



Policy on ALA Girls Nation Social Networking and Media Use

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls Nation program recognizes and supports its ALA Girls Nation participants' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of online social networks. In this context, however, each participant must remember that participating in the ALA Girls Nation program is a privilege, not a right. As a participant, you represent the American Legion Auxiliary and are expected to portray yourself, your state, and the American Legion Auxiliary in a positive manner. Online postings must, therefore, be consistent with federal and state laws, the William F. Bolger Center's rules, and ALA Girls Nation rules, regulations, and policies.

Guidelines

If you participate in a social networking site or use social media:

- Limit information on your whereabouts and plans in order to minimize the potential of being stalked, assaulted, or the victim of other criminal activity. **Post about where you've been — not where you're going.**
- No bullying or harassment of other ALA Girls Nation/American Legion Boys Nation participants, staff, or volunteers.
- 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 social media profiles. Information (including pictures, videos, comments, and other posts) may be accessible even after you remove it.
- 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. Post only pictures and comments that you would be comfortable sharing with the general public.
- Use caution when adding someone or inviting someone to be a friend.
- What you post may affect your future. College admissions officers and employers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posts).
- Like comments made in person, you should be respectful online. 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.
- Take the high ground. Don't pick fights or engage in fights online.
- Respect yourself, respect others, and respect the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program.

Monitoring and Consequences

ALA Girls Nation staff members reserve the right to review and/or monitor delegates' social networking sites and postings. Any violation of law or of the William F. Bolger Center and ALA Girls Nation's rules, regulations, or policies, or evidence of such violation in your online content, is subject to investigation and possible immediate action by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation staff and/or law enforcement agencies. Internal consequences may include, but are not limited to, notice to remove the content and dismissal from the ALA Girls Nation program.