



September 2021 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 –

Happy start to the Girl Scout troop year! We hope you had a fun, relaxing, and safe summer and that the back-to-school prep has been accomplished with ease.

Fall Delegate Council Meeting being held on September 28

The first Delegate Council Meeting of the Governance Year is happening later this month. The Fall Delegate Council Meeting will happen VIRTUALLY on September 28, from 7-9 pm via Zoom. Please [register here](#). All Service Unit Delegates and Alternates, Girl Delegates, Girl Advisors, Board members, and Board Development Committee members are encouraged to attend, and any interested Girl Scout members are also welcome!

During the meeting, our Board Chair will give an update on national Girl Scout governance news, including the latest updates on the 2023 National Council Session. The new chair of the Board Development Committee (BDC) will also share the upcoming work of the BDC. The primary focus of the Strategy Café discussions will be discussing possible proposals for the 2023 National Council Session (yes, we

know this is early! But the proposals are due to GSUSA this upcoming spring).

We look forward to seeing you on September 28!

Training for NEW Delegates (Service Unit or Girl Delegates) scheduled for September 18

Welcome to all our new members of the Delegate Council! To get the most robust experience from your Delegate service, it helps to be educated about your new role. We're excited to offer an in-person training again this year! (FYI - *If you have previously served as a Delegate and have already taken the training, no need to do it again.*)

Please join us on September 18, from 9:30-11:30 am via Zoom for the training for new Delegate Council members. One of GSUSA's National Volunteer Partners in Governance will be hosting the training, so you'll all be learning from a nationally recognized expert. We will explain your governance role, our [Bylaws](#) and the part they play in GSEP's organization, [GSUSA's Blue Book](#), and how we all work together to improve our Movement on a strategic level.

If you haven't already, please register no later than September 15 by emailing governance@gsep.org.

Service Unit Delegate Elections – results were due August 31, 2021

As you know, SU Delegates are elected annually to serve one-year terms, which run from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting. Every summer, we ask for confirmation of all Service Units' delegates. This is vitally important now, because of the upcoming Fall Delegate Council Meeting. (This is one of only three meetings required of SU Delegates.) As of the August 31st deadline, only 30% of the Service Units had emailed the SU Delegate Election form in to governance@gsep.org. If your Service Unit is on [this list](#), your [SU Delegate Election Results form](#) has not been turned in!

Therefore, if you have not already, please elect your Service Unit Delegates for the new Governance Year this month! Please check out

the following information to make your elections go smoothly (all of which can also be found in the tab at the bottom of the [Governance page](#) of our website):

- [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 2020-2021 Governance Year and is interested in returning in that role, they still must be elected to serve in the 2021-2022 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 great opportunity for girls 14 years or older to learn more about the Council on a strategic level (and it looks great on a college application!).
 - This position requires only 3 meetings a year: the Fall Delegate Meeting in late September; the Spring Delegate Meeting in March; and the Annual Meeting in early May. A Delegate training will also be offered in the fall to orient new folks to the position.

[Public Service Reminder – Deadline to Register to Vote in PA is October 18](#)

Just as you are interested and involved in governance here in GSEP, as an American citizen, you are all encouraged to also be an active participant in civic governance as well...and one of the most efficient and effective ways to have your voice heard at the local, state, and federal levels is to vote. The first step in this process is actually registering to vote. If you aren't registered yet, please check out [Pennsylvania's Online Voter Registration page](#) and complete the form. The deadline to register to vote so that you can fill out a ballot on November 2nd is October 18.

[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](#)

What do Board Committees do?

GSEP has six standing committees, made up of both Board and non-Board members, who are appointed by the Board Chair (with one exception). They are: Board Development, Executive, HR, Finance/Audit, Membership Strategy, and Property (two of which are explained in detail in the [Bylaws](#)). There are also a few subcommittees and ad hoc task forces created to work on specific issues and tasks.

The **Board Development Committee** is elected by you, the Delegate Council, at the Annual Meeting. This group of nine people create the slate of nominees for Officers, Board members, BDC members, Girl Advisors, Girl Delegates and every three years, NCS Delegates. This means they identify, cultivate, and recruit candidates. They are also responsible for educating new Board members to ensure they know their responsibilities. More info can be found in Article V of the [Bylaws](#).

The **Executive Committee** includes the Officers of the Board and two Board Members-at-Large, approved by the Board as a whole. This group has the authority of the Board between Board meetings. Article VI of the [Bylaws](#) has more information on the Executive Committee.

The **Human Resources Committee** acts as an HR resource for the CEO and HR staff team. This group also reviews HR-related policies and has a primary responsibility to review and discuss the CEO's annual performance assessment conducted by the Board Chair.

Having the **Finance/Audit Committee** is required by our **Bylaws** (Article III, section 3.h.). They give guidance for all policy decisions pertaining to financial plans and business investments for the council. For example, they review the annual operational and capital budgets, assess the effectiveness of council use of resources, review and monitor the council's income stream and business investments, and oversee fiscal year-end audit (which is required by our **Bylaws** in Article VII, section 5).

The **Membership Strategy Committee** is a relatively new committee, and they are tasked with providing guidance and assistance to increase the visibility of Girl Scouting within our nine-county footprint.

The **Property Committee** is responsible for providing strategic direction and advice to the CEO and staff regarding the short and long-term development, stewardship and use of Council properties. This includes our Service Centers and all our camps.

You can read more about their specific work when you peruse the Board Meeting Overviews on the bottom of the **Governance** page of the website, since the Committees are required to report on their work to the Board.

Need more info? Email governance@gsep.org.

GSEP MY22 Governance Calendar

*(which can also be found on the **Governance** page of the website)*

Date	Action Item
August 31, 2021	Deadline to return Service Unit Delegate Election Results form to governance@gsep.org .
September 18, 2021	Training for all new Delegates being held via Zoom from 9:30-11:30am. (Register by emailing

	governance@gsep.org)
Tuesday, September 28, 2021	Fall Delegate Council Meeting, from 7-9 pm, via Zoom. REGISTER HERE
Mid- January 2022 (exact deadline TBD)	Deadline to apply to be a Girl Advisor to the Board and/or Girl Delegates in MY23. This is also the deadline to submit nomination of a Board or Board Development Committee member for MY23 for the Board Development Committee to vet.
Monday, March 21, 2022	Spring Delegate Council Meeting at 7 pm, scheduled at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge, from 7-9 pm
Thursday, April 7, 2022	Official Notice of the 2022 Annual Meeting will be emailed to all voting Delegate Council members
Saturday, May 7, 2022	2022 Annual Meeting to be held at Shelly Ridge from 10 a.m. – 12 noon
April 8- August 31, 2022	Election of Service Unit Delegates and Alternates for Governance Year 2022-2023

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

Have a safe & happy troop year!

As always, if you have any questions or thoughts to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to governance@gsep.org!

