

## June 2024 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.*

Happy Summer and welcome to the new Governance Year!

Welcome and congratulations to our new Board Members-at-Large, Girl Advisors to the Board, and Girl Delegates, who were elected at May's Annual Meeting! Congrats, too, to our re-elected Board Members-at-Large and Board Development Committee (BDC) members. A special hello and congratulations as well to the newest Service Unit Delegates and Alternates who have recently been elected by their SUs for this Governance Year. We are excited to have you all actively participating in GSEP's governance!

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### Annual Meeting Recap



Thank you to all our Delegate Council members who attended the Annual Meeting on May 4 at Shelly Ridge! We deeply appreciate your time and interest in ensuring governance excellence here in GSEP.

In addition to voting on the slates for Board Members-at-Large, Girl Advisors to the Board, BDC member, and Girl Delegates, we also had a Governance Report presented by our Board Chair, the Treasurer's Report shared by our Chief Financial Officer, and the Management Report from our CEO. We ended the meeting with our exceptional girls, when we celebrated our Top Cookie Sellers and Older Girl Scholarship recipients.

If you missed the Annual Meeting and want to catch up, please check out the [recording of the 2024 Annual Meeting](#) on GSEP's [YouTube channel](#). Some distinctive highlights of the meeting were the presentation of this year's Governance Award to the two immediate past Chairs of the Board's Property Committee, a special acknowledgement of our outgoing Girl Advisors, the election of five new Board members, and a special shout out to the Top Six Cookie Sellers (who collectively sold a phenomenal 36,825 boxes!).

Please also take the opportunity to read the [Official Minutes of the Annual Meeting](#) and view the [Annual Meeting PowerPoint slides](#) presented on May 4. You can also peruse the [2023 Annual Report](#) online (which our CEO referenced in her Management Report during the meeting).

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### Spring Delegate Council Meeting Recap

At this past April's Delegate Council meeting, we introduced a best practice for governance that we learned during the preparation for last year's National Council Session: a "Meet the Candidates" forum.

The nominees for Board Member-at-Large and Girl Advisor each shared a short video they created, introducing themselves to the Delegate Council in preparation for the election at the Annual Meeting. They told the Delegate Council some details about their professional (or academic) lives as well as why they are interested in participating with GSEP at the governance level. The BDC also presented a demographic analysis of the similarities between the applicants and nominees for Girl Advisors and Girl Delegates.

Additionally, our Board Chair Nicole LeVine offered a brief comparison of the work of GSUSA's National Board with GSEP's Board. This topic provided the context for the Strategy Café discussion on how Girl Scout Governance has impacted individuals, and she encouraged all attendees to "share their story."

An overview of the meeting can be found [here](#), along with the [PowerPoint deck](#) presented that evening.

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### Save the Date for the Fall Delegate Council Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the Fall Delegate Council Meeting, happening on Tuesday, October 15, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Daisy's Place (Shelly Ridge). A virtual attendance option will be available.

More information will be shared in the next edition of the Governance Bulletin, including the registration link. Please know we will begin discussing the 2026 National Council Session (e.g., application process, proposal development and timeline, etc.).

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### \*\*FOR NEW DELEGATES\*\* - 3 Training Sessions offered!

- Sunday, August 25, 1:30-3:30 pm at Shelly Ridge – Girls only! (*open to all new Girl Delegates and new SU Delegates/Alternates who are girls*)
  - Please register [here](#).
- Tuesday, September 24, 6:30-8:30 pm at Shelly Ridge – all new Delegates welcome!
  - Please register [here](#).
- Monday, October 4, 6:30-8 pm – virtual only
  - Please register [here](#) for the training via Zoom.

*Please note: if you have attended a governance training session in the past (for any role), you do not need to attend again if you have been elected to a new role (or re-elected).*

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### Service Unit Delegate Elections – It's that time of year again!

Attention Service Unit Managers: It's now time to begin electing your Service Unit Delegates for the 2024-2025 Governance Year! (*The term for SU Delegates runs from one Annual Meeting to the next Annual Meeting, so we are already in the new Governance Year.*)

Please check out the information found in the tab at the bottom of the [Governance page](#) of our website, including:

- The [SU Delegate Election Results Form](#) – this must be downloaded, completed, saved, and emailed to [governance@gsep.org](mailto:governance@gsep.org) no later than August 31.
- [Sample script](#) to help facilitate your SU Delegate election.
- A [PowerPoint slide](#) explaining the responsibilities of a Service Unit Delegate is also available in a [PDF](#).
- [The list](#) of Service Units entitled to one or two SU Delegates.
- Please remember:
  - If your SU Delegate served in the 2023-2024 Governance Year and is interested in returning to that role, they still must be elected to serve in the 2024-2025 Governance Year. A SU Delegate (or Alternate) can serve up to six consecutive one-year terms.
  - A SU 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!).

As a reminder, elections for SU Delegates/Alternates for the 2024-2025 Governance Year should be held between April 5-August 31, 2024. The updated [SU Delegate Election form for GY24-25](#) is now posted on the [Governance page](#) of the website.

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### 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

### Why is the Governance Year different from the Membership/Fiscal Year?

We all celebrate when a new calendar year begins on January 1 and ends on New Year's Eve on December 31. And, as Girl Scouts, we are all familiar with the Membership Year start and end dates: October 1 through September 30. Those dates also define the Girl Scout Fiscal Year as well. So, why is the Governance Year in GSEP different?

Our foundational Governance document – GSEP's [Bylaws](#) – states that "a Governance Year is defined as from the close of one Annual Meeting to the close of the next Annual Meeting" (please see lines 40-41 for the first reference).

As shared in the [last edition of the Governance Bulletin](#), there are many reasons why we hold our Annual Meeting in May (which is slightly later than most other Girl Scout Councils). One other important justification for choosing May as the meeting month is that GSEP was "born" on May 1, 2007, so this time also serves as our annual birthday celebration.

Some Girl Scout Councils elect new Board members and other governance positions at their Annual Meetings (held in the winter/spring), yet those people do not officially start their roles until the beginning of the new Membership Year in the fall, which can be awkward due to the long transitional period.

GSEP has continued our 17-year tradition of Board (and other roles') terms starting upon election in May, which allows the Board to be educated and informed about facts, figures, and issues for the end of a Membership Year and the beginning of a new one as well as the wrap-up and launch of the respective budgets for each Fiscal Year. As a reminder, our [Bylaws](#) require that the Board "approve the operational and capital budgets" (lines 412-413).

Having the Governance Year start in May also allows for Girl Delegates and Service Unit Delegates/Alternates to attend training for their new roles and knowledgeably participate in the Fall Delegate Council meeting (usually held in September or October).

Looking forward to seeing you all on October 15!

GSEP GY24-25 Governance Calendar – check out the bottom of the [the Governance page of the website](#).

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](mailto:governance@gsep.org)!

### QUESTIONS?



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

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