



HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE 2011 BADGER GIRLS STATE SESSION

One of the main objectives of the program at Badger Girls State is to teach the principles of democracy in a representative government. “Learning by doing” is our approach to the study of city, county and state government. We hope by participating in the Badger Girls State week you will become more aware of the duties and responsibilities of a good citizen.

You will be nominating, campaigning and electing officials for city, county and state offices and conducting business on those levels of government. The following several suggestions will help you prepare for the weeks activities.

1. Your first assignment will be to find out who is your Wisconsin Senator and Representative (Web site: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us>) Send them a letter:
 - a. Tell them that you will be a citizen of the 2011 Badger Girls State.
 - b. Invite him/her to the Inauguration of the Badger Girls State Constitutional Officers on Thursday, June 23, at 6:30 P.M. with a Reception to follow in the Kolf Center, University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh Campus.
 - i. Ask him/her to wear an Official Badge and give his name and district number to one of the ushers. There will be reserved seating for them and they will be introduced during the ceremony.
 - c. If you receive an answer, please advise your city counselor when you arrive at Badger Girls State.
2. Know basic parliamentary procedure. This is the basis for conducting all business on all levels of Government - city, county, party and state.
3. Attend a local City Council Meeting (or Town Board or County Board Meeting). Listen to the problems and solutions (whether they be parking, zoning, transportation, etc.) Ask for copies of Council proceedings to use as a sample for the city to which you will be assigned, or clip them from your local newspaper and bring them along to Badger Girls State.
4. Contact your County Supervisor for information about your own county, e.g. what issues are currently being discussed? Watch the local papers for a copy of your county proceedings or articles about county government activities.
5. Attend a meeting of your local School Board to hear the different issues they deal with.
6. Research the terms “petition,” “resolution,” and “ordinance” for you will be preparing and acting on these in your Badger Girls State communities.
7. Watch the newspapers and clip articles pertaining to bills being introduced or debated in the Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate. The more knowledge you have about the issues the more you will enjoy the hearings and debate in the Legislature at Badger Girls State.
8. The Wisconsin Blue Book also has sections on these levels of government; read those sections before you come to Badger Girls State. Your school or local public library should have the latest copy.
9. Another good reference book is “The Framework of your Wisconsin Government.” This is put out by the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. Available at your school or public library. You can also find this on the following website: www.wistax.org or wistax@wistax.org
10. Once you arrive at Badger Girls State, you will receive your Citizen Manual. Take time to read the sections relating to the level of government in which you plan to place your efforts. It can prepare you for more active participation.
11. If you want to run for a particular position at the city, county or state level, do some research on your own to find out what this position entails.
 - a. Paper for campaigning will be available for each election by contacting your counselor. You may bring a pair of scissors and magic markers for your own use.
 - i. **Do not bring** prepared campaign posters with you.
 - ii. **Do not bring** glitter, fabric, spray paint, illustrations, treats, pictures of yourself or giveaways as campaign promotional materials.