

December 2023 Governance Bulletin

The Governance Bulletin is shared with all Service Unit Delegates on file, Girl Delegates, Girl Advisors to the Board of Directors, GSEP Board Members, GSEP Board Development Committee Members, NCS Delegates, and Service Unit Managers.

Happy Holidays! We hope that 2024 is your best year yet!

Recap of Fall Delegate Council Meeting

The first Delegate Council meeting of the new Governance Year was held on Tuesday, October 10. More than 150 people attended (both in-person and virtually) to hear national governance news from Board Chair Nicole LeVine, CEO Kim Fraitess-Dow, and GSEP's 2023 National Council Session (NCS) Delegates.

The NCS Delegates presented a report on the 2023 National Council Session, the triennial gathering of Girl Scouts from across the country, hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA in July. They explained which four proposals passed and described the three proposals which were voted down. They also shared the announcement of the election of GSUSA's new National President, Noorain Khan and celebrated one of the new National Board Development Committee members, Debbie Hassan (GSEP's immediate Past Board Chair).

The topic of the Strategy Café discussion was a continuation of national governance issues. Specifically, GSUSA requested that NCS Delegates gather more information from their respective Councils on what our members want to know about national governance as well as societal or girl-related issues that our Movement needs to address. This information has been shared with GSUSA.

To review the [PowerPoint slide deck](#) or the [written overview of the meeting](#), please visit the [governance page](#) of the website.

Register now for the new Virtual Winter Delegate Council Meeting

Feedback received at both the 2023 and the 2022 Fall Delegate Council Meetings indicated that Delegates want more information on governance and increased interaction with the Board. Therefore, a third Delegate Council meeting in mid-winter has been added to keep Delegates up to date and informed.

The new Winter Delegate Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 7pm over Zoom. Please note: this is a *virtual-only* event. Please [register here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

The primary focus of this meeting will be the Board Committees and how their work impacts the Council. All Service Unit Delegates/Alternates, Girl Delegates, and interested members are encouraged to attend.

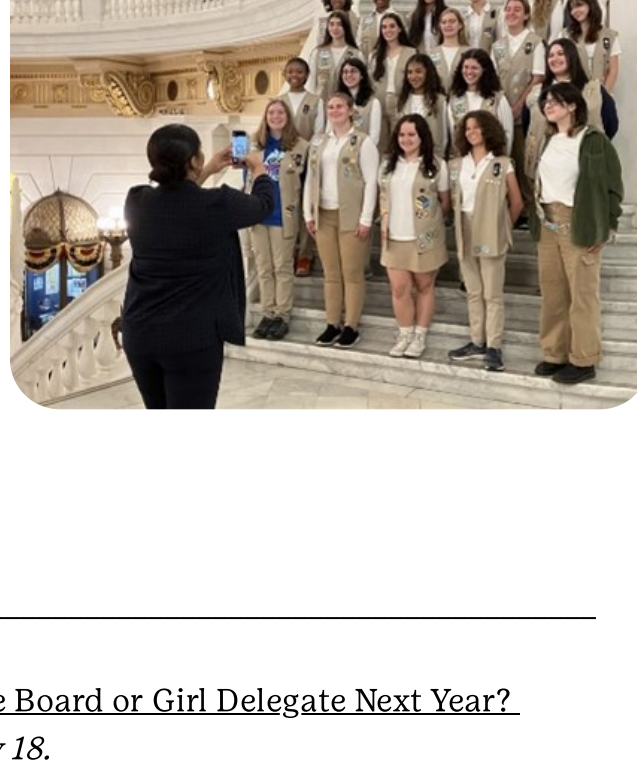


Girls in GSEP Governance Participated in Troop PA & Women in STEM

Twenty-seven GSEP Girl Scouts who are Girl Delegates, SU Delegates/Alternates or NCS Delegates joined fifty other Girl Scouts from across the state on Monday, November 13 for a day in Harrisburg. The three Girl Scout Councils in the Commonwealth hosted "Troop PA," a reception for all the female State Representatives and State Senators in the Capitol Rotunda. During the event, GSEP's CEO Kim Fraitess-Dow spoke on the importance of investing girls' leadership and Speaker Joanna McClinton (the first female Speaker of the House in PA) offered a keynote speech. Girls then led an Investiture Ceremony for the legislators.

The rest of the day in our state capital consisted of a tour of the Capitol Building, a visit to the state archives (featuring an historical exhibit on women in state politics) and exploring the interactive Welcome Center. Plus, a few of our Girl Scouts got to visit with their respective State Senators and share their stories as teenagers in Pennsylvania.

The day ended at the State Museum, where the girls explored the exhibits. They also had an opportunity to talk in small groups with four different women who have STEM careers in government roles. This event was hosted by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Women.



Interested in Being a Girl Advisor to the Board or Girl Delegate Next Year?

Deadline to [apply](#) is Thursday, January 18.

As of this month, we are halfway through the Governance Year here in GSEP, and applications are now open for next year's Girl Governance positions. Girl Advisors hold seats at the table during meetings of the Board of Directors, where they provide girl insight and perspective on important matters. Girl Advisors attend five Board Meetings per year, which last approximately two hours in the evening. Girl Delegates weigh-in on important issues at Delegate Meetings and vote on new policies and procedures at GSEP's Annual Meeting. Girl Delegates attend three Delegate Meetings per year plus the Annual Meeting in May.

Girls who will be at least 14 years old as of Saturday, May 4, 2024, are encouraged to [apply](#) to be a Girl Advisor to the Board or Girl Delegate. are due by midnight on Thursday, January 18, 2024 and all require at least one adult recommendation (Girl Advisor applications require two).

Especially if you are interested in national Girl Scout governance, being a Girl Delegate (or Service Unit Delegate/Alternate) offers practical knowledge at the local level. The next cohort of Delegates to the 2026 National Council Session will be elected in Membership Year 2025, and Council governance experience is a plus (although not a requirement).

As we did last year, virtual Help Sessions will be offered again this year by the Girl Governance Subcommittee, to assist girls with any questions about the application. The sessions will be held on:

- [Sunday, December 10, at 4 pm](#)
- [Sunday, January 7, at 4 pm](#)
- [Thursday, January 11, at 7 pm](#)

Please note: these are informal, optional Help Sessions. So, girls can sign up for one, two, three, or none. The Subcommittee is hosting these gatherings simply to answer any questions

Reminder: Nominations for the Board & BDC are Due Thursday, January 18, 2024

The Board Development Committee (BDC) accepts [nominations](#) (either for yourself or another person) to consider for both the Board and the BDC itself. The (self-) nomination form is due Thursday, January 18, 2024.

Please note: submitting a [nomination](#) does not guarantee placement on the slate, but rather an opportunity for the BDC to learn more about possible candidates who are interested in volunteering at this level. Nominations will be reviewed and discussed; nominees will be contacted to assess skills, interests, and availability to serve.

Mark Your Calendars – Spring Delegate Council Meeting

Please save the date for the Spring Delegate Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 7-9pm. This will also be held in-person at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge, but we will also offer a virtual option for those who prefer to attend via Zoom. The registration link will be shared in the next edition.

Service Unit Delegate Elections – It's not too late!

Attention Service Unit Managers: if you haven't yet, please elect your Service Unit Delegates for this Governance Year! (*The term for SU Delegates runs from one Annual Meeting to the next Annual Meeting.*)

Please check out the information found in the tab at the bottom of the [Governance page](#) of our website, including:

- [Sample script](#) to help facilitate your SU Delegate election
- The [SU Delegate Election Results Form](#) - this must be downloaded, completed, saved, and emailed to governance@gsep.org ASAP
- The [list](#) of Service Units entitled to one or two SU Delegates.
- Please remember:
 - If your SU Delegate served in the 2022-2023 Governance Year and is interested in returning to that role, they still must be elected to serve in the 2023-2024 Governance Year. A Service Unit Delegate (or Alternate) can serve up to six consecutive one-year terms.
 - A Service Unit Delegate can be an older girl! This is a fantastic opportunity for girls 14 years or older to learn more about the Council on a strategic level (and it looks great on a college or job application!).
 - A new SU Delegate/Alternate still has the opportunity to attend two Delegate Council meetings this year: on Monday, January 22, 2024 and Tuesday, March 19, 2024 as well as the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May, 2024.

Want to Catch Up?

Past issues of this year's Governance Bulletins can be found on the [Governance Page](#). Check out the tab at the bottom of the page labeled "Past Governance Bulletins."



Continuing Governance Education

Why does GSEP have Girl Delegates?

GSEP strongly encourages girls to consider playing a part in influencing the strategic direction of our Council and our Movement, because, after all, they are the reason our organization exists: to ensure they become the leaders they want to be and the leaders the world needs them to be. Governance roles definitely offer leadership experience!

But the role of "Girl Delegate" is somewhat unique to GSEP; it is not a standard governance position in all Councils.

However, when GSEP was founded in May 2007, the Governance planning committee from the three legacy Councils wanted to ensure that the girl perspective would be heard and that girls themselves would have a seat at the table when the Board and Delegate Council discussed strategic issues. Even though girls can serve as Service Unit Delegates/Alternates, not every Service Unit elects girls (i.e., a few Service Units have only girls in those positions; others have no girls; and some have both adults and girls). Therefore, to guarantee that girls would be voting members of the Delegate Council, the role of Girl Delegate was created. In fact, to spell it out very clearly, our [Bylaws](#) explicitly define Girl Delegates as members of the Delegate Council (Article II, Sections 2.e.& 5).

Per GSUSA's Constitution, girls can participate in national governance if they are at least "14 years of age" (Article IV, p. 7 in the [Blue Book](#)). Therefore, girls involved in governance in GSEP must also be "age 14 or older at the time of their election" (as Girl Delegates, SU Delegates/Alternates, Girl Advisors, or NCS Delegates).

The number of Girl Delegates allowed by our [Bylaws](#) is thirty (Article II, Section 3.b.); that is based on a ratio of Board members (25) plus non-Board BDC members (5), which adds up to 30.

Ultimately, there are strong reasons and clearly defined expectations that girls be active members in GSEP Governance. Since we are a Council well-known for effective, participatory governance, we can be proud of our Girl Delegates and all our girls involved!

GSEP MY23-24 Governance Calendar
(which can also be found on the [Governance page of the website](#))

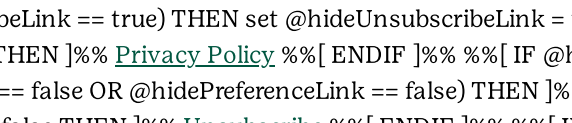
| Date | Action Item |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Thursday, January 18, 2024 | Deadline to apply to be 1) Girl Advisor to the Board and/or Girl Delegates in GY24-25, and 2) a nominee from the floor for the Board Development Committee to vet. |
| Monday January 22, 2024 | **NEW** virtual Winter Delegate Council Meeting Please register here . |
| Tuesday, March 19, 2024 | Spring Delegate Council Meeting at 7pm, scheduled at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge |
| Thursday, April 4, 2024 | Official Notice of the 2024 Annual Meeting will be emailed to all voting Delegate Council members |
| Saturday, May 4, 2024 (10am – 12pm) | 2024 Annual Meeting at Shelly Ridge |
| April 5-August 31, 2024 | Election of Service Unit Delegates and Alternates for Governance Year 2024-2025 |

Thank you again for your commitment to Governance excellence here at GSEP!

Wishing you & yours a very happy holiday season!

As always, if you have any questions or thoughts to share, please do not hesitate to reach out.

QUESTIONS?



Have a question? Don't be shy!
[Contact us](#) for more information.

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