

July 2025 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 Summer! We hope your adventures in the next two months include lots of sun, fun, family, and relaxation.

We have had an incredibly busy spring in the governance area, and we appreciate all of you who have participated in the past three meetings. In case you missed any of the meetings, here are the recaps:

Spring Delegate Council Meeting (March 19)

The two primary topics of the spring meeting were the Board Development Committee (BDC) preparations for the upcoming Annual Meeting and the start of the work for the 2026 National Council Session. Joann Gonzalez-Generals, a Board member of the BDC, shared an overview this year's work to create six slates. She specifically presented a brief explanation of all the effort, discussion, and thought that went into developing the slates of the 27 members of the 2026 NC Delegation as well as the 30 Girl Delegates, to ensure representation of our entire Council in various diverse aspects. Board Chair Nicole LeVine shared a synopsis of the information and data that GSUSA presented to National Council Delegates during their 2025 State of the Movement webinar. Finally, Board member and NC Delegate Ellen Lobst talked about how the National Board establishes the agenda for the National Council Session (i.e., proposals and discussion topics). The Strategy Café discussions involved participants brainstorming ideas for GSEP's NC Delegation to craft into a formal proposal or discussion topic. The overview of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Annual Meeting (May 3)

More than 210 Girl Scout Delegates, members, and families attended this year's Annual Meeting in Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge. In addition to the formal election of the six slates of nominees, participants heard the Treasurer's Report, the Governance Report from our Board Chair, and the Management Report from our CEO. The Top Cookie Sellers and the Scholarship recipients were also celebrated for their achievements. Please click [here](#) to read the Official Minutes; you can also review the Powerpoint deck [here](#). The [2024 Annual Report](#) also contains additional pertinent information that our CEO shared during her presentation.

Special Delegate Council Meeting (June 4)

The Special DC meeting was a direct follow-up to the Spring DC Meeting's Strategy Café discussions. Between the two events, our National Council Delegation considered all the suggested ideas for the NCS agenda and developed GSEP's proposal on updating the Policies section of the [Blue Book](#) (p. 20) to allow girls working on their Bronze and Silver Awards to solicit financial donations for their projects. This was one of 15 Proposals and 8 Discussion Topics submitted from Girl Scout Councils across the country to the National Board to consider for discussion and debate at the 2026 NCS. During the Special DC meeting, our local Service Unit Delegates & Alternates and Girl Delegates heard a brief summary of each concept and then voted on whether to support moving the proposal or discussion topic forward to the National Board (not whether we supported the actual concept). For the first time, GSUSA had shared all these concepts so that all Councils could solicit input from their members. Board Chair Nicole LeVine explained that we will not hear the National Board's final decisions on which concepts to include in the NCS agenda until January 2026.

Save the Date for the Fall Delegate Council Meeting

Location: Daisy's Place at Camp Shelly Ridge (virtual option available)
Date: October 16 from 6:30-8:30 pm

All Girl Delegates and Service Unit Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to attend and interested members are also welcome! The registration link and additional information will be shared in the next edition of the Governance Bulletin.

New to Your Governance Role? Join us for training!

We want you to feel confident and comfortable as a new Girl Delegate or new Service Unit Delegate/Alternate.

We are offering 3 training sessions for your convenience (you only have to attend one!). You are strongly encouraged to participate in one of the sessions so that you will understand the expectations and responsibilities as a new Girl Delegate, Service Unit Delegate, or Service Unit Alternate.

Please click on the link to sign up for that respective session:

- ****GIRLS ONLY**** August 28, from 2-4 pm, at Valley Forge Service Center. Please [register here](#).
- October 5, from 2-4 pm in Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge. [Please register here](#).
- October 13, from 7-8:30 pm ****VIRTUAL ONLY**** Please [register here](#) for the Zoom session.

Service Unit Delegate Elections

Now is the time to hold elections for SU Delegates & Alternates!

Late spring and summer is election season at the Service Unit level.

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.

Don't forget: 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 job or college application!).

As a reminder, elections for SU Delegates/Alternates for the 2025-2026 Governance Year should be held between April 3-August 31, 2025. The [SU Delegate Election form](#) is posted on the Governance page of the website, along with a suggested script for the election and a description of the role.

Continuing Governance Education

[Why does developing a Proposal for the National Council Session take so long?](#)

For those of you who participated in the Spring Delegate Council Meeting, it may seem like an exceptionally long time between March 2025 and January 2026 to learn what ideas actually become an official part of the NCS agenda. And, many other Girl Scout Councils started this process long before GSEP did.

Because formal proposals involve amending the Girl Scout Constitution, changing GSUSA's Bylaws, updating Policies in the Blue Book, creating task forces to research major projects, etc., these concepts cannot be taken lightly. All of these possibilities have deep and/or broad impact on our national Movement.

When local National Council Delegations begin the process of developing a formal proposal, they need to take into account what ramifications their idea has on our Movement as well as the cascading effect in all parts of the Blue Book (the national governance document). In other words, changing one word in one section may then require updating the text in other places in the Blue Book or may even result in the need to develop new policies altogether. At past National Council Sessions, discussion and debate on various ideas have lasted for hours (even those proposals involving one word). Why? One reason is that words have depth and breadth to their meanings that people interpret differently, and we need to be respectful of our differences and come to an agreement that is constructive for all of our current and future members.

It takes months or more for the National Board to decide which proposals will be part of the official NCS agenda because there is limited time during a National Council Session (which generally lasts for about three days). As we learned at the Special Delegate Council Meeting in early June, there were 23 concepts submitted to GSUSA. Each of those could inspire hours and hours of conversation. The National Board needs to prioritize which of those concepts are the most beneficial to the entire Movement and can sustain our organization into the future so that we can continue to fulfill our Mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

We are looking forward to learning about the 2026 NCS agenda items! We can't wait to discuss them with all of you!

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 GY25-26 Governance Calendar

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

Date	Action Item
April 5-August 31, 2025	Election of Service Unit Delegates & Alternates for the 2025-2026 Governance Year (Please see the governance page of the website for more information.)
August 24, 2025	Training for new Girl Delegate and new SU Delegates/Alternates who are girls at Valley Forge Service Center from 2-4 pm. (Please register here .)
October 5, 2025	Training for all new SU Delegates/Alternates at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge from 2-4 pm (Please register here .)
October 13, 2025	VIRTUAL training for new Delegates (6:30-8 pm). Please register here for this Zoom session.
October 16, 2025	Fall Delegate Council Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm at Daisy's Place (Shelly Ridge or virtual via Zoom) <i>A light dinner will be provided for in-person attendees, starting at 6 pm.</i>
January 27, 2026	Winter Delegate Council Meeting (virtual only) from 7-8:30 pm
Mid-January 2026 (exact date TBD)	Deadline to submit applications to be considered for Girl Advisor to the Board and Girl Delegates for GY26-27
March 18, 2026	Spring Delegate Council Meeting, 7-8:30 pm (Shelly Ridge or virtual via Zoom)
April 2, 2026	Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be emailed to all identified members of the Delegate Council.
May 2, 2026	2026 Annual Meeting, 10 am – 12 noon, in Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge
July 20-25, 2026	58th National Council Session (Business Meeting: 7/20-7/22) and Girl Scouts Unite (Girl Program: 7/23-7/25) in Washington, D.C. More information can be found on GSUSA's 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!

QUESTIONS?



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

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