

Overview of Delegate Council Meetings

Delegate Council Meetings

Winter & Spring 2026

February 10 and March 18, 2026

7:00-8:30 p.m.

~ virtual over Zoom ~

Invited: GSEP Board of Directors, Girl Advisors to the Board, Board Development Committee Members, Girl Delegates, Service Unit Delegates & Alternates, 2026 National Council Delegation, and Interested Members

Both meetings focused on the issues to be discussed at the 2026 National Council Session, being held in Washington, D.C. in July.

The **Winter Delegate Council Meeting** on February 10 was a listening session only for the 137 attendees; GSEP's National Council Delegation presented the proposals and discussion topics for the 2026 NCS. This information had been made public by GSUSA ten days prior to the meeting. Board Chair Nicole LeVine requested that the webinar participants share this material with their Service Units, troops, and Girl Scout friends and gather input, questions, and concerns to bring back to the Spring Delegate Council Meeting being held the next month. A Discussion Guide on the National Council Session information was emailed to the entire Delegate Council to assist in these follow-up conversations.

On March 18, the **Spring Delegate Council Meeting** began with the traditional report from the Board Development Committee about the slates at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The rest of the meeting focused on the 2026 NCS agenda items. More than 148 members attended.

The two discussion topics at the 2026 NCS are:

1. *Revolutionize Engagement: Girl Scouts Her Way*

This concept focuses on how to make participating in Girl Scouts easier on families. This is not about changing programs. This is about adding more opportunities for girls. Based on market research conducted with girls and their families who are members and girls and families who are not yet members, GSUSA is looking at developing and promoting three other types of programmatic experiences to build girls' leadership and life skills.

In addition to our traditional troop model and the camp experience, GSUSA is piloting formal Girl Scout programs for:

- Girls and the special adults in their lives.... For example, offering Dad & daughter experiences or She & Me programs with special older women in a girl's life.
- GSUSA is also looking at doing more specialized programming on a single topic. These would probably not be a whole year, but a few days, a few weeks, or even a few months spent exploring an area or idea.
- The fifth concept is to provide more materials or partnerships for girls and their families to have a true Girl Scout experience on their own: their own timetable, their own locations, and/or their own areas of interest.

Here in GSEP we have done some of these types of experiences. This is simply a way to broaden the definition of participating in Girl Scouting.

2. *Amplify Impact: Building Connections Within Our Communities*

- a. This idea grew out of a number of NCS proposals which were submitted by Councils that focused on how we can be more proactively welcoming to new girls, families, and communities. Specifically, one aspect GSUSA heard time and time again in national research was that girls are facing pressure and labels and competition in almost every space they're in. How can our Movement differentiate ourselves from other youth-serving organizations and offer girls and families what they need?

These Discussion Topics will continue to be considered at the National Council Session, since these concepts will be on-going initiatives into the next triennium and beyond.

The three proposals to be voted on at the 2026 NCS are amendments to GSUSA's Blue Book, suggested by three Councils. They are:

1. *Broadening the possibility of seeking philanthropic solicitations by girls earning their Highest Awards.*
 - a. Currently, the Policies section in the Blue Book (on page 20) allows girls working on their Gold Award projects to ask for donations of cash or in-kind goods, provided girls have received permission from their local Council.
 - i. This proposal – if passed as is – would also allow Juniors and Cadettes to ask for this same type of support for their Bronze or Silver Award projects, if they follow their local Council's policies and procedures.
2. *Lowering the threshold of when the National Board would be required to seek approval from the National Council Delegates to increase membership dues.* This is not about whether to raise the dues again, but this proposed change seeks to lower the percentage of the increase amount (from 25% to 15%) that the National Board can vote on by themselves.
3. *Limiting the sale of Girl Scout Cookie-branded or -licensed products to outside the traditional Girl Scout Cookie season.*

Strategy Café Discussions

Participants broke into small groups to share their thoughts and the input they gathered from their Service Units, troops, and Girl Scout friends on the NCS Discussion Topics and Proposals that they heard about during the Winter Delegate Council Meeting and then learned more details about at the Spring Meeting. The Large Group Report-Outs mainly revolved around the proposals, but one breakout group cheered the concepts presented from the Discussion Topics. Feedback was also gathered via an online form, with NC Delegation members serving as scribes for the small group's input. A Zoom poll was also launched after the Large Group Report-Outs for another data point for the NC Delegates to consider before they vote this summer.

Overall, GSEP's Delegate Council members were in favor of the first two proposals but not the third proposal. Their comments also suggest that there are many factors to consider, and they understand how complex these proposals are. The impact of these Blue Book amendments on our Movement (if passed) may also lie in how the language of the respective proposals is interpreted.

Closing

Board Chair and National Council Delegate Nicole LeVine thanked the attendees for their participation. She encouraged them to share additional thoughts, questions, and concerns on these national topics with the NC Delegation by emailing governance@gsep.org. She also reminded everyone to register for GSEP's Annual Meeting, happening on May 2.

The Spring Delegate Council Meeting began at 7:05 pm and concluded at 8:13 pm on March 18, 2026.

Please email any questions, concerns, or thoughts to governance@gsep.org