

Seventy-second Session Largest Ever

By plane, bus, and automobile, 598 young women from all over Texas traveled to the Texas Lutheran University campus in Seguin to take part in the 72nd session of Bluebonnet Girls State. Participants were organized into fourteen "cities" with between 36 and 50 "citizens" each. They met their roommates and neighbors and were welcomed by their counselors. Less than 48 hours after arrival, each new community had written their own charter and elected city officials.

City A All Stars Mayor: Frances Rohm, Council Place 1: Riley Tompkins, Council Place 2: Courtney Koehne, Council Place 3: Abby Walters, Council Place 4: Callie McCormack, Council Place 5: Tori Guerrero, Council Place 6: Calyn Grymes, Treasurer: Samantha Sullivan, Attorney: Madi Lockett, Tax Assessor/Collector: McKenzie Cockerham, Police Chief: Shea Hunter, Health Officer: Sydney Farney, Fire Chief: Sophia Hennessy, Municipal Judge: Katelynne Freeman. (Senior Counselor: Lilliebeth Halling; Junior Counselors: Sadie Burt and Jennah Janak)

City B Ballers Mayor: Erinn O'Brien, Council Place 1: Maddie Moorehead, Council Place 2: Avery Allen, Council Place 3: Elizabeth McCartney, Treasurer: Karmyn Michalec, Attorney: Katie King, Tax Assessor/Collector: Elise Ford, Police Chief: Rachael Murphy, Health Officer: Madi Mendez, Fire Chief: Baylee Jankowski, Municipal Judge: Jamie Dizon. (Senior Counselor: Kristen Mills; Junior Counselors: Anne Crisp and Hadley Kopser)

City C Campers Mayor: Addison Hastedt, Municipal Judge: Josie Murphy, Commissioner of Education: Courtlyn Boxie, Commissioner of Emergency Services: Sarah Champion, Commissioner of Energy: Jordan Manson, Commissioner of Tourism:

Jacqueline Lopez, Commissioner of Commerce: Meredith Jones, Commissioner of Natural Resources: Emily Koif. (Senior Counselor: Sarah Scalia; Junior Counselors: Kirsten Handler and Elisabeth White)

City D Daisies Mayor: Ana Pena, Council Place 1: Maggie Sanders, Council Place 2: Erin Edmondson, Council Place 3: Micah Dial, Council Place 4: Laura Blank, Council Place 5: Lily Rodriguez, Council Place 6: Grace Crow, Treasurer: Lisa Lange, Attorney: Olivia Maselli, Tax Assessor/Collector: Paris Procter, Police Chief: Christina Marquez Uribe, Health Officer: Claire Rosales, Fire Chief: Karoline Jones, Municipal Judge: Ashlee Streett. (Senior Counselor: Melinda Zanner; Junior Counselors: Cate Ghormley and Ellie Hamzy)

City E Emojis Mayor: Natalie Flores, Council Place 1: Madie Freeze, Council Place 2: Milena Cuellar, Council Place 3: Laci Gray, Council Place 4: Gillian Marek, Council Place 5: Lily Jones, Council Place 6: Miranda Kolwes, Treasurer: Crystal Glover, Attorney: Mary Frances Schorlemer, Tax Assessor/Collector: Sarah Larocca, Police Chief: Devon Humphries, Health Officer: Zoe Allen, Fire Chief: Reilly Menchaca, Municipal Judge: Keanna Joseph. (Senior Counselor: Anabeth Fuller; Junior Counselors: Maria Dunne and Hubbul Rizvi)

City F Fortunetellers Mayor: Sydney Crowley, Council Place 1: Hannah Valentine, Council Place 2: Savana Jones, Council Place 3: Davyani Srivastava, Council Place 4: Kay Watson, Council Place 5: Nikita Tiffany, Treasurer: Italy Almaraz, Attorney: Morgan Clinton, Tax Assessor/Collector: Jenny Tran, Police Chief: Veronica Garcia, Health Officer: Caithryn Grace, Fire Chief: Yaritza Marin, Municipal Judge: Makayla Kunz. (Senior Counselor: Kallie Kram; Junior Counselors: Katherine Seibert

and Cassidy Womack)

City G Genies Mayor: Mia Bean, Council Place 1: Kasey Ludwig, Council Place 2: Macy Turner, Council Place 3: Saliha Erenkol, Council Place 4: Cassy Carlton, Council Place 5: Dina Castillo, Council Place 6: Katie Merricks, Treasurer: Vanessa Martinez, Attorney: Ashlynn Sorrells, Tax Assessor/Collector: Samantha Torres, Police Chief: Ashley Ray, Health Officer: Ashley Stluka, Fire Chief: Jade Nails, Municipal Judge: Tiffany Shin. (Senior Counselor: Dabney Sattler; Junior Counselors: Ramona Greene and Julia Schrank)

City H Holidays Mayor: Abby Gage, Council Place 1: Allison Damrall, Council Place 2: Morgan Boyd, Council Place 3: Rylie Roark, Council Place 4: Sally Johnson, Council Place 5: Arlette Silva, Treasurer: Kolby Schievelbein, Attorney: Breely Peterson, Tax Assessor/Collector: Maci Stringer, Police Chief: Luz Rodriguez, Health Officer: Rylie Cooper, Fire Chief: Katelyn Torres, Municipal Judge: Hannah Hibler. (Senior Counselor: Allie Waters; Junior Counselors: Rebekah Lester and Mackenzie Young)

City I Instagrammers Mayor: Molly Wick, Council Place 1: Megan Vennell, Council Place 2: Sarah Lopez, Council Place 3: Emily Cantillano, Council Place 4: Emma Edwards, Council Place 5: Kate Killian, Council Place 6: Sydney Vickery, Treasurer: Hannah Ignacio, Attorney: Sarah Johnson, Tax Assessor/Collector: Miranda Barrow, Police Chief: Kalli Caddell, Health Officer: Maddie Byrd, Fire Chief: Madi Rossi, Municipal Judge: Kamwren Jackson. (Senior Counselor: Aspen Real; Junior Counselors: Lexie Ferguson and Kelsey Kallman)

City J Jellyfish Mayor: Justyn Tedder, Council Place 1: Mary-Catherine Haggard,

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 party platforms. The program was led by Party Coordinator Kailey Peck and Fed Party Sponsor Jacei Barrera and Nat Party Sponsor Megan Rose.

Federal Party State Chair: Ashton Woods, Vice-Chair: Amy Stahl, House Whip: Haley Hefner, Senate Whip: Kendall Smidovec

Chili County Chair: and Pct. 1: Kylee Gillenwaters, Pct. 2: Anna Isler, Pct. 3: Kristen Graham, Pct. 4: Amanda Losh *Goff County* Chair: Lexi Koppersmith, Pct. 1: Emmy Bribiesca, Pct. 2: Elizabeth Underhill, Pct. 3: Kendra Hess Pct. 4: Lizzy Patterson *Pecan County* Chair: Pct. 1: Avery Dalfrey, Pct. 2: Aysiah Garza, Pct. 3: Erin Franklin, Pct. 4: Thanvi Thodati *Tejas County*



Federal leaders from left: Smidovec, Woods, Stahl and Hefner

Chair: Shelby Branch, Pct. 1: Morgan Grosch, Pct. 2: Taylor Wright, Pct. 3: Avneet Randhawa, Pct. 4: Jacey Snapp

National Party State Chair: Danielle Maldonado, Vice-Chair: Kelsey Kistner, House Whip: Kelsey Ehrig, Senate Whip: Ellie Hager *Chili County* Chair: Jaelyn Hamilton, Pct. 1: Sophia Westphal, Pct. 2: Alyceson Eke, Pct. 3: Hannah Michael, Pct. 4: Emily Goff *Goff County* Chair and Pct. 3: Lillie Anne Steinhauser, Pct. 1: Kirksey Berg, Pct. 2: Grace Dickens, Pct. 4: Nicole Ariel Lennon *Pecan County* Chair and Pct. 3: Elnora Awatt, Pct. 1: Jenna Williams, Pct. 2: Claire Dunning, Pct. 4: Lydia King *Tejas County* Chair: Lindsey Donaldson, Pct. 1: Yolian Ogbu, Pct. 2: Shelby Steinbach, Pct. 3: Kaitlyn White, Pct. 4: Morgan Laaksonen



National leaders from left: Ehrig, Maldonado, Kistner and Hager

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Council Place 2: Arissa Walensky, Council Place 3: Hadly Whitaker, Council Place 4: Abigail Kemter, Council Place 5: Lilly Cao, Treasurer: Kendall Jensen, Attorney: Madelyn Hastings, Tax Assessor/Collector: Kayleigh Maddie, Police Chief: Aquinya McCormick, Health Officer: Grace Mainka, Fire Chief: Payden Courtney, Municipal Judge: Caroline Biggers. (Senior Counselor: Hillary Everts; Junior Counselors: Jenna Davenport and Kara Lyons)

City K Kiwis Mayor: Jessi Herrera, Council Place 1: Mallory Lane, Council Place 2: Emma Westhara, Council Place 3: Tallya Lutfak, Council Place 4: Cheyenne Rutherford, Council Place 5: Christina Rios, Council Place 6: Skyler Osborne, Treasurer: Isis Bernal, Attorney: Victoria Hart, Tax Assessor/Collector: Averi Garcia, Police Chief: Frida

Valdez, Health Officer: Jesse Hageman, Fire Chief: Haley Schake, Municipal Judge: Alexis Collier. (Senior Counselor: Shelby Langford; Junior Counselors: Jalaiyah Chisolm and lleyah Tovias)

City L Llamas Mayor: Julia Stein, Council Place 1: Britney Davis, Council Place 2: Cheyenne Berger, Council Place 3: Maclinta Alaniz, Council Place 4: Adrienne Dan, Council Place 5: Ta'Renee Young, Council Place 6: Samantha Blanton, Treasurer: Scarlett Peavy, Attorney: Alicia Ljundahl, Tax Assessor/Collector: Mackenzie Hozdic, Police Chief: Baylee Williams, Health Officer: Janet Moreno, Fire Chief: Ananya Bashyam, Municipal Judge: Mallory Maybin. (Senior Counselor: Marley Berry; Junior Counselors: Reagan Bachman and Kaylee King)

City M Magicians Mayor: Monah Valentine, Council Place 1: Emily Holmes, Council Place 2: Mikayla Russell, Council Place 3:

Chloe Miller, Council Place 4: Lauren Keller, Council Place 5: Morgan Burke, Council Place 6: Brianna York, Treasurer: Celeste Sowell, Attorney: Sadie Wilson, Tax Assessor/Collector: Brittany Robertson, Police Chief: Lexi Durbin, Health Officer: Katelyn Golden, Fire Chief: Emma Weatherford, Municipal Judge: DeaAndra Ochoa. (Senior Counselor: Mauri King; Junior Counselors: Rhett Parr and Anna Zimmerman)

City N Nerds Mayor: Hayley Foreman, Council Place 1: Sarah Wenzel, Council Place 2: Allie Rich, Council Place 3: Emma Polster, Council Place 4: Hannah Pierce, Treasurer: Gaby Medina, Attorney: Mary Liz Overcash, Tax Assessor/Collector: Mercedes Trevino, Police Chief: Brynna Johnson, Health Officer: Cindy Nguyen, Fire Chief: Cassandra Perez, Municipal Judge: Tuesday Brown. (Senior Counselor: Stephanie Bossert; Junior Counselors: Madison Bush and Becky Rigas)

State Elections: Feds' Bribiesca, Shaw Take Top Spots

On Thursday, June 16th, Federal Party candidate Emmy Bribiesca was elected 2016 Bluebonnet Girls State Governor. Madison Shaw was elected Lieutenant Governor. Other winners were Lois Owolabi, Attorney General; Qi Wang, Comptroller of Public Accounts; Lauren Bentley, Commissioner of General Land; Jacey Snapp, Agricultural Commissioner; Kendra Hess, Railroad Commissioner; Thanvi Thodati, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals; Alison Yarto, Chief Justice, Supreme Court. Citizens also approved a constitutional amendment establishing annual legislative sessions.

On Friday, June 17th, 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 House chambers to inaugurate newly elected state officials. The Honorable Michael Keasler addressed the citizens and administered the oath of office. State officials were escorted by their real life counterparts: Linda Smith, Executive Assistant to Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson, Supreme Court of Texas; Honorable Michael Keasler; Andrew Kiefer, Chief of Staff to Elizabeth Ames Jones, Railroad



From left: Hess, Thodati, Bentley, Owolabi, Bribiesca, Shaw, Wang, Snapp and Yarto

Commissioner; Shannon Rusing, Chief of Staff to Todd Staples, Agriculture Commissioner; Larry Laine, Chief Deputy, representing Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of General Land Office; Raette Hearn, Dir. of Agency Administration, representing Comptroller Susan Combs; Stacey Napier, Senior Counsel, representing Attorney General Ken Paxton; Don

Green, Senior Advisor, representing Lt. Governor Dan Patrick; and Paula Raney, President, ALA Department of Texas.

After a picnic lunch on the Capitol grounds, citizens returned to Seguin. The evening concluded with a talent show and celebrations in each of the cities.



2016 Floor Leaders from left: Velasco, Powell, Lee and Wright

Floor Leaders Chosen

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.

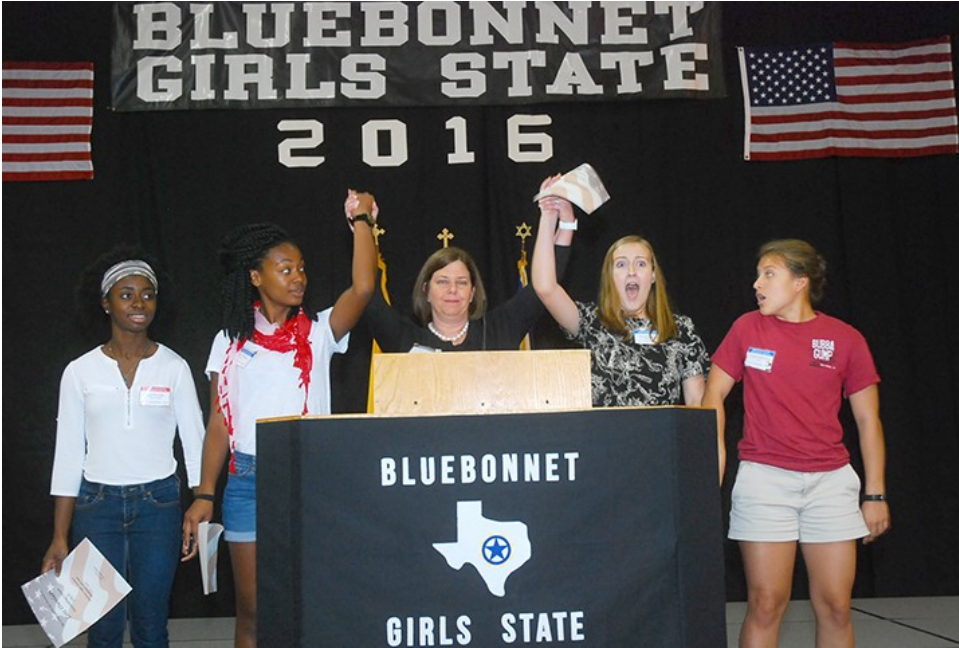
The Senate Floor Leaders are AP Velasco (National Party) and Taylor Wright (Federal Party). House Floor Leaders are Devin Powell (National Party) and Christina Lee (Federal Party).

Legislative staff members are Speaker of the House Dhruti Gopaluni and President of the Senate Alli Williams. Sarah Lanford and Gennie Mansi are the Legislative Assistants for the House. Emi Hobart and Emma Watson are the Legislative Assistants in the Senate.

Citizens' Talent on Display

Citizens who performed throughout the session include: Taylor Ash, Maddie Byrd, Rylie Cooper, Halie Daniels, Emma Edwards, Sarah Fincher, Hayley Foreman, Tania Garcia, Mary-Catherine Haggard, Jaelyn Hamilton, Jessi Herbold, Hannah Hirst, Georgeanna Hoey, Devon Humphries, Anna Isler, Brynna Johnson, Tatum Lee, Jennifer Lopez, Sophie Machalec, Carly Smith, Madi Mendez, Yolian Ogbu, Lexi Reimer, Sierra Pruitt, Gabi Rodriguez, Sophia Tang, Katelyn Torres, Mary Ashley Vance, Hannah Wells and Taylor Wright. Olivia Orozco and Katelyn Torres played horn at flag lowering.

Girls Nation delegates, Outstanding Citizens picked



Girls Nation delegates from left: Owolobi, Wright, Grosch and Bribiesca with Lori Swann

Two girls are selected from each Girls State program to attend Girls Nation, a national government training program. Taylor Wright of Houston (ALA Unit 127 Tomball) and Morgan Grosch of Cedar Park (ALA Unit 911 Cedar Park) will represent Texas at Girls Nation in July. First alternate is Emmy Bribiesca of Keller (ALA Unit 622 Ft. Worth) and second alternate is Lois Owolobi of Carrizo Springs (ALA Unit 359 Carrizo Springs).

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.

Fourteen citizens were chosen Outstanding Citizens by their peers. They are Kylee Gillenwaters (City A), Jessica Teeple (City B), AP Velasco (City C), Ashton Woods (City D), Lois Owolabi (City E), Nohely Lozano (City F), Keiko Stanberry (City G), Haley Hefner (City H), Elnora Awatt (City I), Justyn Tedder (City J), Taylor Wright (City K), Jacey Snapp (City L), Taylor Helmcamp (City M) and Morgan Grosca (City N).

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: Associate Directors: Connie Bridges, Ann Doan, Stephanie McDonald, Karen Rodriguez; Education Coordinator: Katie Stewart; Talent Chair: Phyllis Janke; Talent: Sarah Altieri, Anna Liu, Emily Toensing; Bank: Martha Collis, Virginia Donnelly, Myra Hester, Dixie Jones; Office: Donna Dillard, Lauren Perryman, Charlotte Toulouse; Nurses: Lynda Redix, Carolyn Whitener; Gift Shop Manager: Bridget Trawhon; Store: , Sarah Hartman, Elizabeth Sutherland, Candy Zavala; Transportation: Barbara Kundert; and Media Relations: Hillary Plocheck, Jessica Scott and Kayti Stanley.

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

The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Texas
P.O. Box 140407
Austin, TX 78714-0407

Phone: 512-476-7278 Fax: 512-482-8391

Email: alatexas@txlegion.org
Web: <http://www.girls-state.org>

County Election Results: Feds Overwhelm Nats 23 to 9

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

Chili Commissioners Place 1: Janey Haley, Commissioners Place 2: Celeste Barrientos, County Judge: Elizabeth Martinez, County Attorney: Audrey Rhynerson, Tax Assessor/Collector: Jan Wilson, County Clerk: Angelica Blesa, Sheriff: Rebecca Carcaño, Justice of the Peace: Kristen Graham. (County Coordinators: Kennedy Saxon and Dani Throneberry)

Goff Commissioners Place 1: Amelia Massey, Commissioners Place 2: Reagan Lamp, County Judge: Sarah Halprin, County Attorney: Kaleigh Blaschke, Tax Assessor/Collector: Lexi KupperSmith, County Clerk: Emma McKelvain, Sheriff: Keiko Stanberry, Justice of the Peace: Nicole Ariel Lennon. (County Coordinator: Keller Thomas)

Pecan Commissioners Place 1: Mia Stanley, Commissioners Place 2: Sam Paradiso, County Judge: Shelby Freeman, County Attorney: Lydia King, Tax Assessor/Collector: Josie

Valdez, County Clerk: Lauren PeCoy, Sheriff: Joanna Ringhofer, Justice of the Peace: Sidney Jenkins. (County Coordinator: Paige Cheatham)

Tejas Commissioners Place 1: Audra Karabinos, Commissioners Place 2: Jewel Connor, County Judge: Chelsea Judge, County Attorney: Zoe Feinberg, Tax Assessor/Collector: Casey Irwin, County Clerk: Sarah Nguyen, Sheriff: Leah Evans, Justice of the Peace: Teri Burnett. (County Coordinators: Jordan Janke and Allison Thornton)