



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Girls State**

Policy on ALA Massachusetts Girls State Social Networking and Media Use

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts recognizes and supports its ALA Girls State participant's right to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of online social networks. In this context, however, each delegate must remember that participating in the ALA Massachusetts Girls State program is a privilege, not a right. As a delegate, you represent the American Legion Auxiliary, and you are expected to portray yourself, the American Legion Auxiliary, and your school in a positive manner at all times. Any and all online postings must therefore be consistent with local and state laws, Stonehill College rules, and ALA Girls State rules, regulations and policies. (including guidelines below)

Guidelines:

If you participate on a social media networking site, or use social media, you must keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Everything you post is public information - any text or photo you post is out of your control the second you post it - even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, comments, or posts) may be accessible even after you remove it.
- Think before you post. If you are angry or passionate about a subject, it is wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed. Post only pictures and comments that you would feel comfortable sharing with the public.
- Use caution when adding someone or inviting someone to be a friend. (This includes American Legion Massachusetts Boys State citizens.)
- Limit information about your whereabouts and plans in order to minimize the potential for being stalked, assaulted, or the victim of other criminal activity. Post about where you have been, not where you are going.
- What you post may affect your future. Many college admissions officers, and potential 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)
- Similar to 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 harm to another person.
- Take the high ground; Don't pick, or engage in, fights online.
- Respect yourself, respect others, and respect the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

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Monitoring and Consequences:

The American Legion Auxiliary reserves the right to have ALA Girls State staff members review and/or monitor delegate's social networking sites and postings. Any violation of law or of Stonehill College or the American Legion Auxiliary Massachusetts Girls State's regulations and policies, or evidence of such violation in your online content is subject to investigation and possible immediate censure by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 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 State program.

As an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State participant, I attest that I have read, agree, and will abide by this policy:

Print name of citizen

Date

Signature of citizen

Print name of parent/guardian

Date

Signature of parent/guardian