

Tiffany L. French

ALA South Dakota Girls State Director
1645 Wildcat Lane
Custer, SD 57730

September 1, 2025

Hello everyone!

We are very excited to be moving forward with plans for ALA South Dakota Girls State 2026! We are so excited to be planning for the upcoming session in partnership with the University of South Dakota. This will be the 80th session of ALA SD Girls State! Here are a few important notes to make now as plans are being finalized.

Information regarding ALA SD Girls State 2026:

- ALA SD Girls State will be held on **MAY 24-28th** on the campus of USD in Vermillion, SD.
- The registration fee per delegate is **\$175**.
- Delegate Pre-Registration forms are included in this mailing. I will also be sending out electronic copies to all ALA Unit Presidents, High School Administrators, and Counselors on **October 1, 2025**.
- Registration for ALA SD Girls State & Journalism City will be due to the director by **March 1, 2026**.
 - Please contact me directly if you have questions or concerns regarding the registration deadline!
- Delegate information will be sent via email to delegates on **April 1, 2026**.
- Parent permission/medical release will be sent to parents/guardians on **April 1, 2026**.

That's it! A few big highlights for the upcoming year with set dates for you to keep in mind.

A few key reminders that I would like to stress this year:

- **Please do not turn away interested individuals!** We encourage all applicants to attend – please do not select alternates. If you have more applicants that you deem qualified but need assistance finding funding, please reach out to me! The importance of this program outweighs selective choosing. If someone wants to attend and wants to learn, we want them to come!
- Please do pay attention to deadlines – **HOWEVER**, if someone comes forward past the March 1st deadline, please contact me and we **WILL DO OUR BEST** to make arrangements for them to attend!
- **There is no minimum GPA** (grade point average) for a student to qualify to attend. This is a commonly heard question/conversation that I have each year. Personally, I was not a straight-A student, and I don't feel that that is what makes a strong candidate for ALA SD Girls State! Again, we want those who genuinely want to attend the program!
- **State Track, State Girls Softball, & State Girls Golf** – as you may have noticed, we have adjusted our dates just a bit to work around the state activities as we have found in the past years to be a reason for many to choose not to apply/attend. As you work with interested individuals to attend, please note that State Track begins in Sioux Falls on May 28th. Please emphasize that we have worked on adjusting the schedule to fit the needs of athletes who may need to be in Sioux Falls on the morning of the 28th and this will NOT hinder their eligibility for scholarships/awards. The only position they will not be eligible for would be Governor. Please also emphasize that we will have running/workout activities each morning for the athletes to remain active throughout the ALA SD Girls State program. State Girls Softball and Girls Golf will be the following week and should not interfere with this program whatsoever!

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. You are welcome to contact me at the following email: tiffany.french@k12.sd.us. You are also welcome to call or text me at 605-216-2766. However, for the fastest response, please reach out via email – it is much quicker for me to respond to you that way!

I am looking forward to working with you all to have a great 2026 ALA South Dakota Girls State session!

In ALA Girls State Spirit,

Tiffany L. French
ALA SD Girls State Director
tiffany.french@k12.sd.us
(605) 216-2766