

## Reminders for families for the start & conclusion of Iowa ALA Girls State 2026

Check in for citizens will be Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> will be between 10 am –noon in the Goodwin Kirk Dorm lounge area. Sunday lunch is not provided by Girls State. So in the midst of checking in with GS staff, carrying luggage into the Goodwin-Kirk Residence Hall (there is 1 elevator), unpacking, making that last minute run to Target for an item you may have forgotten but hopefully not, **Be Sure that the Citizen has eaten!** Yes, you may stop to eat/grab food on the way to the University campus. You don't have to check in first. In the past, counselors ask their citizens to be dressed for the program (official group photos are Sunday afternoon) and ready to go with their fellow citizens at 12:30 pm on their dorm floors, to then leave the residence hall, and to walk over to another campus building for the Opening Session. Yes, prior to the 12:30 pm time frame window will be for families & friends to say good-bye for the week.

**Upon arrival please park in the Olmsted Center lot #16. Address is 2875 University Avenue.** Then you will see signs to direct you to head West on the sidewalk to lead you to the Goodwin-Kirk Residence Hall. Girls State staff will be wearing red polos. Check in will be taking place at the residence hall. One of the details you will find out during check in is what floor you will be taking your luggage up to. Keep in mind, the stairs might be quicker.

If looking for food options near Drake University:

McDonalds @ 3002 Forest Ave

Jimmy John's @ 2417 University Avenue

Drake Diner @ 1111 25<sup>th</sup> St

Habanero's Mexican @3200 Forest Ave

Families are welcome to attend our final Flag Lowering Ceremony on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 pm outside Sheslow Auditorium area. Sheslow is located to the East of the Olmsted lot from where you arrive on Sunday. You can park again in the Olmsted Center parking lot. Another option for Sheslow is a large parking lot northeast of Sheslow @ the corner of Carpenter & 25<sup>th</sup> St. (Sheslow Auditorium address is 2507 University Ave.) **Inauguration Ceremony will begin at 5:30 pm at the Sheslow Auditorium for the citizens, families, and staff.** This is the finale event for Girls State. It will last approximately 2 hours. **Citizens will have to return to the Goodwin-Kirk Residence Hall to check out with their counselors & grab their luggage. Turn in your room key to your counselor. If the citizen takes the key home with you then you buy it, Girls State will not pay for lost or unreturned keys.**

Another FAQ: Why bring card/cash to Girls State? Girls State has their own fabulous store where Girls State clothing and swag items can be purchased as well as snacks/candy throughout the week. On Wednesday, when Girls State visits the State Capitol, citizens may want to purchase an item from the Gift Shop.