View in Browser

girl scouts
of eastern
pennsylvania

December 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 Holidays!
We hope that 2025 is your best year yet.

Register Now for the Virtual Winter Delegate Council Meeting

Location: Zoom (Virtual)
Date: January 14 from 7-8:30pm
Levels: All Service Unit Delegates/Alternates, Girl Delegates, and interested members are encouraged to attend.

After the positive feedback received regarding the first Winter Delegate Council meeting in January 2024, our Board Chair confirmed that we will add this virtual-only meeting to our annual Governance calendar moving forward to keep Delegates up to date and informed throughout the year.

The primary focus of this meeting will GSUSA's Strategic Plan for our Movement. All attendees will have an opportunity to participate in breakout room discussions to talk about the impact of the national strategic plan on the long-term future of Girl Scouting and how GSEP will support the goals locally.

REGISTER

Recap of Fall Delegate Council Meeting in October

The first Delegate Council meeting of the new Governance Year was held on October 16. More than 120 people attended (both in-person and virtually) to hear national governance news from Board Chair Nicole LaVine, CEO Kim Pratles-Dow, and GSEP's 2023 National Council Session (NCS) Delegates. The Strategy Call discussion focused on the National Board's proposals to raise the Girl Scout membership dues.

Click here to review the PowerPoint slide deck.

Special National Council Session Held on October 19

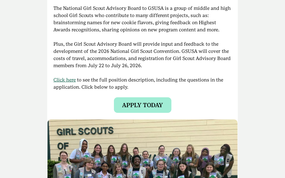
For the first time in history, GSUSA called for a "Special" National Council Session (a meeting held outside of the traditional triennial meeting), which was held four days after GSEP's Fall Delegate Council Meeting. After months of education on the topic and a very robust discussion with GSEP's Service Unit Delegates and Alternates, Girl Delegates, and Board members on October 15, our NCS Delegates headed into the Special NCS well-educated and well-informed on the pros and cons of raising membership dues for both girls and adults.

The Special NCS lasted a marathon 12 hours, with one official formal break around 4:60pm. Our NCS Delegates participated virtually in viewing parties at Valley Forge and Camp Laughing Waters as well as at respective homes, but all were committed to participating during the entire session. They heard many suggested amendments on the proposals from sister Girl Scouts from across the country. The debate reflected an optimistic and constructive view of the future of Girl Scouting.

The National Council Delegates ultimately voted to increase annual dues for girl members to $45, which will be phased in over the next two years. With this approval, annual dues for girl members will be $45 for Membership Year 2024 and $65 effective Membership Year 2027. The National Council Delegates also voted to increase annual dues for adult members to $30, beginning with Membership Year 2026.

Please know that GSEP is committed to ensuring there are no financial barriers standing in the way for girls to join and stay in Girl Scouts. We will continue to offer the opportunity to earn free membership as part of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, and financial aid will remain in place for Girl Scouts and Troop Leaders.

Opportunities for Girls Only



Troop PA – Save the Date for February 3!

All girls involved in GSEP governance are invited to consider joining our CEO and Advocacy team in Harrisburg on February 3 for a day of sharing the Girl Scout Mission with our elected officials. GSEP and our sister Councils (G3 (in the Heart of PA and Girl Scouts of Western PA) are hosting all the female state legislators for a Girl Scout investiture ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda in the morning. Visits to respective State Senators and State Representatives in our Council's footprint will also be arranged. Girls will then work on their Democracy badge with their sister Girl Scouts in the afternoon. Transportation and lunch will be provided. Girl Scouts participating will be given an explanatory letter for school, requesting an excused absence.

Space is limited to 30 girls, so we will be emailing a dedicated invitation to all Girl Delegates and Girl Service Unit Delegates/Alternates in early January to sign up for a lottery to get a confirmed spot.

Please sign up by January 10 by clicking the button below. All girls will be notified by January 22 if they will be part of Troop PA this year.

SIGN UP FOR TROOP PA

Join the NATIONAL Girl Scout Advisory Board
Open to Girl Scouts in Grades 6-10

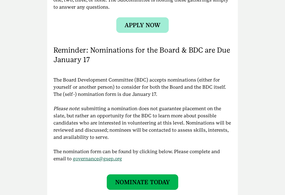
GSUSA is seeking Girl Scouts in Grades 6-10 to apply to be a member of the National Girl Scout Advisory Board. The application is due by January 15. (Please share this news with your troopmates or younger sisters!)

The National Girl Scout Advisory Board to GSUSA is a group of middle and high school Girl Scouts who contribute to many different projects, such as: brainstorming names for new cookie flavors, giving feedback on Highest Awards recognitions, sharing opinions on new program content and more.

Plus, the Girl Scout Advisory Board will provide input and feedback to the development of the 2026 National Girl Scout Convention. GSUSA will cover the costs of travel, accommodations, and registration for Girl Scout Advisory Board members from July 22 to July 26, 2026.

Click here to see the full position description, including the questions in the application. Click below to apply.

APPLY TODAY



Interested in Being a Girl Advisor to the Board or Girl Delegate Next Year?
Deadline to Apply is January 23.

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

Girls who will be at least 14 years old as of May 3, 2025 are encouraged to apply to be a Girl Advisor to the Board or Girl Delegate. Applications are due by 11:59pm on January 23 and all require at least one adult recommendation (Girl Advisor applications require two).

As we did last year, virtual Help Sessions will be offered again this year by the Girl Governance Subcommittee, to assist girls with any questions about the application. The sessions will be held on:

- January 9 at 7pm; please register here
- January 23 at 4pm; please register here

Please note: these are informal, optional Help Sessions. So, girls can sign up for one, two, three, or none. The Subcommittee is hosting these gatherings simply to answer any questions.

APPLY NOW

Reminder: Nominations for the Board & BDC are Due January 17

The Board Development Committee (BDC) accepts nominations (either for yourself or another person) to consider for both the Board and the BDC itself. The (self-) nomination form is due January 17.

Please note submitting a nomination does not guarantee placement on the slate, but rather an opportunity for the BDC to learn more about possible candidates who are interested in volunteering at this level. Nominations will be reviewed and discussed; nominees will be contacted to assess skills, interests, and availability to serve.

The nomination form can be found by clicking below. Please complete and email to governance@sepa.org

NOMINATE TODAY

Mark Your Calendars – Spring Delegate Council Meeting

Location: Daisy's Place at Camp Shelly Ridge *(Virtual Option Available)*
Date: March 19 from 7-9pm

The registration link will be shared in the next edition of the Governance Bulletin.

Service Unit Delegate Elections – It's not too late!

Attention Service Unit Managers: if you haven't yet, please elect your Service Unit Delegates for this Governance Year! (*The term for SU Delegates runs from one Annual Meeting to the next Annual Meeting*) We still missing forms from about 40% of our Service Units.

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
  - Plus, a PDF explaining the role of a Delegate
- The SU Delegate Election Results Form– this must be downloaded, completed, saved, and emailed to governance@sepa.org ASAP
- 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 in that role, they still must be elected to serve in the 2024-2025 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!).
  - A new SU Delegate/Alternate still has the opportunity to attend two Delegate Council meetings this year: on January 14 and in March (date TBD) as well as the Annual Meeting on May 3.

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 does a Strategic Plan have to do with Governance?
Why is this the topic at the Winter Delegate Council meeting?

An organization's strategic plan provides a road map for the future, outlining its goals and objectives for the next three years (or five years or other determined length of time). It is a tool that provides for accountability in terms of the work, the time invested, the resources allocated, the people responsible for the tasks, and the ultimate target. A strategic plan is written and shared so that everyone involved is dedicated to the same purpose and reaching the same end result.

In the case of a nonprofit organization, the Board of Directors is responsible for approving the strategic plan, which is created with input from various stakeholders, including staff and volunteers. The Board, staff, and volunteers also monitors progress toward the goals and objectives to ensure that we remain a self-tax organization.

While the Mission of Girl Scouting remains consistent, how we fulfill that mission can have more paths, activities, resources, and people involved. However, each Girl Scout Council (an separate nonprofit) is committed to the guiding Mission and follows GSUSA's lead in focusing on certain key strategic areas.

Learning about and discussing GSUSA's new Strategic Plan will be the focus of the Winter Delegate Council Meeting, so we hope you will join us! (Please remind me!)

GSEP M24-25 Governance Calendar
(*which can also be found on the Governance page* of the website)

Date	Action Item
January 9 at 7pm	Virtual Help Session for Girl Advisor/Girl Delegate applications. Please register here.
January 12 at 4pm	Virtual Help Session for Girl Advisor/Girl Delegate applications. Please register here.
January 14 from 7-8:30pm	Virtual Winter Delegate Council Meeting Please register here.
January 23, 2025	Deadline to apply to be 1) Girl Advisor to the Board and/or Girl Delegates in GFZS-26, and 2) a nominee from the floor for the Board Development Committee to vet.
March 19	Spring Delegate Council Meeting at 7pm (Hybrid at Daisy's Place at Camp Shelly Ridge or virtual over Zoom)
April 3	Official Notice of the 2025 Annual Meeting will be emailed to all voting Delegate Council members
May 3 from 10am – 12pm	2025 Annual Meeting at Camp Shelly Ridge
April 4-August 31	Election of Service Unit Delegates and Alternates for Governance Year 2025-2026

Thank you again for your commitment to Governance excellence here at GSEP. Wishing you & yours a very happy holiday season! See you in the New Year!

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

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.

View in Browser | %%LIF_WCFQuickPreviewLink -- true|TRUE|yes -- true|TRUE|yes -- false|FALSE|no -- false|FALSE|no%%

%%LIF_WCFQuickPreviewLink -- true|TRUE|yes -- false|FALSE|no%%
%%LIF_WCFQuickPreviewLink -- false|FALSE|no