

Missouri Girls State: A Look Back



Party Platforms and Conventions

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The presented Nationalist platform was introduced as "The Three E's." The platform proposed increased student loan availability with decreased interest – especially for Math and Science divisions. As a result those students would be able to take more schooling for better jobs as well as being able to focus on renewable energy. With this, as well as the proposed increase in Math and Science positions, taxes generated from the larger received salaries are hoped to help fund the focus of the second "E": Environment.

Nationalists hope by decreasing foreign oil dependence and increasing renewable energy the economy will benefit just as well as the environment. In example, the positive result of a decrease in fossil fuels used would lower the cost of oil as well. While their third "E," economy, ties tightly with the previous two issues, the party looks to promote a specific spending increase – local spending. The True Blue party hopes that through these changes people will begin to "shop local and think global."

In normal Missouri Girls State fashion the second party, the Federalists, presented a

platform just as strong as the True Blues. They as well submitted a three-part platform; beginning first with education. As some may not know, curriculum, A+ programs, and graduation programs are not the same all across the state. The Red Feds feel that this problem needs to be addressed and made consistent state-wide. Another education adjustment is the fact that they hope to add teaching abstinence and safe sex to the agenda.

The last two propositions are closely related. They hope to have acceptance seminars that show other facts about handicapped and even minority people. Another issue offers to aid handicaps; they propose that all public places be handicap accessible. Building ramps for them would easily solve the lack of handicapped inaccessible public buildings.

These two parties have shined out in so many ways. The girls are truly an inspiration. Another inspiration are those many running for state offices. Three girls were asked their outlooks on the upcoming elections for Governor.

By MGS Citizen

The birthplace of the very first session of Missouri Girls State occurred, not at the campus of The University of Central Missouri in the city of Warrensburg, but instead in Fulton, Missouri at William Woods University, then known as William Woods College.

The first session of Missouri Girls State was June 14-21, 1940. Approximately 70 years ago, life was drastically different than it is now. Missouri Girls State, as life, was very different. For example, upon registration and enrollment in Girls State, young women were required to use a post card addressed home as their ticket to eat at the evening meal. In addition to the post card, on a daily basis delegates had to be given a "signed pass" by their city counselors to "pass" to and from the dining room. Today, delegates walk in and out of the cafeteria accompanied by their city counselor, not their post card or "hall pass". Also, the first seat a delegate took at their Sunday evening meal would be that delegate's seat for the duration of Girls State.

For recreational activities, girls were encouraged to bring golf clubs, tennis rackets and bath suits to participate in their respective sports. They were also able to participate in other activities as well. Some could play ping pong, while others could go hiking through the woods, where they could identify the native trees they came across along the trails. Today, girls participate in city bonding activities, exciting and sometimes rowdy assemblies to pump up the girls

spirits and bring up roaring fun in the city halls. Some activities though have stayed the same for the last 70 years, flag lowering and raising, the Governors presence at assemblies, enrolling in a daily class.

During this session of Girls State, there are 7 counties and 21 cities. However, during the first session in 1940, there were only 2 counties and 4 cities: Scott County, Pershing and Coontz Cities and Price County, Boone and Crowder Cities. Also during that session there were 7 schools of Instruction; Law, Peace Officers, School of Election Officials, Recreation Directors, Journalism, Dramatics and Music.

When the commander of that year's American Legion, Earl Shackelford, gave his speech to the 1940 delegates he spoke of "the present situation in Europe". The situation that he was referring to occurred on June 14, 1940, when Nazi Germany had traveled swiftly across the country of Belgium to capture France's capital, Paris, and triumphed a week later in securing their victory.

From our previous classes dealing with this particularly destructive war, we all know that many soldiers traveled to Europe never to return. They went there to sacrifice their lives for the basic rights of freedom, independence, and right to embrace diversity. On this day, let this walk down Missouri Girls State's history remind us of the sacrifices soldiers have given for their country and for freedom.



"Jameelah Harrison, she was an excellent and inspirational speaker."
- Ayla Parham, Compton.

"Angie Lorang, she was so charismatic."
- Stephanie Grant, Compton



"Molly Turner, She's a really good complainer; great stage presence and a great person."
- Amollie Stoermer.



School of Instruction

Phyllis Quigg Edson, PHD
1982 Delegate Comes Back to Serve

As you all know there are many great classes offered here at Missouri Girls State this year. In addition to having exceptional classes we also have the most qualified, capable, and experienced instructors who are here on their own time. The Girls State Gazette had the honor of interviewing Phyllis Quigg Edson, some of you may know her as the Executive School Instructor. Not only is she an astounding person, she was also a delegate at Missouri Girls State in 1982.

The Executive School class entails several speakers, one of them being Former Governor Bob Holden. Bob Holden has made appearances at Girls State in previous years. Dr. Phyllis Quigg Edson also had a local mayor speak to the students who has served for his town for sixteen years. Edson helped her students learn about suc-

cessful campaigning by bringing in a nationally known expert in leadership and a political consultant. This is only her first time back since her Girls State experience so she is just as excited to hear all of our remarkable speakers.

The extraordinary thing about Dr. Phyllis Quigg Edson is that her "actual job" aside from Girls State is a community volunteer. Helping others is her passion, therefore coming back to the UCM campus was something she has always wanted to do. The main thing she hopes the girls take from her class is how to campaign successfully and know how to lead when they get the job. Leadership is one quality that delegates can take to any job, whether it be in the political field or a public service position.

Dr. Edson's words of wisdom for Missouri Girls State are "Be true to yourself. Don't be what others want you to be."