SAMSUNG American Legion Scholarship will be the 3rd scholarship from the top. Follow the instructions online to complete and file the application.

University of Mount Union Scholarship – University of Mount Union offers a scholarship to Buckeye Girls State delegates who complete the entire BGS Program and enroll at the University of Mount Union after graduation from high school. The scholarship is \$2,000 per year and is renewable based on maintaining a satisfactory academic level. The University also awards one hour of college credit for those who complete the program and enroll at UMU. Your contact information is provided to UMU for the purpose of confirming your attendance and to inquire about continuing your education at UMU after graduation from high school.

Buckeye Girls State Highway Patrol

Buckeye Girls State operates a functioning Girls State Highway Patrol, chaired by Officers and Troopers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The young women selected to form the Girls State Highway Patrol receive comprehensive training in Ohio Law, Law Enforcement, and the role, duties and responsibilities of a police officer. If you are interested in participating in the Girls State Highway Patrol, please be sure to bring several white T-shirts and black shorts or slacks to wear Wednesday through Friday. Following the conclusion of Buckeye Girls State, approximately 10 Girls State citizens are selected to attend Junior Cadet Week at the Highway Patrol Training Academy in Columbus. This program is jointly sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Please refer to the information available on the web site for further details.

BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE “DO’s AND DON’T’s”

- DO** Come to Girls State with an open mind and a willingness to learn. Be prepared to spend long, but rewarding, hours learning with the Girls State Program.
- DO NOT** Think you are coming to a summer recreation camp.
- DO** Bring comfortable clothes. Dresses or blouses and skirts will be required for the Official Opening, City Pictures, City Government Celebration, County and State Government Celebration and the Joint Session of the House and Senate. Slacks, pant skirts, walking shorts and jeans are permissible for all other activities. Also bring rainwear and comfortable shoes. You will do a lot of walking.
- DO NOT** Bring clothes that are not respectable or abuse the dress code.
- DO** Keep the American Legion Auxiliary Unit, which is sponsoring you, informed of what you are doing. They are proud to have you represent them.

- DO NOT** Bring anything with you which is extremely valuable as all personal items are your responsibility. Girls State assumes no responsibility for lost items.
- DO** Make a list of what you bring to Girls State. This can serve as a checklist when packing for home. Mark items with your name before you leave home.
- DO NOT** Leave anything behind at Girls State. If you do, please contact the University of Mount Union Campus Safety and Security.
- DO** Leave your car keys at the Girls State Information Center if you are driving your personal car. This is a must.
- DO NOT** Leave campus anytime during the week. Violators will immediately be sent home.
- DO** Be very clear about any medical conditions for which the caregivers at Girls State should be aware. We want you to spend a happy and healthy week at Buckeye Girls State.
- DO NOT** Invite male friends to visit during your stay at Buckeye Girls State. These visits are not permitted.
- DO** Be proud of being selected to attend Girls State. It is an honor afforded to only a special group of Ohio's finest young women each year.
- DO** Arrive between 1:00 and 2:30 pm on Sunday, June 16th.
- DO NOT** Depart before the final closing on Saturday, June 22nd.

How You Can Be Reached

Parents who need to contact a Citizen should call the BGS Information Center during office hours. After office hours, messages may be left on the Girls State office answering machine. Calls will be returned as soon as possible. If you have an emergency after office hours, contact University of Mount Union Safety and Security. They will contact the proper Girls State officials. For non-emergencies, a telephone message form will be sent to the Citizen through the City Counselor.

For your convenience please remove Page A-11 from this packet and leave it with your parents so they will be able to contact you or the Buckeye Girls State Program on campus from June 16th through 22nd.

Important Information and Telephone Numbers

Materials/Information:	Send To:
Materials that need to be submitted prior to Buckeye Girls State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical Record and Consent Form ▪ Special nutritional requirements ▪ Scholarship application forms (optional) ▪ Band & Chorus Information Sheet (optional) ▪ Special Entertainment Info Sheet (optional) ▪ Samsung Scholarship Application (on-line and optional) ▪ Girls Nation Application (optional) 	American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State PO Box 2760 Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760 <i>(Pre-addressed envelope provided)</i>
How to contact you at Buckeye Girls State:	
Messages during office hours (9:00 am to 11:00 pm)	Girls State Information Center (330) 829-4138 *
(* These numbers are only active when Buckeye Girls State officials are on site beginning June 13, 2019 and ending June 22, 2019)	<i>A telephone message form will be sent to the Citizen through her City's Counselor. After business hours, messages may be left on the Girls State office answering machine and calls will be returned as soon as possible.</i>
Emergencies <u>during</u> office hours (9:00 AM to 11:00 PM)	BGS Information Center (330) 829-4138 *
Emergencies <u>after</u> office hours	University of Mount Union (330) 428-1344 (cell) Campus Safety and Security <i>Immediate attempts will be made to contact the Citizen in the event of an emergency. University Safety Services officers will contact the proper Girls State officials.</i>
And also for valuable items left behind when leaving UMU. Call Campus Safety and Security to arrange pickup.	
BGS Clinic	(330) 829-8106 *
Alliance Community Hospital	(330) 596-6000
Your BGS Mailing Address:	<i>Your Name, Your BGS City, Your BGS Residence Hall, University of Mount Union, 1972 Clark Avenue, Alliance, Ohio 44601</i>
BGS Web site	www.buckeyegirlsstate.org