



NATIONAL DELEGATE/ALTERNATE POSITION SUMMARY 2025-2028

POSITION SUMMARY: NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

POSITION DESCRIPTION

National Council Delegates are elected to three-year terms and serve as our council's voting members on the GSUSA National Council. The National Council Session (NCS) is held every three years, with elected members from each council in Girl Scouts of the SUA who gather to conduct business on a national scale in partnership with the National Board of Directors and other GSUSA leadership.

Throughout their three-year term, they gather feedback from members of council, learn about proposals, and act as our council's voice on the National Council. Delegates may also share insights and report on actions taken by the National Council with our membership at GSOFCT's Annual Meeting, local service unit meetings and other council events.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA [Const., Art. IV, Sec. 3]

Every elected National Delegate/Alternate must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A registered member of Girl Scouts of the USA and active in Girl Scouts of Connecticut
- 14 years of age or older by April 30, 2025
- Able to represent the points of view of various ethnic, racial, educational, civic, religious, and socioeconomic groups
- Willing to prepare thoroughly on the issues and business that will come before the National Council.

NATIONAL DELEGATE ACCOUNTABILITIES [CONST., ART. V, SEC. 2]

The National Council is authorized to:

- Elect the National Board of Directors and National Board Development Committee.
- Amend the constitution.
- Establish requirements for credentials.
- Influence the strategic direction of the Movement by providing guidance to the National Board.
- Debate, vote, and act on proposals put forward on the National Council Session agenda.

DUTIES OF A DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

This is a three-year commitment [Const., Art. IV, Sec. 7]

1. **Throughout the triennium**, everyone elected by GSOFCT as a voting member/delegate to the National Council takes personal responsibility to:
 - **Represent our council** as voting members of the National Council throughout the triennium (delegates only).
 - **Register for and regularly connect to the Delegate website** for news and updated communications.
 - **Complete training**, which includes self-paced online modules and virtual and in-person sessions
 - **Attend briefing meetings** conducted by our council on a monthly or bi-monthly basis; participate in council, board, and service unit meetings; and participate in council forums and focus groups.
 - **Actively gather and consider a broad spectrum** of the opinions of members from all parts of our council and across the Movement.
 - **Participate in all webinars** sponsored by GSUSA and provide decision-influencing input as requested throughout the triennium.
 - **Engage in opportunities** to discuss, learn, and share ideas across the Movement.
 - **Share learning and insights** with council members.
 - **Each alternate should be prepared** to step into the role of a voting member at any time.

2. **While attending any regular or special National Council Session**, each voting member is responsible for:
 - **Being fully prepared to vote on all business items**, including proposals and the National Board of Directors slate.
 - **Attending all business meetings** of the National Council and participating in the decision-making proceedings.

3. **Upon returning from any regular or special National Council Session**, each National Council voting member/delegate is prepared to:
 - **Report** to our council's membership, such as at the GSOFCT Annual Meeting or membership meetings, to the council board of directors, and to our council's constituency on the National Council decisions and the reasons for such decisions.
 - **Share insights** on information gained at the National Council Session.
 - **Assist our council** as it prepares to participate in the next National Council Session including supporting onboarding of new delegates and alternates.
 - **Participate** in teleconferences/webinars and other opportunities as requested by our council and the National Board Office.

TIME COMMITMENT

While the time commitment varies throughout the triennium and can change from one triennium to the next if special sessions are called, it is important that potential delegates and alternates understand that the role requires a commitment of time and effort throughout their three-year term. National Delegates and Alternates must commit to the following responsibilities and commitments:

- Delegate onboarding includes GSUSA training on the delegate role, delivered through on-demand webinars, in addition to welcome/orientation meeting held by GSOFCT.
- Delegate education commitments increase in the months leading up to any regular or special National Council Session. These will include briefings on issues, webinars on proposals, the annual GSUSA stewardship report, and other topics which may arise as well as monthly GSOFCT preparation meetings from January-July 2026.
- GSUSA and council delegate input gathering activities take place throughout the triennium, and can include in-person meetings, webinars, recordings, posts on the Delegate Website, and surveys.
- Approximate monthly time commitments throughout the three-year term:
 - May-December 2025: approximately 2 hours, every other month
 - January-July 2026: approximately 4-8 hours per month (monthly meetings required)
 - August 2026-April 2028: approximately 2-4 hours per quarter

NATIONAL DELEGATE/ALTERNATE APPLICATION

2025-2028 TIMELINE & FAQs

2025-2028 NATIONAL DELEGATE/ALTERNATE TIMELINE	
	<p>November 2024 – Applications Open</p> <p>January 2025 – Applications Close; Application Review Begins</p> <p>February 2025 – GSOFACT Board Review and Approval</p> <p>March 2025 – Delegate Selection & Notification</p> <p>April/May 2025 – Delegates officially elected at GSOFACT Annual Meeting</p> <p>May 2025 - July 2026 – GSOFACT & GSUSA Trainings and Meetings</p> <p>July 20 -25, 2026 – GSUSA 58th National Council Session in Washington D.C.</p> <p>August 2026-April 2028 – Advice/advocacy role continues at GSUSA and council level</p>

NATIONAL DELEGATE/ALTERNATE FAQs

- 1. Where can I find more information about becoming a delegate?**
Information can be found at <https://www.gsofact.org/en/discover/our-council/national-council-delegates.html> and/or you can email customercare@gsofact.org.
- 2. When is the application open to apply?**
You can submit applications beginning November 15, 2024 through January 17, 2025.
- 3. Where and when will the next NCS & Convention take place?**
The 58th National Council Session (NCS) and Convention will take place from July 20-26, 2026 in Washington DC.
- 4. How many delegates are selected?**
Delegate selection is based on a formula provided by GSUSA. It is based on each council's youth membership numbers. For reference, the GSOFACT National Delegate/Alternate team for NCS2023 included 14 delegates and 4 alternates. However, these delegates are part of the National Council made up of over 800 Delegates from around the world.

5. **How old does a youth member need to be to apply?**

A youth member needs to be fourteen years old by April 2025 to apply to be a delegate.

6. **If a Girl Scout is 18 in 2026, can she still apply?**

Yes, Girl Scouts that are 18 and/or graduating high school in 2026 can apply as a delegate. They are still considered youth members until September 30, 2026. If they turn 18 before NCS, they can still serve in their delegate role, regardless of membership type.

7. **Does a Girl Scout need to have earned the Gold Award to apply?**

No, the Gold Award, while always an asset, is not a requirement for Girl Scouts to apply. We focus on leadership experience, team/group work, comfortability with public speaking, participation in difficult conversations and other similar qualities and/or experiences.

8. **What does it cost to attend if I'm a delegate?**

GSOFT subsidizes the cost for delegate and alternate attendance at the NCS business meetings. In the past, this has included the cost of roundtrip travel, hotel accommodations during the business sessions, registration for convention, a stipend for food, and some extra activities.

Some meals for delegates are included in registration and provided by GSUSA during the National Council Session.

9. **What does it cost to attend if I'm not a delegate?**

2023 prices for reference. We will not have price points for 2026 until mid to late 2025.

Early Bird Registration (Through October 31, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET)		General Registration (November 1, 2022, through June 2, 2023)	
Registrant Type	Price	Registrant Type	Price
N/A		Delegate—5 Day	\$525
		Alternate—5 Day	\$425
Adult—5 Day	\$425	Adult—5 Day	\$475
Youth—5 Day (Pre-K-Grade 12)	\$400	Youth—5 Day (Pre-K-Grade 12)	\$450
Adult—3 Day	\$350	Adult—3 Day	\$400
Youth—3 Day (Pre-K-Grade 12)	\$325	Youth—3 Day (Pre-K-Grade 12)	\$375
Group Package (Four registrants)—3 Day	\$1000	Group Package (Four registrants)—3 Day	\$1300
Two years old and under	Free	Two years old and under	Free

10. **What does my registration include if I'm not a delegate?**

In 2023, the 3-day ticket included:

- admission to Phenom by Girl Scouts
- access to the Hall of Experiences, performances, and programming
- invitations to the Gold Award Celebration and National Bridging Ceremony
- a swag bag

The 5-day ticket included all the above for the 3-day ticket, plus:

- visitor access to the 56th National Council Session (NCS), a business meeting where delegates from every council across the nation and USA Girl Scouts Overseas meet to discuss, debate, and vote on issues important to the Girl Scout Movement, as well as elect national leaders for the next triennium.

Please note that the 3-day and 5-day tickets for attendees do not include travel, such as flights or meals. You will need to book your own travel to and from the event and arrange and pay for your own meals.

11. **Why did GSUSA decide to have convention in July?**

We have heard from our members that July is a better time to hold the National Council Session as it reduces the need for youth delegates and Girl Scout attendees to miss school. By offering this event in July, when the majority of the country is on summer break, we hope to be able to provide an opportunity for more Girl Scouts to attend, participate, and witness the democratic process.

12. **Why did you choose Washington, DC, for 2026?**

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the USA. Across the country, celebrations are being planned to make it the largest, most inclusive commemoration in history.

What better place to hold our convention than Washington, DC? As the capital of our nation, Washington, DC, is the symbolic and literal representation of people who live in every corner of the United States. Similarly, National Council Session is where delegates representing every corner of the Girl Scout Movement come together to discuss, debate, and make Girl Scout history.

13. **I still have more questions. How can I find out more about this opportunity?**

We will be hosting a Delegate Q&A session in December 2024 to share more about the role and answer questions. You can register within the gsEvents calendar at <https://www.gsofct.org/en/programs/event-calendar.html> or email our staff for assistance at customercare@gsofct.org.

TERMINOLOGY

Below are some common terms we use throughout this process – some may be new to you and/or we use acronyms when presenting or discussing in emails. There's no quiz – we promise! However, we'd like everyone to be knowledgeable about how everything is connected and what these terms mean as they are important if you become a delegate.

Convention

GSUSA hosts a convention every three years in different parts of the country where all Girl Scout members can attend and be with their Girl Scout sisters to celebrate, attend workshops, and experience the gathering of over ten thousand attendees. This takes place the same week as National Council Session, but is technically a separate event and lasts about 2-3 days. Phenom! was the THEME of the convention in 2023, but often you'll hear us and GSUSA say just Phenom! When we do, we are speaking about the convention itself.

Governance

A system that provides a framework for managing organizations. It identifies who can make decisions and who has the authority to act on behalf of the organization. For Girl Scouts, that is our GSUSA Board and National Council. We use this system to create and vote on proposals that can create change to our Girl Scout Constitution & Policies.

National Council

The membership of the National Council consists of:

1. Delegates elected by Girl Scout councils
2. Delegates from USA Girl Scouts Overseas
3. Members of the National Board of Directors
4. Members of the National Board Development Committee

National Council Session (NCS)

We often use the acronym NCS to describe the National Council Session, where members of the National Council gather every three years to elect a National Board of Directors and National Board Development Committee.

We also amend the Girl Scout Constitution, establish requirements for credentials, act on proposals and overall have the ability to influence the strategic direction of the Movement by providing guidance to the National Board.

In so many words, you have the ability to use your voice to determine the future of Girl Scouts as a movement. This process takes place over three days of business meetings – we recommend lots of snacks and water!

National Delegate

A member of a local Girl Scout council, for us that's Girl Scouts of Connecticut, who represents their members as part of the National Council. A delegate holds their role for a term of three years that aligns with a specific National Council Session & Convention.

Parliamentary Procedure

The accepted rules, ethics, and customs governing meetings of an assembly or organization. This allows orderly deliberation. Specifically in regards to voting on Proposals, but as a guiding set of rules on how we run the National Council Session. GSOFCT provides additional training on this and we practice what it may be like during the National Council Session. GSUSA offers modules and live webinars for delegates in preparation for NCS.

Proposal

Another word for a main motion. What does that mean? It's a fancy term for a suggestion made to a group. For Girl Scouts this is specific to our governance, Girl Scout Constitution and policies all found in our Basic Blue Book of Documents. Councils and the National Board can submit proposals to be reviewed and adopted for the National Council Session. Delegates voted on seven proposals at the 2023 NCS.

Triennium

This means a three-year period. GSUSA hosts NCS and Convention every triennium (every three years).