



## **2024 POLICY ON ALA VIRGINIA GIRLS STATE SOCIAL MEDIA USE**

TO BE COMPLETED BY DELEGATE AND PARENT/GUARDIAN

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Virginia recognizes and supports its ALA Virginia Girls State participants' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of online social networks. In this context, however, each delegate must remember that participating in the ALA Virginia Girls State program is a privilege, not a right.

As a delegate, you represent the American Legion Auxiliary and are expected to portray yourself, your school, and the Auxiliary in a positive manner at all times. Any online postings must therefore be consistent with federal and state laws, Longwood University rules, and ALA Virginia Girls State rules, regulations, and policies including the expectations and guidelines listed below.

### **Expectations and Guidelines**

If you participate on a social networking site or use social media, you must keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Participants of American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State agree that the participant will not take photographs, create video or audio recordings of other delegates, staff members, volunteers, or other individuals without the express consent of both the subject of the photograph, video, or audio recording, and of the ALA Virginia Girls State volunteer/staff member in supervision of the delegate.
- The American Legion Auxiliary will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
  - Derogatory or defamatory language and/or images
  - Comments that create a serious danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person
- Everything you post is public information—any text or photo posted online is completely out of your control the moment it is posted—even if you limit access to your site.
- Think before you post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it's wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed.
- Respect yourself; respect others; respect the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

**BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU TO LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY**

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(CONTINUED)

Monitoring and Consequences

The American Legion Auxiliary and Virginia Girls State reserves the right to review and/or monitor delegates' social networking sites and postings.

Any violation of law or American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State and/or Longwood University rules, regulations, or policies, or evidence of such violation in your online content, is subject to investigation and possible immediate censure by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State staff and/or law enforcement agencies.

Internal consequences may include dismissal from the ALA Virginia Girls State program at the discretion of the Director.

No alterations to the terms stated above may be made. If you are not in agreement with the terms of this policy, please contact the director immediately at [director@VaGirlsState.org](mailto:director@VaGirlsState.org) or through our website at [www.VaGirlsState.org](http://www.VaGirlsState.org).

As an American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State participant, I attest that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by this policy:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Delegate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Delegate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian if the above is a minor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date