

# bluebonnet girls state

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## Over 500 Take Part in 70th Session

By plane, bus, and automobile, 517 young women from all over Texas traveled to Texas Lutheran University campus in Seguin to take part in the 70th session of the American Legion Auxiliary’s Bluebonnet Girls State. Participants were organized into twelve “cities” with between 35 and 52 “citizens” each. They met their room-mates and neighbors and were welcomed by their counselors. Each new community quickly organized to write and adopt their own city charter and then hit the ground running by electing the following city officials:

**City A Alley Cats** Mayor: Caitlin Caminade, Council Place 1: Caroline Rock, Council Place 2: Julie Chase, Council Place 3: Kaylee Huang, Council Place 4: Jalynn Everett, Council Place 5: Elizabeth Boulware, Council Place 6: Bailey Janssen, Treasurer: Saman Merchant, Attorney: Libby Read, Tax Assessor/Collector: Tabitha Taylor, Police Chief: Jordan Griffin, Health Officer: Kelsey Hall, Fire Chief: Katie Nelson, Municipal Judge: Alyssa Reyes, (Senior Counselor: Allie Benson; Junior Counselors: Ali Colurciello and Megan Rose)

**City B Backstreet Babes** Mayor: Kayla Newman, Council Place 1: Rachel Hood, Council Place 2: Kaitlin Lawson, Council Place 3: Mackenzie Young, Council Place 4: Margo Hood, Council Place 5: Kathryn Lewis, Treasurer: Lauren Lum, Attorney: Anna Zimmerman, Tax Assessor/Collector: Kena Cox, Police Chief: Alexandra Howard, Health Officer: Katie Stansbury, Fire Chief: Kaytee Zweifel, Municipal Judge: Jacie Seward (Senior Counselor: Anabeth Fuller; Junior Counselors: Blair Cowden and Kayti Stanley)

**City C Classics** Mayor: Danielle Nianger, Council Place 1: Macala Carroll,



Girl State citizens arrive by school bus and are welcomed by junior counselors.

Council Place 2: Corrie Yaw, Council Place 3: Jenna Field, Council Place 4: Hannah McKay, Council Place 5: Kimberly Butkiewicz, Council Place 6: Rachel Lopez, Treasurer: Payton Robb, Attorney: Bree Romo, Tax Assessor/Collector: Danielle Harding, Police Chief: Rachel Glass, Health Officer: Kylie Kirby, Fire Chief: Emily Wilson, Municipal Judge: Cierra Ferrell. (Senior Counselor: Katie Stewart; Junior Counselors: Jacei Barrera and Destiny Matthews)

**City D Diamonds** Mayor: Azra Razvi, Council Place 1: Mallory Clay, Council Place 2: Alexandra Miller, Council Place 3: Stephanie Green, Council Place 4: Sarah Huffman, Council Place 5: Nicole Deguzman, Attorney: LaShelbee Boyd, Tax Assessor/Collector: Chelsey Rainwater, Police Chief: Shelby Dodson, Health Officer: Blake Webb, Fire Chief: Linda Hughes, Municipal Judge: Cassie Trevino. (Senior Counselor: Grace Baen; Junior Counselors: Brittany Brenan and Julia Lane)

**City E Emeralds** Mayor: Ashlyn Sterling, Council Place 1: Kelsy Brantner, Council

Place 2: Reagan Hahn, Council Place 3: Andrea Tranchita, Council Place 4: Lauren Sheffield, Council Place 5: Hailey Smalley, Treasurer: Madeleine Blunt, Tax Assessor/Collector: Mary Kate Walker, Attorney: Kendall Blackwell, Police Chief: Olivia Lasater, Health Officer: Lyndsey Reynolds, Fire Chief: Morgan Strawn, Municipal Judge: Ashley Thompson (Senior Counselor: Mauri King; Junior Counselors: Marley Berry and Paige Cheatham)

**City F Fireflies** Mayor: Madison Clark, Council Place 1: McKenzie Tryon, Council Place 2: Jessica Wilkins, Council Place 3: Bailey Schneider, Council Place 4: Meredith Caudle, Council Place 5: Jessica Doss, Council Place 6: Amanda Collins, City Treasurer: Ileyah Tovias, Attorney: Sadie Burt, Tax Assessor/Collector: Elizabeth Roudbari, Police Chief: Kristen Hopperdietcel, Health Officer: Soni Blackburn, Fire Chief: Haley Myatt, Municipal Judge: Olivia Rios (Senior Counselor: Shelby Langford; Junior Counselors: Margueret Betbeze and Kennedy Saxon)

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# Nats, Feds Pick Leaders: Party Convention Results

Because the Girls State program is entirely non-partisan, citizens operate with mock political parties. They elect precinct, county and state party officials and write their own party platforms. The program was led by Party Coordinator Kailey Peck and Federal Party Sponsors Hannah Cleveland and Kristen Mills and National Party Sponsors Rachel Cantu and Joi Stevens.

**National Party** State Chair: Mary Floreani, Vice-Chair: Sarah Tobin, House Whip: Hannah Boring, Senate Whip: Claire Weber.

**Chili County** Chair: Robin Pounders, Pct. 1: Raegan Bass, Pct. 2: Claire Weber, Pct. 3: Mary Floreani, Pct. 4: Paula McCloud **Goff County** Chair: Mackenzie Parker, Pct. 1: Macey Knobloch, Pct. 2: Chelsea Perry, Pct. 3: Hailie Ciomperlik, Pct. 4: Madison Collier **Pecan County** Chair: Amanda Fontenot, Pct. 1: Elisa Wells, Pct. 2: Courtney Cernosek, Pct. 3: Kayla Sohns, Pct. 4: Abbie Johnson **Tejas County** Chair: Grace Holcombe, Pct. 1: Riley Edmister, Pct. 2: Emily Hobart, Pct. 3: Carol Scott.



Federal leaders: (l to r) Gilman, Griffith, Perry and Jones.



National leaders: (l to r) Tobin, Floreani, Boring and Weber.

**Federal Party** State Chair: Taylor Perry, Vice-Chair: Rebecca Griffith, House Whip: Lauren Gilman, Senate Whip: Audrey Jones.

**Chili County** Chair: Kendall Thomas, Pct. 1: Elizabeth Rivera, Pct. 2: Becca Griffith, Pct. 3: Maria Nguyen, Pct. 4: Natalie Stanhope **Goff County** Chair: Kenna Nolen, Pct. 1: Damara Fondren, Pct. 2: Olivia Oliver, Pct. 3: Lauren Gilman, Pct. 4: Olivia Heatley **Pecan County** Chair: Laura Hughes, Pct. 1: Becca Spencer, Pct. 2: Kate Holder, Pct. 3: Elisa Notzon, Pct. 4: Micayla Orsak **Tejas County** Chair: Nicole Bluth, Pct. 1: Diana Furman, Pct. 2: Brittany Hornik, Pct. 3: Suzanne Zeller.

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**City G Ghostbusters** Mayor: Avery Aiken, Council Place 1: Bryn Beausoleil, Council Place 2: Natalie Matthews, Council Place 3: Natalie Miller, Council Place 4: Lorena Hernandez, Council Place 5: Kati Wheeler, Council Place 6: Chelsea Weatherly, Treasurer: Nneka Okoro, Attorney: Jenna Davenport, Tax Assessor/Collector: Gabriela Robinson, Police Chief: Drasia Darrough, Health Officer: Kara Conn, Fire Chief: Elizabeth Collett, Municipal Judge: Julia Durbin (Senior Counselor: Jenna White; Junior Counselors: Jacq Kasemri and Katelyn Pennington)

**City H Honeybees** Mayor: Celeste Tanega, Council Place 1: Madeline Spencer, Council Place 2: Shay McMullan, Council Place 3: Libby Heredia, Council Place 4: Claire Carter, Council Place 5: Katie Boehnke, Council Place 6: Julia Schrank, Treasurer: Morgan Chapa, Attorney: Jennifer Rethi, Tax Assessor/Collector: Kayli Bass, Police Chief: Delanie Molnar, Health Officer: Ruth Mizu, Fire Chief: Brooke Geigenmiller, Municipal Judge: Madison Bush. (Senior Counselor: Hillary Everts; Junior Counselors:

Jacki Shea and Danielle Throneberry)

**City I Icicles** Mayor: Laura Cook, Council Place 1: Alexis Nixon, Council Place 2: Cassidy Womack, Council Place 3: Carmen Sanchez, Council Place 4: Paige Maxwell, Council Place 5: Miranda Alvarado, Treasurer: Lindsey Washburn, Attorney: Scarlett Eaton, Tax Assessor/Collector: Lauren Hozdic, Police Chief: Ali Kontominas, Health Officer: Kaitlin Beettner, Fire Chief: Kimberly Canary, Municipal Judge: Brittany Pierce (Senior Counselor: Sarah Scalia; Junior Counselors: Jordan Janke and Keller Thomas)

**City J Jitterbugs** Mayor: Megan Paradowski, Council Place 1: Priyanka Rangadass, Council Place 2: Annika Klein, Council Place 3: Sydney Carsten, Council Place 4: Kelly Boening, Council Place 5: Chloe Cude, Council Place 6: Erin Egan, Treasurer: Evyn Williams, Attorney: Tran Le, Tax Assessor/Collector: Jessica Catlett, Police Chief: Jessica Redmon, Health Officer: Neria Sosa, Fire Chief: Abby Carrasco, Municipal Judge: Amelia Langhart. (Senior Counselor: Dabney Hegen; Junior Counselors: Haley Mazac and Anna Passey)

**City K Kites** Mayor: Kimi Walters, Council Place 1: Darcy Newcomer, Council Place 2: Dana Zavorka, Council Place 3: Julianne Grimley, Council Place 4: Meredith Burke, Council Place 5: Kinsey Gordon, Treasurer: Aleesa Morgan, Attorney: Meredith McDonough, Tax Assessor/Collector: BreAnna Prichard, Police Chief: Toni Hall, Fire Chief: Dorothy Walch, Health Officer: Karina Eguren, Municipal Judge: Scarlet Spikes. (Senior Counselor: Kate Ehmke; Junior Counselors: Cindy Saultz and Kirsten Wolford)

**City L Lovely Ladies** Mayor: Destiny Thompson, Council Place 1: Allie Jimenez, Council Place 2: Maddie Hawkins, Council Place 3: Kaci Pecht, Council Place 4: Kaite Howard, Council Place 5: Hanna Bailey, Council Place 6: Isabel Luna, Treasurer: Emma Weatherford, Attorney: Jennifer Torres, Tax Assessor/Collector: Lauren Pugh, Police Chief: Megan Davis, Health Officer: Elisa Klein, Fire Chief: Anelizabeth Peyton, Municipal Judge: Anna Grace Carey. (Senior Counselor: Jessica Evey; Junior Counselors: Katie Beth Barton and Sarah Lanford)

# State Elections: Nats' Guyton Takes Top Spot



State Officials: (l to r) Barnett, Notzon, Tippie, Abbas, Guyton, Fowler, Jarboe, Torres and Price.

On Thursday, June 19th, National Party candidate Andrea Guyton was elected 2014 Bluebonnet Girls State Governor. Caitlin Fowler was elected Lieutenant Governor. Other winners were Sonia Torres, Attorney General; Amy Jarboe, Comptroller of Public Accounts; Zaina Abbas, Commissioner of General Land; Mikhaila Barnett, Agricultural Commissioner; Eliza Price, Railroad Commissioner; Jess Tippie, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals; Elisa Notzon, Chief Justice, Supreme Court. Citizens also approved a constitutional amendment establishing annual legislative sessions.

On Friday, June 20th, citizens traveled to Austin where Girls State senators and representatives convened their annual mock legislature in the State Capitol. Later, a joint session gathered in the Texas Senate chambers to inaugurate newly elected state officials. The Honorable Michael Keasler, Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, addressed

the citizens and administered the oath of office. State officials were escorted by: Melissa Goodwin, Justice, Third Court of Appeals, representing Justice Phil Johnson, Texas Supreme Court; the Hon. Michael Keasler; Liza Willmore, Manager, Railroad Commission, representing Railroad Commissioner Barry Smitherman; Catherine Wright Steele, Director of Governmental Affairs, representing Todd Staples, Agriculture Commissioner; Jim Darwin, Federal Policy & Veterans Affairs Liaison, representing Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of General Land Office; Lisa Woods, Chief Strategy Officer, representing Comptroller Susan Combs; Stacy Napier, Deputy Attorney General for Administration, representing Attorney General Greg Abbott; John Hryhorchuck, Policy Advisor to Lt. Governor David Dewhurst; and Lori Swann, Director, and Connie Bridges, Co-Director, Texas Bluebonnet Girls State Program.

After a picnic lunch on the Capitol grounds,

citizens returned to Texas Lutheran University, concluding the evening with a lottery, auction and talent show.

## Citizens Impress

Citizens who performed throughout the session include: Bryn Beausoleil, Glori Belle, Katie Campbell, Elizabeth Collett, Noelia Collins, Madison Clark, Jenna Davenport, Gabriella Delgado, Julia Durbin, Valerie Garcia, Gracyn Green, Lily Goff, Barbara Gramby, Alex Herrera, Emily Hobart, Marleini Ilanga, Emily Noel Isbell, Georgie Jacobs, Abbie Johnson, Moira Kelleher, Macey Knobloch, Kimberlyn Krause, Kelsey Marie Landrum, Isabel Luna, Lauren Lum, Grecia Martinez, Annalisa Mitschke, Aleesa Morgan, Danielle Niangar, Taylor Niznik, Eliza Price, Jessica Redmon, Julia Schrank, Ashley Thompson, Sarah Tobin, and City D Dancers. Dana Zavorka played horn at flag lowering.

## Collier, Brock, Everett and Hobart Serve as Floor Leaders

Floor Leaders are distinguished positions in the legislature at Girls State. They are chosen by their respective presiding officers to serve as mentors for their fellow legislators. In the real world they are also spokespersons for their party and organize party strategy.

The Senate Floor Leaders were Madison Collier for the National Party and Alexandra Brock for the Federal Party. In the House, Nat Sarah Everett and Fed Emily Hobart were the Floor Leaders. These citizens led an exceptional legislative session at Girls State; bills and resolutions submitted and debated covered a broad spectrum of state interests. The legislature passed two constitutional amendments that were approved by the voters on general election night—one establishing annual sessions of the legislature and the other allowing for marriage in Texas of any two people.

Staff members who supervised the legislative portion of the Girls State program were Speaker of the House Audrey Huffman and President of the Senate Gable Brady. Dhruvi Gopaluni, Caitlin Post and Alli Williams served as the Legislative Assistants for the House. Chase Lalouette, Neethi Nayak and Claire Steinman served as the Legislative Assistants for the Senate.

# Girls Nation, Outstanding Citizens, Cup announced



Girls Nation delegates and alternates (left to right): Floreani, Weatherford, Brock and Torres.

Two girls are selected from each Girls State program to attend Girls Nation, a national government training program. Alexandra Brock of Austin (ALA Unit 447 in Round Rock) and Mary Floreani of Wimberley (ALA Unit 144 in San Marcos) will represent Texas at Girls Nation in July. First alternate is Sonia Torres of Mont Belvieu (ALA Unit 1050) and second alternate is Emma Weatherford of Flower Mound (ALA Unit 71).

Girls Nation "senators" meet for a week in Washington, D.C., where they run for office, enact legislation and meet with U.S. Representatives and Senators. Capping off the week is a meeting with the President of

the United States.

Twelve citizens were chosen "Outstanding Citizens of 2014" by their fellow Girls State citizens. They are Sonia Torres (City A), Caitlin Fowler (City B), Mary Floreani (City C), Noelia Collins (City D), Sierra Lanier (City E), Dorothy Turner (City F), Avery Aiken (City G), Elisa Notzon (City H), Sarah Chamberlain (City I), Abbie Johnson (City J), Emily Hobart (City K) and Emma Weatherford (City L).

City A won the inaugural Bluebonnet Cup by receiving the most points for participation in the legislature, elections, lectures and talent shows.

During closing assembly, Director Lori Swann recognized the contributions of Bluebonnet Girls State's over eighty staff members. They are unpaid volunteers, either former citizens or members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Those not mentioned previously include: Co-Director Connie Bridges; Associate Directors: Ann Doan, Karen Rodriguez, Stephanie McDonald; Education Coordinator: Katie Foehrkolb; County Coordinators: Hadley Brown, Jenna Donnelly, Kallie Fuchs, Aspen Real, Katie Shaw and Melinda Zanner; Talent Chair: Phyllis Janke; Talent: Sarah Gates, Deni Nikolova, Anna Liu and Megan Thibodeaux; Bank: Martha Collis, Virginia Donnelly, Myra Hester and Robbi Ruppert; Office: Charlotte Toulouse and Kim Pondrom; Nurses: Lynda Redix and Carolyn Whitener; Gift Shop: Bridget Trawhon (Chair), Donna Dillard, Dixie Jones, Sarah Urbanosky Hartman, Vicki Pollard and Candy Zavala; Transportation: Barbara Kundert; Media Relations: Ashley Poston and Jessica Scott.

For more information about the American Legion Auxiliary Texas Bluebonnet Girls State program, contact:

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## County Election Results: Feds Best Nats 20 to 12

Each of the four counties at Girls State elects eight county officers. County officers elected the following officials this year:

**Chili** Commissioners Place 1: Abigail Kelly, Commissioners Place 2: Rebecca Deleon, County Judge: Kaley Markos, County Attorney: Noelia Collins, Tax Assessor/Collector: Rachel Pokorney, County Clerk: Angie Pascarella, Sheriff: Mary Owens, Justice of the Peace: Alana Mendez

**Goff** Commissioners Place 1: Pearl Xie, Commissioners Place 2: Gabi Aguilar, County Judge: Jaden Amilibia, County Attorney: Bailee Eaglin, Tax Assessor/Collector: Lexi Knight, County Clerk: Tahlia White, Sheriff: Vanessa Valenzuela, Justice of the Peace: Kody Jones

**Pecan** Commissioners Place 1: Mia Teamer, Commissioners Place 2: Caroline Barksdale, County Judge: Kara Foster, County Attorney: Haley Henson, Tax Assessor/

Collector: Kate Holder, County Clerk: Katie Campbell, Sheriff: Kelsey Landrum, Justice of the Peace: Thanh Tsan

**Tejas** Commissioners Place 1: Elizabeth Dalbello, Commissioners Place 2: Suzanne Zeller, County Judge: Megan Kelso, County Attorney: Brittany Hornik, Tax Assessor/Collector: Bianca Rubio, County Clerk: Diana Furman, Sheriff: Crickette Miller, Justice of the Peace: Carol Scott