



December 2022 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 Holidays! We hope that 2023 brings you & yours much prosperity, health, and peace!

Recap of Fall Delegate Council Meeting in September

The first Delegate Council meeting of the new Governance Year was held on Thursday, September 29 at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge via Zoom; it was our first hybrid Delegate Council meeting.

A primary element of the meeting was the election of the 2023 National Council Session (NCS) Delegation. All 16 Delegates and five Alternates will each serve a three-year term and be a conduit for national governance issues. There are six girls in the Delegation; 33% of the Delegation are people of color; and members live in eight of our nine counties (Carbon being the exception). For more than one-third of the Delegation, this will be their first National Council Session (20% have attended an in-person NCS and the others participated in the virtual 2020 NCS). This group will be presenting the proposals at the Spring Delegate Council Meeting in March to get input from GSEP's Delegate Council members.

Also at the Fall Delegate Council Meeting, Board Chair Debbie Hassan shared national Girl Scout governance news, which focused on the 2023 National Council Session work. The Strategy Café conversations were a forum to discuss how to enhance the role of the Delegate Council here in GSEP. Suggestions ranged from learning more about the work of the Board and the Board members themselves to recommendations on how to promote governance roles to girls.

For more detailed information, please see the Delegate Council Meeting PowerPoint slides [here](#) and read the Meeting Overview [here](#).

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

Deadline to apply is Thursday, January 19.

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 two Delegate Meetings per year plus the Annual Meeting in May.

Girl Scouts who will be at least 14 years old as of Saturday, May 6, 2023, are encouraged to [apply](#) to be a Girl Advisor to the Board or Girl Delegate.

Applications are due at midnight on Thursday, January 19 and all require at least one adult recommendation (Girl Advisor applications require two).

****NEW THIS YEAR**** Two virtual Help Sessions will be offered by the Girl Governance Subcommittee, to assist girls with any questions they about the application. The first session will be held on Sunday, January 8, at 4:00 PM; please click [here](#) to register. The second session will be held on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 PM to attend, please register via [this link](#).

Questions? Please email governance@gsep.org

Mark Your Calendars – Spring Delegate Council Meeting

Please save the date for the Spring Delegate Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. 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 primary focus for this meeting will be on the proposals being voted on at the 2023 National Council Session (NCS). We will share more information before the Spring Delegate Council meeting, once GSUSA releases the proposals that have been approved by the National Board to be part of the NCS next July.

Service Unit Delegate Elections – results still needed from some SUs!

If you have not yet done so, please elect your Service Unit Delegates! Having a full complement of SU Delegates is especially important this year, since the Delegate Council will be electing new Board members in May and will provide input on NCS proposals this spring that will impact the entire Movement.

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.

Please note that if your SU Delegate served in the 2021-2022 Governance Year and is interested in returning in that role, they still must be elected to serve in the 2022-2023 Governance Year. A Service Unit Delegate (or alternate) can serve up to six consecutive one-year terms. (The term for SU Delegates runs from one Annual Meeting to the next Annual Meeting.)

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

Email governance@gsep.org with any questions.

Continuing Governance Education

What is the difference between GSEP's Bylaws and GSUSA's Blue Book?

Bylaws are the rules and regulations that govern an organization. They provide the legal framework of the organization and define the responsibilities of the Board of Directors which oversee the organization.

Every Girl Scout Council is a separate nonprofit organization; we are each governed by our own respective Bylaws (as well as state laws and other local policies). Therefore, [GSEP's Bylaws](#) are OUR foundational document that outlines how our local Council operates.

The most recent edition of [GSEP's Bylaws](#) were approved in May 2022. Any time any word, phrase, or section is changed (by an addition, deletion, or edit), that change must be approved by the Delegate Council. For example, a new responsibility was added this past spring to the roles of Board Chair and CEO (*Article IV, Section 3.a.vii and Article III, Section 11.h.*). The Delegate Council approved this additional responsibility on Saturday, May 7, 2022.

GSUSA's [Blue Book of Basic Documents](#) is an amalgamation of six documents that describe the governance of our national Movement and the general management of Councils. These are the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA), the Bylaws of GSUSA, the Policies of GSUSA, Credentials (of Membership, of Chartering a Council, etc.), Criteria and Standards of an Effective Girl Scout Council, and the Congressional Charter of GSUSA. Any changes to the "Blue Book" must be approved by either the National Council or the National Board of Directors.

So, while GSEP's Bylaws are very reflective of GSUSA's Bylaws, they are not the exact same because GSEP and GSUSA are legally two different organizations. Our local volunteers wrote, edited, and approved GSEP's Bylaws. GSUSA's Blue Book is the focus of the triennial National Council Session, which seeks input from adult and girl members from across the country and around the world.

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 MY23 Governance Calendar

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

Date	Action Item
April 8-August 31, 2022	Election for SU Delegates/Alternates for MY23 should be held.
January 8 (4-5 pm) and January 10 (7-8 pm), 2023	Virtual info sessions with the Girl Governance Subcommittee to learn more about how to effectively complete the Girl Advisor/Girl Delegate application. (Register for Jan. 8 session here and Jan. 10 session here .)
January 19, 2023	Deadline to 1) apply to be a Girl Delegate in MY24 (click here for online application) and 2) to nominate a candidate for the Board or BDC for the Board Development Committee to consider and vet (click here for form).
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7-9 p.m.	Spring Delegate Council Meeting Location: Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge
Thursday, April 6, 2023	Official Notice of the 2023 Annual Meeting will be emailed to all voting Delegate Council members
Saturday, May 6, 2023 10 a.m. – 12 noon	2022 Annual Meeting Location: Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge)
April 7-August 31, 2023	Election of Service Unit Delegates and Alternates for Governance Year 2023-2024
July 18-22, 2023	2023 National Girl Scout Convention in Orlando (includes the business meeting of the 56 th National Council Session 7/18-7/20, followed by Phenom 7/20-7/22). For more info, click here .

Thank you again for your commitment to Governance excellence here at GSEP. Hope your holidays are filled with laughter and light! See you in 2023!

QUESTIONS?



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

This email was sent to %%EmailAddr%%
You are receiving this e-mail because you have requested to receive information from Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania .

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Preferences](#)

© %%=FormatDate(Now(), "yyyy")=%% Girl Scouts of America. All Rights Reserved.
330 Manor Road Miquon , PA 19444