

March 2025 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.](#)

Dear Delegate Council,
As we head into spring (finally!), we want to wish you all a Happy Girl Scout Birthday this month!

Register Now for the Spring Delegate Council Meeting

Location: Daisy's Place at Camp Shelly Ridge (virtual option available)
Date: March 19 from 6:30-8:30pm

If you are attending in-person at Shelly Ridge, a light dinner will be offered at 6 pm. Please register [here](#) and indicate your attendance preference as well as your Governance role.

The primary focus for this meeting will be discussion of POSSIBLE proposals and discussion topics that GSEP may submit to the National Board for consideration for the 2026 National Council Session (NCS). Proposals at past NCSs have included membership dues increases, adding anti-racism language to the GS Constitution, changes to the GS Promise & Law, and establishing a Gold Award Scholarship Foundation. Discussion topics focus on broad subjects that impact the whole Movement (e.g., Girl Scout Property; what does Girl Scouts need to do to help girls become G.I.R.L.s – go-getters, innovators, risk-takers, and leaders). Please know that every proposal and discussion topic that is submitted to the National Board does not receive final approval to be included in the NCS agenda.

Plus, the Shelly Ridge Shop will be open until 6pm on March 19 to accommodate all your Girl Scout purchasing needs! Please email shops@gsep.org with any questions or to place an order for pick up that evening before the meeting.

Please register no later than March 17. We look forward to seeing you on March 19!

REGISTER

SAVE THE DATE – ****new**** Special Delegate Council Meeting – June 3

Location: Virtual (via Zoom)
Date: June 3 from 7-8pm

As the 2026 National Council Session continues to be shaped by GSUSA, they have added an additional feedback mechanism. All proposals and discussion topics submitted to the National Board for consideration will be available for review by all Girl Scout Councils in June. Council will be able to discuss and then share their support (or lack of support) to include each one on the NCS agenda.

GSEP is seeking input from our own Delegate Council for these proposals and discussion topics. We will be hosting a one-hour virtual meeting on June 3. Please note: GSUSA is releasing all the proposals and discussion topics on June 1, so we will share as soon as they are available that day so you can read them before our Special Delegate Council meeting.

REGISTER

Missed the Winter Delegate Council Meeting in January?

The primary focus of the gathering was GSUSA's strategic plan and how that will cascade down and impact local Councils as they begin their own work in this area. Our Service Unit and Girl Delegates discussed various aspect which will influence the creation of GSEP's local strategic plan.

Check out the [recap](#) on the [governance page](#) of the website to catch up! You can also see the entire PowerPoint Deck [here](#).

Service Unit Delegate Elections

Last Call for GY24-25 & Reminder for GY25-26

If you have not yet done so, please elect your Service Unit Delegates ASAP! Having a full complement of SU Delegates is especially important this year-- the GSEP Delegate Council will provide input on NCS proposals which impact the entire Movement and will also be electing new Board Officers and new Board Members at the May Annual Meeting.

All the information you need to make your elections go smoothly can also be found in the tab at the bottom of the [Governance page](#) of our website, including the [SU Delegate Election Results form](#), which must be returned to governance@gsep.org as soon as possible after the election.

Don't forget: a Service Unit Delegate can be an older girl! This is a great opportunity for girls 14 years or older to learn more about the Council on a strategic level (and it looks great on a job or college application!).

As a reminder, elections for SU Delegates/Alternates for the 2025-2026 Governance Year should be held between April 4-August 31, 2025. The updated SU Delegate Election form will be posted on the Governance page of the website on April 1.

Email governance@gsep.org with any questions.

Mark Your Calendars – Annual Meeting is May 3!

Location: Daisy's Place at Camp Shelly Ridge
Date: May 3 from 10am-12pm

The agenda for the Annual Meeting includes:

- Governance Award presentation
- Treasurer's Report
- Recap of MY24 and State of the Council for first half of MY25 from our CEO
- Votes on:
 - Officers of the Board of Directors
 - Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors
 - GY25-26 Girl Advisors to the Board
- Members of the Board Development Committee
- GY25-26 Girl Delegates

Look for the official Annual Meeting Notice and registration link being emailed to all Delegate Council members on April 3. Registration will be open to the entire GSEP membership and will be shared via GSEP News, social media, and the governance page of the website. Delegates are highly encouraged to attend!

Continuing Governance Education

updated from the March 2023 edition

How is a proposal for the National Council Session (NCS) actually determined?

Every three years, representatives from all Girl Scout Councils from across the country and Girl Scouts Overseas gather together to elect National Board members, discuss topics relevant to the entire Movement, and vote on proposals on important ideas or amendments to the [Blue Book](#) (GSUSA's governance document that includes Bylaws, the Constitution of GSUSA, and other guiding principles and protocols for our entire Movement).

An NCS Proposal is created when a Girl Scout member determines that a change should be made to either the Bylaws or the Constitution in the Blue Book or they have an idea "directed toward the fostering and improvement of Girl Scouting" (Article V, Section 1 in the Constitution). This year, GSEP's Delegate Council will brainstorm and discuss possibilities at our Spring Delegate Council meeting on March 19.

The next step involves the current NC Delegates researching the topic (e.g., they may contact GSUSA directly or other Girl Scout Councils or learn more about the issue in the greater nonprofit community). They also consider how this matter may impact the entire Girl Scout Movement. Finally, a formal proposal is written. This includes a rationale, the financial impact, and how it can improve our Movement in the future. Each NC Delegation then has the option of sharing with GSUSA's NCS Advisory Task Force for feedback (this was a new process last triennium). The final version must be approved by the local Board before officially submitting it to GSUSA.

A new step has been added for the 2026 NCS. In the past, each Council had the choice of seeking written support from other Girl Scout Councils before final submission. This involved emailing all 111 of our sister Councils and asking them to complete a support form and send it back to us so we could include it. However, GSUSA has streamlined that phase and will have all officially submitted proposals and discussion topics available for review by all Councils on a dedicated website for this purpose, starting on June 1. Each Council will then have the opportunity to gather input from members on these proposals.

The final step on whether a proposal becomes a matter to vote on at the next NCS is determined by the National Board. The exception is if 15% of all Girl Scout Councils support a proposal, then the National Board must include that on the NCS agenda. For more information, please see Article VI, Sections 1.a & 1.b. in the Constitution of the [Blue Book](#).

This process truly illustrates our Movement's principle of democracy in action. Questions? Please email governance@gsep.org

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."

GSEP MY24-25 Governance Calendar

(which can also be found on the [Governance page](#) of the website)

Date	Action Item
Wednesday, March 19 at 6:30pm	Spring Delegate Council Meeting Hybrid - Daisy's Place at Camp Shelly Ridge or via Zoom Register here by March 17
Thursday, April 3	Official Notice of the 2025 Annual Meeting will be emailed to all voting Delegate Council members
Saturday, May 3 from 10am-12pm	2025 Annual Meeting Location: Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge (in-person only!)
April 4-August 31, 2025	Election of Service Unit Delegates and Alternates for Governance Year 2025-2026
Tuesday, June 3 from 7-8pm	Special Delegate Council Meeting (virtual only) Topic: Discussion on proposals & discussion topics from ALL Girl Scout Councils (before the National Board decides on which ones will be approved to be on the 2026 NCS agenda) Register for the Zoom meeting here .

Thank you again for your commitment to Governance excellence here at GSEP. As always, if you have any questions or thoughts to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to governance@gsep.org.

QUESTIONS?



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

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