

## September 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:

Welcome to the new Troop Year! We are excited for Membership Year 2026 and the amazing adventures we will all have!

### Fall Delegate Council Meeting - October 16

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

We encourage all Service Unit Delegates, SU Alternate Delegates, Girl Delegates, Girl Advisors, Board Members, BDC Members, and any interested member to join GSEP Board Chair Nicole LeVine and CEO Kim Fraites-Dow at the Fall Delegate Council Meeting. The Strategy Café discussions will focus on GSEP's Strategic Planning.

The gathering will be held at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge (Lafayette Hill), starting at 6pm. A light dinner will be served, followed by the meeting starting at 6:30pm. If you are unable to travel to Shelly Ridge, we will be offering a virtual attendance option. Please [register](#) by October 10.

REGISTER

### 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.

Two more training sessions are being offered 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:

- Sunday, October 5, from 2-4pm in Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge. [Please register here.](#)
- Monday, October 13, from 7-8:30pm \*\*VIRTUAL ONLY\*\* [Please register here.](#)

### Update your calendars! NEW DATE for Winter Delegate Council Meeting!

Due to a recent update from GSUSA, we will be moving the date of the Winter Delegate Council Meeting from Tuesday, January 27, 2026 to Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

The meeting will still be virtual only and will be held [via Zoom](#) from 7-8:30pm. The primary focus of that meeting will be the National Council Session agenda topics.

REGISTER HERE

### Interested in experiencing Girl Scout Governance at the National level?

*You're invited to the 58th National Convention in DC next July!*

Early Bird registration for the National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite (collectively known as the National Convention) is now open!

Join GSEP's National Council Delegation and THOUSANDS of sister Girl Scouts from across the country & around the world in Washington, D.C. on July 20-25, 2026, for the 58th National GS Convention!

- July 20-22 is the National Council Session (the "business meeting" when proposals are debated & voted on).
- July 23-25 is Girl Scouts Unite (the girl-centric programming & activities extravaganza! Lots of inspiring speakers, workshops for both girls & adults, and the Hall of Experiences with more than 100 exhibitors!)

Both events will be held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, located at 801 Allen Y. Lew Place NW, Washington, DC.

To learn more (including ticket prices, guest speakers, Girl Scout hotel blocks, etc.) please check out [GSUSA's National Convention page](#). Please note: *Early Bird pricing (which is a 20% discount) ends on Friday, October 3.*

### 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.

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](mailto: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 new Governance Year should be held between April-August 31. 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.

Email [governance@gsep.org](mailto:governance@gsep.org) with any questions.

### 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." You can also review overviews of past Board Meetings and Delegate Council Meetings under other tabs.

### Continuing Governance Education

[Why is training necessary/strongly encouraged for Delegates?](#)

Similar to other roles in Girl Scouting, to be the most engaged and successful you can be in this position, you should understand the expectations and obligations of being a member of GSEP's Delegate Council.

A governance role is a little different from being a Troop Cookie Manager or Troop Leader or even a future Gold Award Girl Scout. There are not a lot of deadlines nor an abundance of paperwork to keep track of.

However, what *is* required is the ability to think strategically and understand not only how decisions are made for the Council but also how those decisions may impact individuals, troops, and the Council as a whole... positively or negatively (which can then change the conclusion of whether a change needs to be made or not).

How does a person develop that ability? First, Delegates should be familiar with our fundamental guidelines and policies (e.g., our Bylaws, GSUSA's Blue Book, etc.); this does not mean you have to memorize those documents, but rather you should know they exist so we can reference a common set of rules.

Most importantly, being a Delegate entails learning about the current situation of the Council by hearing from our Board Chair and CEO and then discussing possibilities of how to make GSEP and our Movement better for all of us. This also requires talking to other Delegates and hearing different opinions and coming to a consensus, since Girl Scouting has been a democratic organization for most of its existence (starting with the first National Council Session in 1915). We KNOW that we *all* contribute to strengthening our future. Even one voice... one idea... one person can make a difference.

Questions? Please email [governance@gsep.org](mailto:governance@gsep.org)

GSEP GY25-26 Governance Calendar  
(which can also be found on the [Governance page](#) of the website)

Date	Action Item
Sunday, October 5, 2025	Training for all new SU Delegates/Alternates at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge from 2-4 pm. <a href="#">Please register here.</a>
Monday, October 13, 2025	VIRTUAL training for new Delegates from 7-8:30pm. <a href="#">Please register here.</a>
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Fall Delegate Council Meeting from 6:30-8:30 pm at Daisy's Place (Shelly Ridge or virtual via Zoom). <a href="#">Please register here.</a> <i>A light dinner will be provided for in-person attendees, starting at 6pm.</i>
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
Tuesday, February 10, 2026	Winter Delegate Council Meeting (virtual only) from 7-8:30pm. <a href="#">Please register here.</a>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Spring Delegate Council Meeting from 7-8:30pm (Shelly Ridge or virtual via Zoom)
Thursday, April 2, 2026	Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be emailed to all identified members of the Delegate Council.
Saturday, May 2, 2026	2026 Annual Meeting from 10am – 12pm, at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge
July 20-25, 2026	58th National Council Session (Business Meeting: July 20-22) and Girl Scouts Unite (Girl Program: July 23-25) in Washington, D.C. More information can be found on <a href="#">GSUSA's website</a> .

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 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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