

GSOFACT National Delegate FAQ Session

December 12, 2024

Girl Scouts 56th National Council Session

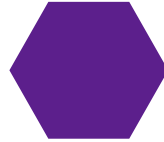
*GSOFACT National Delegate Youth Members
July 2023 - Orlando, FL*



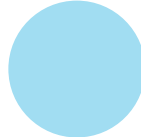
Girl Scouts Governance



Girl Scout Governance Structure



GSOFACT Governance



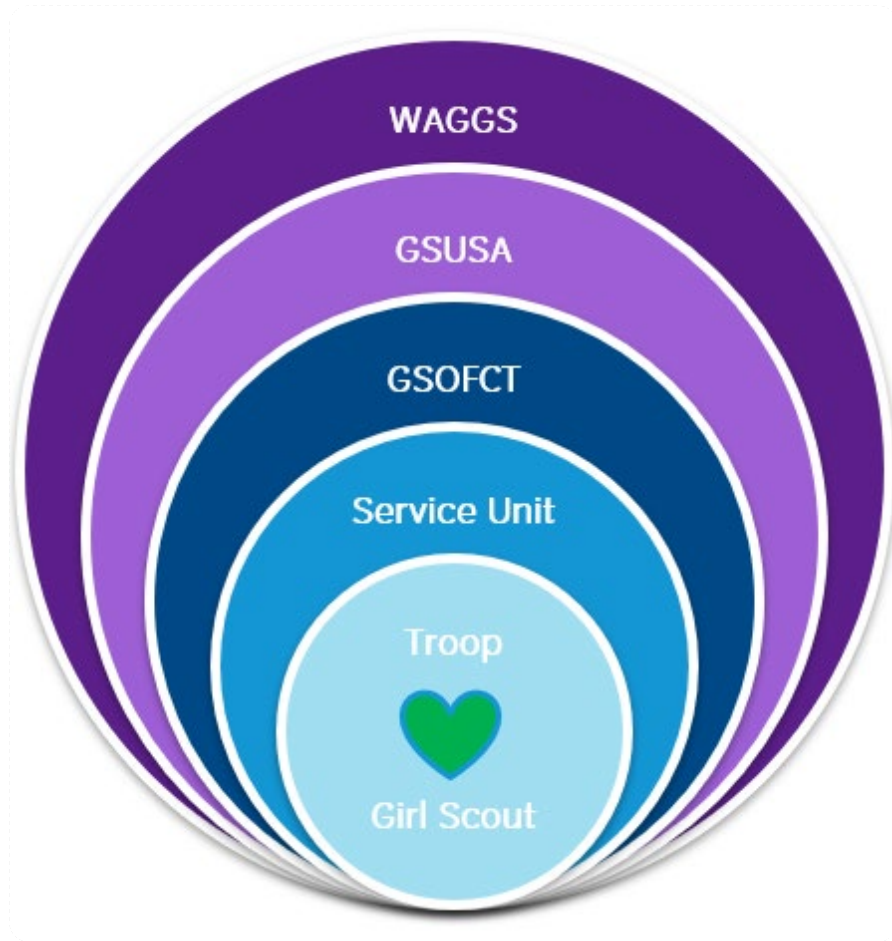
GSUSA Governance



National Council Session 2026

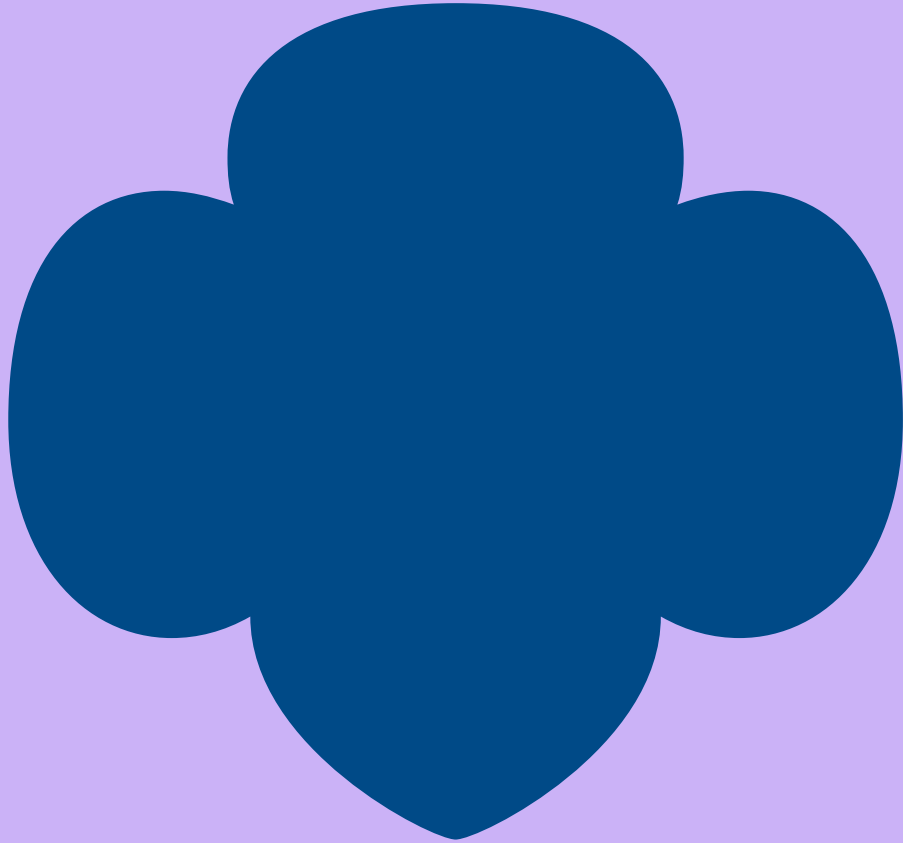


Questions??



Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding is a global Movement with over 10 million members and alum in 146 countries.

GSUSA is the parent organization for Girl Scouts of Connecticut and over 100 other councils across America.



Girl Scouts Governance Overview

Service Unit, Council, and National

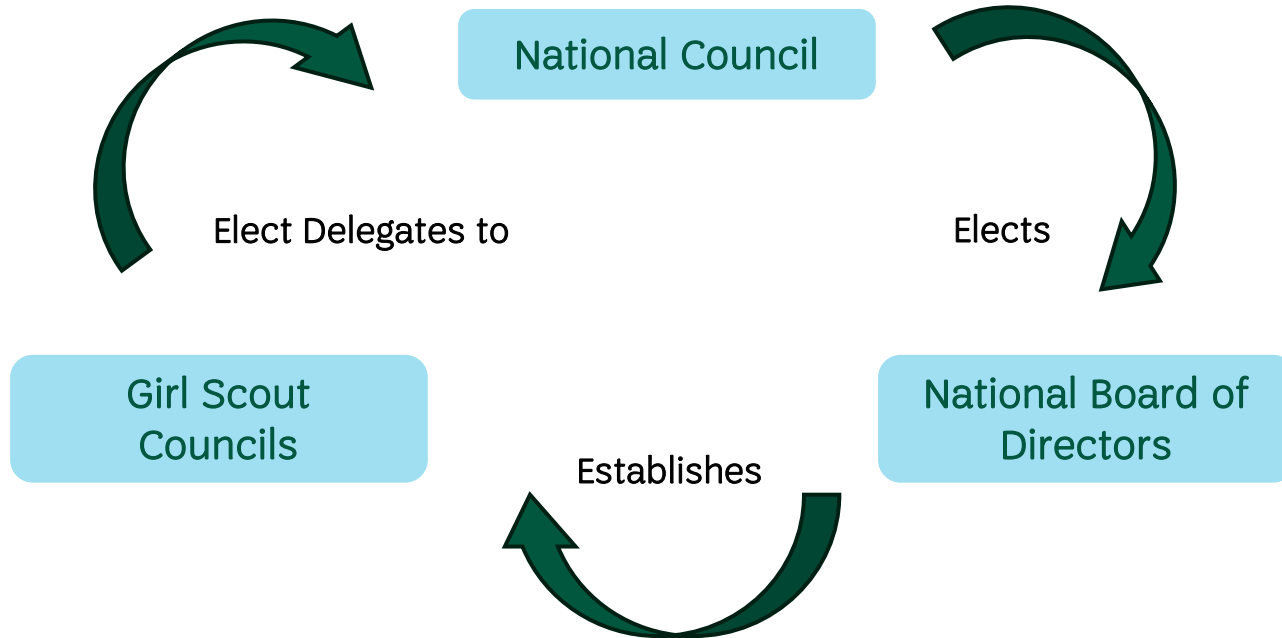
governance opportunities allow

Youth and Adult Members to have a voice in decision-making and decision-influencing at every level of the Girl Scout Movement.

What is the Girl Scout Governance structure?

Girl Scouts follows a FEDERATED MODEL of governance with GSUSA, local Girl Scout councils, and members working in partnership to guide the future direction of the Girl Scout Movement.

Girl Scout Councils & GSUSA: Interdependence





Governance Opportunities for GSOFCT Members

- National Delegate/Alternate (SA / Adult)
- Council Delegate/Alternate (SA / Adult)
- Girl Board Member (A)
- Adult Board Member or
Board Development Committee

Learn more at:

www.gsofct.org/en/discover/our-council/Governance.html

GSUSA National Delegates

Elected by Councils / Council Delegates

- Represent their council at all national governance activities, including the National Council Session.
- Governed by the Girl Scout Constitution and the Blue Book of Basic Documents.

GSOFACT Council Delegates

Elected by Service Units

- Represent their service unit at all council governance activities, including the GSOFACT Annual Meeting in April.
- Governed by the GSUSA Blue Book and GSOFACT By-Laws.

GSOFACT Governance

Decision-influencing at the Council-level

- Shared responsibility between GSOFACT Board of Directors, Board Development Committee, Girl Board Members, Council Delegates, and GSOFACT executive staff.

GSOFACT

Council Governance

Council Delegate and Alternate Role

Council Delegates + Alternates are elected to represent their Service Unit for a 1-year term and to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- **Attendance:** Attend two bi-annual membership meetings (held virtually in Feb/Nov) to learn important GSOFACT news and membership updates.
- **Representation:** Attend the GSOFACT Annual Meeting in May; and vote on business items, including election of the GSOFACT Board of Directors slate.
- **Communication:** Report back to their Service Unit volunteers and members to share council updates; and participate in other GSOFACT meetings and engagement opportunities, as requested.

Council Delegate and Alternate Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements:

- Open to Adult and Youth Members, age 14 years or older;
- Serve a 1-year term;
- Elected at their Service Unit meeting in Nov/Dec;
- Represent the SU at 2 virtual meetings and the in-person Annual Meeting in May;
- Elect the GSOFCT Board of Directors and vote on any additional business or council by-laws changes; and
- Act as liaisons to the local Girl Scout community.

GSUSA

National Governance

The National Council

The governing body of Girl Scouts of the USA includes:

- Voting members elected by Girl Scout councils;
- Voting members from USA Girl Scouts Overseas;
- Members of the National Board of Directors;
- Members of the NBDC; and
- Past Presidents of GSUSA.

National Council Session (NCS)

Convened every 3 years to handle governance tasks and other important business for the Movement:

- Electing the slate of National Board of Directors and NBDC members;
- Voting on business agenda (“Proposals”); and
- Participating in discussions on important topics facing the Girl Scout Movement.

National Delegate and Alternate Responsibilities

National Delegates + Alternates are elected to represent their council for a 3-year term and to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- **Preparation:** Attend training sessions conducted by GSOFCT and GSUSA; study proposed agenda items; and seek input from other members of council.
- **Representation:** Attend all National Council Session business meetings; and be fully prepared to participate in discussions and vote on all business items.
- **Communication:** Report at the council's Annual Meeting, to the Board of Directors and membership, as requested; and represent GSOFCT at council or national meetings as needed for the remainder of the 3-year term.

National Delegate and Alternate Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements:

- Open to Adult and Youth Members, age 14 years or older;
- Serve a 3-year term;
- Elected at the GSOFCT Annual Meeting in May;
- Represent GSOFCT at the next National Council Session;
- Participate fully in all preparation meetings and trainings held by GSUSA and GSOFCT; and
- Act as ambassadors to the local Girl Scout community for the duration of their term.

GSUSA Governing Documents

The Blue Book of Basic Documents

- The Constitution of the GSUSA including By-laws and Policies;
- Details our mission, membership requirements, information on the Board of Directors, officers, National Council composition, and more.

GSUSA Delegate Website

An online platform that includes:

- Council Working Groups,
- GSUSA trainings and webinars,
- Detailed NCS Agenda information, and
- Parliamentary Procedure.

NCS Workbook & Standing Rules

A detailed guide to the National Council Session including:

- Business Meeting Agenda;
- Proposal overviews and rationale, with Board recommendations;
- GSUSA Board of Directors candidate biographies, and
- Additional meeting rules that guide NCS business sessions.

National Council Session 2026

2025-2028 National Delegate Timeline

- **Nov. 15, 2024-Jan. 17, 2025:** Application Period for 2025-2028 National Delegate/Alternates
- **Jan. 17-Mar. 31, 2025:** Review/Selection of GSOFCT 2025-2028 National Delegate/Alternate slate
- **May 4, 2025:** Election of 2025-2028 GSOFCT National Delegates/ Alternates at Annual Meeting
- **June 2025-July 2026:** GSOFCT meetings/ trainings to prepare for the 2026 National Convention
- **July 2026:** 57th National Council Session in Washington, D.C.
 - o July 20-22, 2026 (NCS Business Sessions)
 - o July 23-25, 2026 (Girl Scout convention & expo for all Girl Scouts)
- **August 2026-April 2028:** Quarterly meetings for remainder of National Delegate term

Other FAQs

What is the time commitment?

- Be prepared to attend quarterly meetings throughout their 3-year term and monthly meetings for 6 months preceding the National Council Session.

How much will this cost?

- Registration for the National Council Session as well as transportation and accommodation costs directly related to participating in NCS are provided by GSOFCT.
- Participants may be responsible for other associated costs including independent travel opportunities or ancillary/optional event fees.

What to expect as a National Delegate/Alternate at the July 2026 National Council Session:

- A sea of **GREEN**...
- Gathering with a global sisterhood...
- Using our voices to shape the future of the Girl Scout Movement...
- A one-of-a-kind experience in Washington D.C.



2022-2025 GSOFCT National Delegate Team Members

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Girl Scouts Governance Resources



Learn more about GSOFCT Governance opportunities at:

<https://www.gsofct.org/en/discover/our-council/Governance.html>

<https://www.gsofct.org/en/discover/about-gsofct/national-council-delegates.html>



Learn more about the GSUSA National Convention at:

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/national-council-session-convention.html>

Questions?

"The work of today is
the history of tomorrow,
and we are its makers."

~ Juliette Gordon Low

Thank You!

Contact Customer Care at
CustomerCare@gsofct.org
with additional questions.

