

Actions Taken at the Special 57th National Council Session

Girl Scouts of Connecticut Notice to Membership

GSUSA Special 57th National Council Session

On October 19, Girl Scouts of the USA convened the Special 57th National Council Session. The purpose of the virtual Special Session was to consider and vote on two proposals from the National Board to implement a membership dues increase for youth and adult members, beginning in the 2025-2026 membership year.

National Council Delegates from Girl Scouts of Connecticut and other councils from across the nation, delegates from Girl Scouts Overseas, GSUSA National Board Members, Board Development Committee Members and Past Presidents of GSUSA participated together in this democratic governance process to debate and decide on the appropriate amount for national membership dues. The National Council debated both proposals and took the following action.

Proposal 1: To amend the Girl Membership Dues amount.

THAT Girl members pay annual dues of \$65 provided, however, that this dues increase shall take effect as follows: That girl membership dues be \$45 for the 2026 membership year. That girl membership dues be \$65 for the 2027 membership year.

As part of the proposal, the National Board suggested an increase to \$85 annual dues per youth member. This proposal was reviewed using a fill-in-the-blank motion process that allowed the National Council to submit and consider various annual dues amounts that ranged from \$30 to \$120.

Proposal 2: To amend the Adult Membership Dues amount.

THAT Adult members pay annual dues of \$30.

As part of the proposal, the National Board suggested an increase to \$45 annual dues per adult member. This proposal was reviewed using a fill-in-the-blank motion process that allowed the National Council to submit and consider various annual dues amounts that ranged from \$30 to \$45.

The proposed annual dues amounts were debated in a robust and constructive manner by the delegate body.

Girl Scouts of Connecticut was represented by fourteen National Delegates at the Special Session. These National Delegates were elected in April 2022 to serve a three-year term. This group is comprised of adult volunteers and young alum, GSOFCT staff, GSOFCT Board Members, and Girl Scout Ambassadors.

Throughout the preparation and deliberation process, the GSOFCT National Delegate group considered the potential impacts that a dues increase would have on our individual members, Girl Scout families, our council, and the Girl Scout Movement overall.

Current annual membership dues set are set at \$25 per member nationally. The most recent membership dues increase occurred eight years ago in 2017-2018. Each council has the option to add a Council Service Fee to the cost of youth membership dues to help cover the cost of council operations, youth programming, and other operating costs that support the youth members and adult volunteers at the local level. In Girl Scouts of Connecticut, a Council Service Fee of \$15 is applied to each girl membership. The current GSOFCT annual membership dues amount for girl members is \$40. The current GSOFCT annual membership dues amount for adult members is \$25.

We know that Girl Scouting helps girls develop skills, build confidence and self-esteem, and to be ready for life's challenges – today and tomorrow.

Our research tells us that now more than ever, the world needs happy, confident, and capable girls who will make an impact on their families, their communities, their country, and the world. Raising those competent and fulfilled girls in today's world takes more than a village—it takes a Movement. These investments will help us serve our current girls and support our current volunteers, and to expand our reach to more girls in the future.

The outcome of both proposal votes demonstrates our commitment to preserving and extending access to the Girl Scout program for both our current and future members.

These annual dues increases will provide additional revenue needed to deliver on strategic priorities and execute the Movement Strategy at the GSUSA level. This important work includes investments in amplifying the value and impact of Girl Scouting, engaging all communities so that every girl who wants to join Girl Scouts can, ensuring the girl experience is fun, welcoming, and relevant, and simplifying the volunteer experience to make it more rewarding.

At Girl Scouts of Connecticut, we are steadfast in our commitment to making Girl Scouting an accessible and affordable experience for all. We believe that every girl and adult who wishes to engage in our programs should have the opportunity to do so, regardless of their circumstances. As we assess the implications of this recent vote on our community, we will provide further updates in the coming days.

As we continue our work to build a strong and sustainable community of Girl Scouts here in Connecticut, we want to thank you for partnering with us in this effort.

For more information about our governance process, go to gsofct.org/governance.