

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 11 beginning at 1:00 pm through Saturday, June 17 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-seven 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 2023 will be held on the campus of Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, 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 May 1, 2023. Registration begins at 1:00 pm on Sunday, June 11th. Delegates are not allowed to leave the campus until after the closing session of Buckeye Girls State on Saturday, June 17th.

Buckeye Girls State Orientation Program

You are required to attend a District Orientation in your area. The District Orientation is **mandatory** and 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 included in this packet. **You may attend any district orientation.** Alternates are highly advised to attend one of the orientations so if they are chosen to replace a Delegate, they have already participated in the **mandatory** orientation.

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-5 & A-6) 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 11, 2023

Registration for the 2023 Session of Buckeye Girls State opens promptly at 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 11th and closes at 2:30 PM. Delegate registration will take place at each individual dorm, and you will be notified by email beginning June 1, 2023, as to the time and dorm for your registration. Be sure to include a current email that is **NOT** your school email.

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 Parking Areas.

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 May 1. 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. Please be sure that all insurance and prescription information is attached to your medical record form.

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

A nurse's station will be set up during 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 staff in the lobby of your assigned residence hall after you have completed the registration process.

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 May 1. **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-9 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.

What to Bring from Home

Community Service Project

This year Buckeye Girls State is supporting the **Brown Bag Food Project 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 Sunday. See the letter from Department President Cindy Masowick included in this packet for further details.

Apparel

Bring enough comfortable clothes 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
Government Functioning	Wednesday – Saturday	Business Casual – based on Elected/Appointed position
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
Bring comfortable shoes as you will do a lot of walking. Flip flops are only permitted in the dorms due to health and safety reasons. NO short shorts, mini-skirts or tattered or torn jeans are permitted.		

Linen

You must also bring at least two single sheets for a twin size bed, one pillow and pillowcase, a light blanket or quilt, personal care items, towels, washcloths, soap, clothes hangers, alarm clock, and, if desired, a hair dryer, camera, calculator, and radio. NO TV's or other appliances. The dorms are air conditioned.

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
	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. We are also looking for marching band field commanders who would like to participate by directing the band during a musical selection. Please indicate this on the Band & Chorus Form.

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

Housing

You will be housed in a Residence Hall on the campus of Bowling Green State University. Your Residence Hall will be sent to you via email. You will stay in a double room and will be given a key to your room and a building fob upon arrival. This key and fob are your responsibility and must be returned to your City Counselor before you leave on Saturday. There will be a \$35.00 charge for any key not returned and a \$10.00 for any fob not returned. 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 in the Oaks Dining Hall.

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, Bowling Green State University, Bowen-Thompson Student Union, Room 220, Bowling Green, O H 43403.

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 Bowling Green State University 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.

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. Bowling Green State University may have Buckeye Girls State apparel for sale in their bookstore located in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

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). There is also food available for purchase on the first floor of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

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 Campus Security will escort them off campus.
<i>Leaving Campus Policy</i>	All citizens are restricted to the Bowling Green State University 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 May 1** in the large self-addressed envelope enclosed in this 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.

Bowling Green State University is offering delegates to 2023 Buckeye Girls State who enroll at BGSU upon high school graduation, a guaranteed minimum \$1,000 scholarship for their first four years at the University.

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 contact one of the OSHP officers to get further details if interested in Junior Cadet Week.

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 Bowling Green State University 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 11th.
- DO NOT** Depart before the final closing on Saturday, June 17th.

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 Bowling Green State University 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-9 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 11th through 17th.

Important Information and Telephone Numbers

Materials/Information:	Send To:
<p>Materials that need to be submitted prior to Buckeye Girls State:</p> <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) 	<p style="text-align: center;">American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State PO Box 2760 Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Pre-addressed envelope provided)</i></p>
How to contact you at Buckeye Girls State:	
<p>Messages during office hours (9:00 am to 11:00 pm)</p> <p>(* These numbers are only active when Buckeye Girls State officials are on site beginning June 7, 2023, and ending June 17, 2023)</p>	<p>Girls State Information Center (419) 372 - 5410*</p> <p><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></p>
<p>Emergencies <u>during</u> office hours (9:00 AM to 11:00 PM)</p> <p>Emergencies <u>after</u> office hours</p> <p>And also for valuable items left behind when leaving BGSU. Call Campus Safety and Security to arrange pickup.</p>	<p>BGS Information Center (419) 372 - 5410*</p> <p>Bowling Green State University (419) 372 - 2346 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></p>
<p>BGS Clinic</p> <p>Wood County Hospital</p>	<p>(419) 372-5416*</p> <p>(419) – 354-8900</p>
Your BGS Mailing Address:	<p><i>Your Name</i> <i>Your BGS City, Your BGS Residence Hall</i> Bowling Green State University Bowen-Thompson Student Union, Room 220 Bowling Green, OH 43403</p>
BGS Web site	www.buckeyegirlsstate.org

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