



Party conventions select party clerks and chairs

Amanda Ault

Historically, the first full day of Girls State is known as “the longest day.” Fresh from orientation and still full of questions, the citizens of Girls State jump in, feet first, to the governing process. In a flurry of activity, these young women introduce themselves to their fellow residents and press upon their new community the qualities that make them the best candidate for a multitude of city offices.

By 2:30 p.m., the cities are voting on who will run the city as the council and mayor and who will keep law and order as the sheriff. They have also selected their representatives at the state level, sending

two senators and four delegates to the Virginia Girls State General Assembly.

The evening continued with the first night of party conventions. Each city’s delegation gathered together to nominate and select the first leaders of their Nationalist and Federalist parties. The Nationalists selected Rebecca Reynolds (Lewis) and Alexandra Snith-Scales (Draper) as their party clerk and chair, respectively. The Federalists selected Emma Limeberry (Randolph) and Jordan Arnold (Lewis) as their party clerk and chair, respectively. The clerks and chairs will now run the second evening of conventions when the parties nominate their candidates for the three top jobs at Virginia Girls



Marcia Wheatley organizes the Federalist Party Convention.

State - governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general.

In the midst of all the campaigning, voting and number crunching, the citizens of Girls State experienced their first ses-

sion of activities. Terry Ellis, a lobbyist who works in Richmond, addressed the Women in Government session about her role as a lobbyist and how lobbyists impact the governing process.



City elections and party conventions push Girls State forward

CRUSH CITY

Megan Church

In less than 48 hours, the girls of Crush are undoubtedly comfortable around each other. Friendships are forming, trust is growing, and leaders are emerging.

Many citizens of Crush attribute these quickly forming bonds to the fact that, though they haven't spent much time at Girls State, they have spent all of it together.

"We're stuck with each other, but in a positive way," stated one woman of Crush.

"We've walked in lines, eaten meals, and danced in assemblies together," agreed another. "All of that is good for bonding."

Most of the girls entered the city without knowing anyone, ready to make friends.

"Everyone was very open and approachable," the Crush girls agreed.

"It's hard to put a label on [the bond between us] because it's early in the week," said citizen Sarah Scaplehorn. "But it's growing."

INGLES CITY

Shelby Ethington

At Ingles, government is taking shape and our voices are being heard. As elections close on the city level, you can tell that the girls of Ingles are truly beginning to feel at home here at Longwood. It is through our triumphs and our losses that we truly begin to find ourselves and that is obvious in the Ingles girls. With grace and composure, no matter the outcome, the girls here continue to make important connections and memories. The ever-popular phrase, "It's only Monday," has floated around accompanied by "I feel like I've known you forever." As Saturday approaches, the Ingles girls fear nothing but going home empty-handed, and that's not likely to happen with this outstanding group of girls.

MADISON CITY

Angelica Walker

Yesterday was our first full day of Girls State and it was packed! Many speeches were given and votes were cast as we traveled



Federalist Party Delegates working out votes at the party convention. *Photographer Amanda Ault*

farther on the journey to growing our government. We elected many city officials, but most importantly we elected a mayor and sheriff. Congratulations to Cori Doyle and Caroline Wood.

Yesterday we met not as cities, but as parties. Our first test of formal government when we met and caucused for candidates from Madison. Even though neither were voted in, it was a wonderful experience and a great second day.

MONROE CITY

Rebecca Sutton

The city of Monroe enjoyed the profoundly warm first full day of Girls'

State today. We began by filing into the dining hall for breakfast, thankfully as the last shift, which left many of us free to drink any beverage, not just coffee. Following the raising of the flag we introduced our new "row, row, row, Monroe" chant to all other cities. Monroe then split into parties and partook in its first caucus. Monroe's campaign speeches were dripping with enthusiasm even with the cramped hallway space available. Monroe citizens were also given their first opportunity to participate in their activities and in a party convention. Both these events led to the bonding of our girls through

common interests, city pride, and certainly a lack of sleep. Although tired, Monroe remained animated and graceful throughout our first full rigorous day. All other cities should prepare to always hear the eager chants of Monroe. HEY HO.. MONROE.

PRESTON CITY

Emily B.

The clock struck seven and the faces of Preston City not-so-gracefully awoke from their slumber. They put on their faces, fluffed their dresses and strapped on their sandals in preparation for the first full day of caucuses, voting and conventions.

The girls dove head first into caucusing to elect party nominees. The tension rose as election results approached; however the girls witnessed a miraculous transition from forming individual alliances to total party cooperation as the girls rallied behind their candidates at the party conventions.

In the Federalist caucus, Tyler proved to stick to their promises as they aligned with Preston, while Pocahontas aligned with Ingles.

The competitive nature of the game created tension that could be cut with a knife.

POCAHONTAS CITY

Morgan Wood and Katelyn Morris

As each city cast its ballots for several city-wide positions, those elected began to learn and take on their new roles, as well as several Pocahontas Princesses finding their shine.

The city of Pocahontas congratulates the new senators, Mikhitha Induevri and Emma Rogers, Mayor Ella Hooper and Sheriff Mikayla Morgan and the many newly elect-

ed officials on their grand accomplishments.

We feel the Pocahontas Pride!

TYLER CITY

Elma and Katie L.

Girls State has been a very good environment for discovering new young creative future leaders of our country. In Tyler City, each of us contributed to choosing the individuals who were best suited for each city position. Through the meetings we became even closer by getting to know each other even more and help one another in stepping out of our comfort zones and running for a city office within our Nationalist and Federalist parties. As Neale Walsh said, "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." As we all are becoming stronger version of ourselves with every passing day at Girls State, I think that we are even beginning our new lives at Girls State today.

VANCE CITY

Emily Borst

As I sat on my suitcase to finally, FINALLY, close

it one last time - collared shirts, pencil skirts, and pantsuits all met my eye. As a teenage girl, packing for this was excruciating. What to bring? Should I be classy? conservative? a Hillary? a Jackie O? Finding the balance between classy and conservative, sassy and sweet, was a task that took many hours, tears, and words of choice from my mother to accomplish. At long last, the strings of pearls had been untangled, the blazers had been pressed, the shoes had been shined, and everything had been carefully chosen, folded, and packed. Of course, then the suitcase wouldn't close, so everything had to be taken out and debated over again. But that's another story.

MAKE SURE YOUR CITY VOICE IS HEARD!

City stories are due by 11 p.m. either in the Girls State Office or emailed to newspaper@vagiralsstate.org

Snap Shots

Email your snapshots to newspaper@vagirlsstate.org

