



ALA Girls Nation Government Overview

During the Girls Nation week, we concentrate on two areas of government:
Political Parties and Senate.

Political Parties

We use the two-party political system at Girls Nation. Time does not allow us to create any additional parties. The political parties are the Nationalists and the Federalists. Each Girls State delegate is randomly assigned and becomes a member of her assigned party. The week is spent electing the party officials and working on the party committees. Once the Party Leadership is elected, party committees are organized which include Election, Rules & Credentials, Rally & Convention, Platform, and Campaign. Every member of the party chooses which committee they want to work on, and all committees work to get their candidates elected and to prepare the Party Platform which outlines the party's core principals, goals, and policy positions. During the week, the party members also elect the Party Whip and Party Leader who help guide the members of the Senate to vote according to the beliefs of the party. At the Party Convention, the members elect their candidates for President and Vice President, who run as a team and who will speak at the Two-Party Rally in front of the entire Girls Nation. After the Rally, the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates from each Party participate in Whistlestop campaigns, which consist of answering questions asked of them by the entire Girls Nation participants in small gatherings. Following the Whistlestops, the General Election is held, and a President and Vice President are elected by the entire Girls Nation Senators. If time allows, the President may be interviewed during a Press Conference, later after she is elected.

Senate

Senate consists of presenting, debating, and passing or failing bills or resolutions brought to the Senate Floor. Every State is asked to have its Girls Nation Senators co-write either a bill or a resolution before arriving at Girls Nation. The legislation is required to be sent to the Government staff before arriving at Girls Nation shortly after their ALA Girls State session ends. The legislation is reviewed and then placed on the Senate docket. We elect Senate officials who run and maintain order in the Senate with the highest officer being the President Pro Tempore. All Senators have floor privileges so they may speak in the Senate. We ask our newly elected President to veto one of the passed bills and the Senate then has the option to do a Veto Override. At the end of the week, we adjourn the Senate with "Sine Die", which marks the end of the ALA Girls Nation Senate session for that year.