

September 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.

Dear Delegate Council,

Welcome to the new Troop Year! We are excited for Membership Year 2024 and the amazing adventures we will all have!

Fall Delegate Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 10

Please join GSEP Board Chair Nicole LeVine and CEO Kim E. Fraites-Dow at the Fall Delegate Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 10. The gathering will be held at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge (Lafayette Hill), starting at 6pm. A light dinner will be served.

We encourage all Service Unit Delegates, SU Alternate Delegates, Girl Delegates, Girl Advisors, Board Members, BDC Members, and any interested member to join us! If you are unable to travel to Shelly Ridge, we will be offering a virtual attendance option. Please [click here to register](#) by Monday, October 2.

The primary focus of the meeting will be a report on the National Council Session (NCS) from GSEP's NCS Delegation. Attendees will also hear an update from our Board Chair and the Chair of the Board Development Committee. The topic of the Strategy Café discussions will be the creation of a, Annual Governance plan for the Delegate Council.

[Register here](#) by Monday, October 2. In the meantime, please enjoy this [quick overview of the NCS](#), created by the girl members of the NCS Delegation.



What is NCS and why will it be the Topic at the Fall Delegate Council Meeting?

For those of you who are new to Girl Scout governance, welcome!

During our Delegate Council meetings, we discuss concepts important to Girl Scouting on both the local Council level and the national GSUSA level. The “NCS” – or National Council Session – is the national equivalent of our local Delegate Council meetings; the NCS, however, occurs only every three years. The last NCS was held two months ago in Orlando. Every Girl Scout Council elects representatives (a.k.a., NCS Delegates) to discuss, debate, and vote on issues important to the entire Movement. These ideas include the election of new National Board Members and National Board Development Committee Members as well as changes to the [Blue Book](#) (GSUSA's governance documents).

GSEP's 2023 NCS Delegation will be sharing the news and voting results from July's National Council Session. We hope you will join us on Tuesday, October 10 to hear more details of the 2023 NCS.



Are you a new Delegate this year?

We want you to understand your role and be prepared to fully participate in the Delegate Council meetings.

Training for all new Service Unit Delegates, Alternates, and Girl Delegates will be held on two dates prior to the Fall Delegate Council meeting:

- Sunday, September 17, from 1:30-3pm at Valley Forge. This training is *for girls only* (so all new Girl Delegates and SU Delegates/Alternates who are girls are welcome!). Please email governance@gsep.org ASAP.
- Sunday, October 1, from 1:30-3pm at Shelly Ridge (Daisy's Place). All new SU Delegates/Alternates and any Girl Delegates who were unable to attend the earlier training are encouraged to attend. Please email governance@gsep.org to participate in the October training.

If you have already taken Delegate training in the past, you do not need to attend again.

Service Unit Delegate Elections – *results due ASAP*

Attention Service Unit Managers: if you haven't yet, please elect your Service Unit Delegates for the new Governance Year! (*The term for SU Delegates runs from one Annual Meeting to the next Annual Meeting.*) The Fall Delegate Council Meeting is in a few weeks, so we need a full complement of Delegates.

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!).
 - This position requires only a few Delegate Council meetings a year: in the fall, a new virtual-only winter meeting scheduled for January, and in the spring; plus, the Annual Meeting in early May.

Since the Fall Delegate Council Meeting is being held on Tuesday, October 10, we want to ensure that ALL Service Units have the opportunity to share ideas and concerns with our Board as well as hear governance news and updates from our Board Chair and CEO.

Mark Your Calendars for the Virtual Winter Delegate Council Meeting.

Based on the feedback received at the 2022 Fall Delegate Council Meeting, Delegates want information and more interaction with the Board. A third Delegate Council meeting in mid-winter has been added to keep you up to date. This meeting will be virtual-only. Please note this on your calendars: Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7pm over Zoom.

A link to register will be provided in the December edition of the Governance Bulletin.

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

Do other Girl Scout Councils have Service Unit Delegates?

The simple answer to this question is yes... but not all. And many have different names, structures, and responsibilities for the position. The Preamble of GSUSA's Constitution states that Girl Scouting is “govern[ed] by an efficient and effective democratic process...” (quote from p. 7 of the [Blue Book](#)). So, Girl Scout members definitely have a voice and a seat at the governance table throughout the country. But how those voices are heard is different, depending on the local Council.

For example, GSEP has a Delegate Council (as required by Article II in our [Bylaws](#)), 70% of which is comprised of elected representatives from Service Units. One of their primary responsibilities is to elect new Board Officers and Members-at-Large and Board Development Committee members at our Annual Meeting. However, some Girl Scout Councils host Annual Meetings where any interested member can attend and vote for new Board members.

GSEP has historically held two Delegate Council meetings a year and an Annual Meeting. This year, we are adding another meeting, based on Delegate feedback. Other Councils' Delegates meet once a year at their Annual Meeting, and a few Councils have quarterly meetings.

Plus, different names of the Delegate role are reflected in Councils throughout the country. There are Community Delegates, Council Delegates, Regional Delegates, Operational Unit Delegates, etc., etc. And, the number of Delegates is different per Council, depending on their respective Bylaws.

So, while members of the 111 Girl Scout Councils are one big sisterhood, like all sisters, we do things slightly differently. However, we are all focused on ensuring that members contribute to the strategic leadership vision of their respective Councils.

GSEP MY23-24 Governance Calendar

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

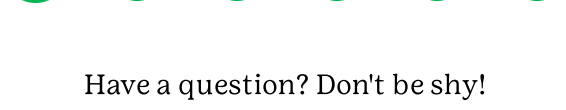
Date	Action Item
Sunday, September 17, 2023 (1:30-3pm at Valley Forge Service Center)	Training for all new Girl Delegates and Service Unit Delegates/Alternates who are girl members. Please email governance@gsep.org to participate in this training.
Sunday, October 1, 2023 (1:30-3pm at Shelly Ridge)	Training for new Service Unit Delegates & Alternates. Please email governance@gsep.org to participate in this training.
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 6 pm dinner; <i>meeting immediately following</i>	Fall Delegate Council Meeting, at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge. A light dinner will be served, so the gathering is starting at 6pm. Please register here .
Monday, January 22, 2024	**NEW** virtual Winter Delegate Council Meeting
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.
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
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!

Have a happy & fun kickoff to your troop year!

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.

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.

%%[IF NOT(@hidePrivacyLink == true) THEN set @hidePrivacyLink = false ENDIF]%%[IF NOT(@hideUnsubscribeLink == true) THEN set @hideUnsubscribeLink = false ENDIF]%%[IF @hidePrivacyLink == false THEN]%% [Privacy Policy](#) %%[ENDIF]%%[IF @hidePrivacyLink == false AND (@hideUnsubscribeLink == false OR @hidePreferenceLink == false) THEN]%% | %%[ENDIF]%%[IF @hideUnsubscribeLink == false THEN]%% [Unsubscribe](#) %%[ENDIF]%%[IF @hideUnsubscribeLink == false AND @hidePreferenceLink == false THEN]%% %%[IF Not Empty(@contactID) OR memberid == "6260702" THEN]%% | %%[ENDIF]%%[ENDIF]%%[IF @hidePrivacyLink == false OR @hideUnsubscribeLink == false OR @hidePreferenceLink == false THEN]%%

%%[ENDIF]%%