

**The Illinois Council on Women and Girls**

# **GIRLS LEAD PROGRAM**



OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR  
**JULIANA STRATTON**

**Link to the website:** [Girls Lead Program](#)

## **Overview**

Chaired by Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton, the Illinois Council on Women and Girls advises Governor JB Pritzker and the General Assembly on policy issues impacting women and girls in the State of Illinois. The Illinois Council on Women and Girls invites girls in the state of Illinois who are in grades 5th through 12th to apply to join the Council's Illinois Girls Lead Program. This is a program for Illinois girls led by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and Women that are members of the Illinois General Assembly. Participants will be placed in three categories depending on the program chosen in your District.

As shown below, the Illinois Girls Lead Program is tailored based on grade level. For each group, students will have the opportunity to shadow a woman in government—including the Lieutenant Governor or a member of the Illinois General Assembly—in her Springfield office or in her respective district.

## **5TH GRADE - A DAY WITH A MEMBER OF THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

\* A 5th grader from an Illinois School can shadow the Lieutenant Governor or a member of the Illinois General Assembly and visit her office for a day.

\* The 5th grader can write a short reflection essay (2 to 3 paragraphs) on what they learned about leadership skills in elected office during their visit.

Schedules will be facilitated by the Office of The Lieutenant Governor or the Office of the respective member of the Illinois General Assembly.

## **6TH TO 8TH GRADE - A DAY WITH A MEMBER OF THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND REFLECTION**

\* A middle school student from an Illinois school will visit the office of the Lieutenant Governor or a member of the Illinois General Assembly twice.

\* The middle schooler will be asked to write a reflection paper of 1,500 words (3 pages). The paper should contain or highlight the following:

- What does leadership mean to you?
- What duties does a member of the Illinois General Assembly have to fulfill to be a leader?
- What leadership skills would you like to develop for yourself in the coming years of middle school or high school?

Schedules will be facilitated by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor or the Office of the respective member of the Illinois General Assembly.

## **9TH TO 12TH GRADE – A POLICY RESEARCH WITH A MEMBER OF THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

\* A high school student from Illinois is invited to participate in policy research in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor or the office of an Illinois General Assembly Woman, where she will assist in a research project regarding a policy issue relevant to her district.

\*The Research Project track will include at least three visits to an office from the student, followed by a policy white paper (2500 words) on the issue being researched.

Schedules will be facilitated by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor or the Office of the respective member of the Illinois General Assembly as well as a discussion on which policy issue best fits the program.

## **Application Process**

Applications to the Illinois Girls Lead program are due **May 31, 2023**.

A panel of members from the Illinois Council on Women and Girls will review and score your application based on how you have shown your leadership skills, your interest in this program, and how you have collaborated with others. The review process will focus on diversity because we value the varied experiences, backgrounds, perspectives, and qualifications Illinois girls bring to the table.

The Council will invite selected applicants to interview. The pairing will be made in June 2023 and begin meeting in July 2023, kicking off the program with a very special event.

We want you to know that just by applying, you have already distinguished yourself as a leader. Your voice and participation contribute to how Illinois can be better and do the work to benefit women and girls.

If you have questions or need more information about the Illinois Girls Lead program, please contact Leadership and Inclusion Subcommittee Co-Chair Nikita Richards at (872) 588-6130 or [ndrcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:ndrcommunications@gmail.com).

If you have any technical issues accessing or submitting the application, please contact Council member Jackie Matthews at [jmatthew@isbe.net](mailto:jmatthew@isbe.net) or (312) 590-4327.

We can't wait to meet you, and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Illinois Council on Women and Girls