



58th National Council Session Alert

January 2026

Dear delegates and alternates,

In July 2026, Girl Scouts from across our country and around the world will gather for the 58th National Council Session to conduct the important business of our Movement, using our democratic process to do so. For more than a century, delegates have come together to use their collective voices—to select leaders, discuss critical issues, and make decisions on topics which will shape the future direction of our Movement. The goal of the 58th National Council Session is to hold an inspiring, energizing gathering, where our discussions support our mission and strategy and help us align to bring the power of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more girls.

This 2023–2026 triennium, the National Board has invested heavily in our democratic process, conducting a Movement governance assessment with the support of the Movement Governance Advisory Team (MGAT). The group’s recommendations have shaped how the National Board engages with the National Council throughout the triennium. Together, we shaped the 2026–2029 Movement strategy and Vision 2030, which we shared during our June 2025 delegate engagement webinars, with recordings available on the [delegate website](#). We made bold decisions on the financial sustainability of our Movement at our first ever Special National Council Session. Most importantly, we spent time listening to each other and reflecting on critical research about what girls and families need—and those conversations have strengthened our decision-making.

While the benefits of technology mean we do not have to wait until our triennial convening to share our perspectives with each other, our in-person time has never been more valuable. The National Council Session Advisory Team (NCSAT)—composed of delegates, former delegates, and council leaders working on our collective behalf—has taken great care to review the discussion topics and proposals submitted, each considering what was urgent for the National Council to address now. This collective review was the foundation for their agenda recommendation for this NCS and for how to shape discussion topics throughout the triennium. This document outlines the discussion topics and proposals that will be held in

person at the 58th NCS and the council-originated submissions that were not placed on the agenda.

On behalf of the National Board, I want to express my thanks to the NCSAT and all councils who submitted items for consideration, provided feedback on council submissions, and are supporting the preparation of delegate education over the coming months. We are grateful to our National Council delegates and alternates for the time and thoughtful consideration you bring to this important Movement leadership role.

Collectively and collaboratively, I know that we will create a strong future for Girl Scouting.

Noorain F. Khan

National President

Girl Scouts of the USA

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Executive Summary

Following the NCSAT's recommendation, the National Board has placed the following proposals and discussion topics on the 58th National Council Session (NCS) Agenda:

Discussion Topics

1. Amplify Impact: Building Connection with Our Communities
2. Revolutionize Engagement: Girl Scouts Her Way

Proposals (in alphabetical order by proposal title)

1. Girl Scout Highest Awards Solicitation of Contributions, submitted by Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania
2. Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration, submitted by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana
3. Preservation of Girl Scout Leadership Experience Relating to the Entrepreneurship Program, submitted by Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland

To provide context around our Movement governance process and principles, this document includes a summary of the Movement Governance Advisory Team's (MGAT) governance recommendations.

The development of the NCS agenda is a collaborative process between council delegations and the National Board. The overview of the NCS Agenda Influencing Process explains how submissions were developed, submitted, and evaluated.

For each discussion topic, there are descriptions of the discussion. Delegates will receive information, provide input, and receive a "report back" from each discussion topic. For each proposal, you will find: The proposal itself, the rationale and assessment of the financial implications of the proposal provided by the originating council, the recommendation of the National Council Session Advisory Team, and the National Board's position on the proposal. Girl Scouts of the USA's Constitution requires the inclusion of the National Board's perspective on each proposal. The rationale for the discussion topics and proposals that were not placed on the agenda are also included.

During October and November 2025, delegates provided input on draft standing rules for our meeting. The latest version is included, along with a summary of the main changes made as a result of delegate input.

To enable delegates and alternates to plan, a schedule of delegate training and engagement opportunities is available on the Girl Scouts Delegate Website to support their preparation,

including registration links for the sessions. All sessions will be recorded and posted on the GSUSA Delegate Website.

In accordance with the GSUSA Constitution, the NCS Workbook and call to meeting will be mailed or delivered electronically not less than 60 days before the session. The NCS Workbook will include the slate of nominees for the National Board and National Board Development Committee, and the NCS meeting schedule.

MGAT Governance Recommendations

Anticipating a need for a holistic governance assessment and to build on the findings from the *Democratic Voice and Delegate Voice* discussion topic during the 56th NCS, the National Board established MGAT to conduct a thorough assessment of Movement governance, specifically the National Council, and make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of our governance structure and practices. The feedback gathered from delegates through the 56th NCS discussion topic, as well as from delegate engagement sessions in April through August 2024, served as valuable input to MGAT's assessment.

The advisory team, made up of members from across the Movement, concluded that Girl Scouting is best served by optimizing its existing delegate based, representative governance model and focusing on ensuring Movement governance processes and tools align with future needs.

MGAT's recommendations aimed to optimize and improve Movement governance:

- 1. Engagement of the National Council (delegates and alternates) in decision-influencing and decision-making throughout the triennium, versus "once in a triennium" at a National Council Session (NCS).***

Recognizing that our National Council must be more agile and responsive throughout the triennium, National Council delegates need more frequent engagement to ensure access to information and an opportunity to give and receive feedback. A three-year delegate engagement cycle was developed including discussion opportunities between the National Council and the National Board and GSUSA management, as well as an annual, interactive State of the Movement webinar.

- 2. Communication and Partnership between the National Board and National Council***

Communication between the National Board and National Council must allow for two-way dialogue, enable delegates to make informed decisions for the good of our Movement, and provide an authentic opportunity for delegate decision-influencing.

3. *Clarity of Expectations for Delegates and of the Support They Can Expect from Councils and GSUSA*

Clear, consistent delegate and alternate position descriptions, recruitment processes, onboarding processes, and education support delegates in understanding their role as Movement leaders and the time commitment and training required, ensuring that they are as prepared and knowledgeable as each individual can be. The more consistent delegate support is across councils, the more consistent the National Council delegate experience will be.

4. *Support for Councils in Optimizing Core Governance Practices*

Recognizing that local councils have a critical role in Girl Scouts' interdependent governance model (Movement and local councils together), and that strong governance supports and collectively accelerates our Movement strategy, the team developed a fourth recommendation to support council governance. The team identified core governance practices, aligned to our shared council charters: Movement mindset, leadership partnership, and representation and accountability. To support these practices, the team recommended providing councils with a variety of tools and proven practices, which they may implement or adapt based on local needs and resources. The ability to tailor processes to support local circumstances is a strength of our federated model, which offers many examples of good practices to be shared.

These recommendations did not require constitutional changes and have been implemented by the National Board in collaboration with the National Council throughout the 2023–2026 triennium. They stemmed from a visionary goal to ensure that our Movement's governance fosters and sustains future growth. Success measures for each recommendation were established and will be monitored throughout this triennium and the next to assess impact and any need for further change.

While the outcomes of some initiatives cannot be thoroughly evaluated until a triennial cycle is complete, early indications are that delegate engagement and preparedness have been strengthened, as has the level of two-way communication and partnership between the National Council and National Board.

NCS Agenda Influencing Process

MGAT was specifically tasked with considering feedback from the 56th National Council Session (July 2023) to recommend an optimal proposal process aligned with our Constitution. The 58th NCS Agenda Influencing Process was approved by the National Board in December 2024 and was shared with council leadership in January 2025 and delegates in February 2025.

Desired Outcomes

1. Develop understanding among councils and delegates that decision-influencing (discussion topics) and decision-making (proposals) are equally important components of the agenda.
2. Ensure greater access and transparency in developing discussion topics and proposals.
3. Ensure National Council delegates are informed of the agenda influencing process and have an opportunity to participate through their council.

Differences between Discussion Topics and Proposals

The National Council provides guidance to the National Board in two ways, through discussion topics and proposals.

Differences between Discussion Topics and Proposals



Discussion topics* are opportunities for delegates and alternates to influence **future National Board**** or National Council action.

- ☐ Conversation(s) about topics important to the future of our Movement that enable us to get delegate input earlier
- ☐ Topics shaped by NCS Agenda Influencing Process, GSUSA, or National Board
- ☐ Held virtually throughout the triennium or at a National Council Session (NCS)
- ☐ Less structure, more input for future actions



Proposals are opportunities for delegates to deliberate and take **immediate** action through a vote

- ☐ Formal education and deliberation (hearing varied viewpoints) before taking action
- ☐ Submitted by the National Board or through the NCS Agenda Influencing Process by local councils
- ☐ The National Council must be formally "in session" to take action
- ☐ Decision-making is structured

*Discussion topics fulfill delegates' role to give "guidance to the National Board upon general lines of direction of the Movement and program." - Article V., Sec. 2, GSUSA Constitution
Alternate delegates (those prepared to serve should a vacancy occur) may participate in discussion topics; alternate delegates may not discuss or vote on proposals.

**National Board uses decision influencing input gathered in discussion topics to inform decision making or to shape recommendations it provides to the National Council.

Authority and Roles

The National Board has the authority to set the NCS agenda (*Blue Book of Basic Documents 2024*, Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article VI) guided by the principle that the agenda be of Movement-wide relevance and impact.

Councils, including delegates working through their councils in partnership with council leadership, have an important role in influencing the agenda by submitting and/or supporting discussion topics and proposals.

The National Board chartered the NCS Advisory Team ("NCSAT") to advise the board on submitted discussion topics and proposals for a regular National Council Session. The NCSAT,

comprising representatives from across the Movement, partners with councils to provide feedback on draft agenda items and to make agenda recommendations to the National Board. The NCSAT is also charged with advising on delegate education to prepare for National Council Sessions and evaluating the effectiveness of NCS convenings.

15% Council Submission Threshold

The Constitution states that proposals submitted to the National Board by at least 15% of chartered councils (17 councils in the current triennium)¹ shall be deemed by the National Board to “relate to matters which should properly be acted upon by the National Council” and shall therefore be placed on the agenda for the next NCS. Proposals that amend the GSUSA Constitution and discussion topics fall outside this requirement even if they are submitted by at least 15% of chartered councils. Placement of these items on the NCS agenda is at the discretion of the National Board.

Delegate Education

Delegate input into formal National Council deliberations as well as delegate dialogue throughout the triennium is critical to sustaining effective and efficient governance. Education and training about the NCS agenda influencing process was shared directly with delegates via the delegate website, as well as by council leaders and delegate liaisons. An [on-demand delegate training video](#) was posted to the Girl Scout Delegate Website in February 2025, and councils were provided with resources to provide local training to their own boards and delegations.

Four Steps to Submit NCS Agenda Items

A four-step process for discussion topic and proposal origination and review was used:

1. Open Comment and Collaboration Period (April 7–May 14, 2025)
2. Refining Final Drafts (May 15–30, 2025)
3. Final Submission (May 30, 2025)
4. Council Review and Support Period (June 1–June 30, 2025)

Four-Step NCS Agenda Influencing Process

¹ Girl Scouts of the USA Constitution, Article VI.1.b, *Blue Book of Basic Documents*, 2025.

1 Open Comment and Collaboration Period (*April 7-May 14*)

Councils share, through a dedicated workspace, draft discussion topics and proposals for feedback and input from other councils

Process enables:

- Identification of duplicative or operational agenda items
- Feedback from councils, NCSAT, & Board Office to enhance final submissions
- Identification of discussion topics and proposals that can be addressed outside of NCS 58

2 Refining Final Drafts (*May 15-30*)

Originating Councils finalize submissions based on comments and collaboration from across the Movement and post to centralized portal

3 Final Submission (*May 30, 2025*)

Originating councils submit final discussion topics and proposals. After this date, council-originated proposals may not be amended

4 Council Review and Support Period (*June 1-June 30*)

Councils have 30 days to review discussion topics and proposals

Councils indicate reaction for all submissions, with rationale, on a single survey, indicating:

1. Support putting the item on the agenda
2. Do not support putting the item on the agenda
3. No opinion

Council Participation in NCS Agenda Influencing Process

The NCS Agenda Influencing Process was well received by councils and delegates for its increased transparency and accessibility to all councils.

Council participation in the Council Review and Support period was strong—69% of councils submitted Council Support Surveys by the June 30 deadline and a further 7% of councils submitted additional feedback after the survey deadline. The design of the survey, which allowed councils to indicate whether they supported, did not support, or had no opinion on whether to place an item on the agenda, provided data not available in previous triennia. This input was invaluable to the NCSAT and the National Board in its consideration of submitted agenda items. For future triennia, councils are strongly encouraged to fully utilize the “open comment and collaboration” as well as “refining final drafts” periods, as these steps provide the opportunity to get feedback on proposals as well as gather additional information which may better shape the proposal’s language in the final submission.

NCSAT and National Board Review

The National Council Session Advisory Team carefully reviewed submitted proposals and discussion topics, along with the responses to the Council Support Surveys, providing guidance and recommendations to the National Board.

NCS Advisory Team Review

The NCSAT recommended that discussion topics be future-focused and aligned to our Vision 2030 Movement Strategy's three strategic pillars: Revolutionize Engagement, Amplify Impact, and Secure Tomorrow. Many of the council-originated discussion topics and proposal submissions, while aligned to this framework, focused on operational issues better addressed by individual councils or through GSUSA management actions, rather than on the strategic questions facing our Movement. The NCSAT felt strongly that the National Council Session should focus its time together as a delegate body on conversations around strategic questions and matters of urgency and importance. The themes raised in many of the submitted discussion topics and proposals will be used to shape these conversations.

The NCSAT emphasized that the shift to triennium-long delegate engagement means that the 58th NCS is not the only time a discussion topic can be held with delegates. The NCSAT encouraged the board to continue to hold delegate engagement opportunities and discussion topics prior to, during, and following NCS to strengthen the implementation of our Movement strategy and achieve Vision 2030.

Some of the council-submitted proposals were noted as being highly operational by both the NCSAT and in the feedback shared by councils in the Council Support Surveys. In addition, some of the proposals were within the board's authority. Therefore, the NCSAT recommended that the board act on several of the proposals in advance of the 58th NCS to reserve time on the agenda for strategic and future-focused discussion topics.

The NCSAT thoroughly reviewed the proposals requiring constitutional amendments and the input received from councils through the Council Support Survey. They found that none of these proposals addressed urgent, Movement-wide issues. The themes raised in many submissions did connect to the three pillars of Vision 2030 strategy, and the NCSAT recommended that delegate input to inform future action through discussion topics—either during NCS, or at other points in the triennium—would be a more valuable use of delegate time and input.

National Board Review

The National Board reviewed the submissions of all councils, the Council Support Survey input, and the NCSAT recommendations. Under the GSUSA Constitution, the National Board has the responsibility for the NCS agenda. The board looked at the agenda holistically, taking the most pressing needs of the Movement into account when determining the highest priority agenda items. The National Board can also generate proposals or discussion topics to gather more delegate input or to prompt delegate action on a critical issue. At this time, the National Board is not placing any board-originated proposals on the NCS agenda.

Board Action on Submitted Proposals

The National Board can also respond to delegate feedback, partner with the councils submitting proposals, and decide to take action on a proposal in advance of the National Council Session. The National Board aligned with the NCSAT's guidance that where there was strong support for a proposal across the Movement, the board should consider partnering with the submitting councils to take action. This enables the National Council to focus its time at NCS on agenda topics where delegate deliberation is needed to take action or where discussion will inform future Movement strategy and action.

Through collaboration with the councils submitting proposals, the board determined that taking action on two of the council-submitted proposals in advance of NCS was in the best interest of the Movement and an efficient and effective National Council Session. The National Board welcomes this collaboration with councils and the opportunity to efficiently address proposals that have broad support from our Movement, are aligned with Movement strategy, and are appropriate for proactive action.

National Board Approval

The National Board approved the 58th NCS Agenda, including two discussion topics designed to gather delegate input on Vision 2030 and three proposals that were submitted by at least 15% of chartered councils.

The Agenda

Discussion Topics

The National Board agreed with the NCS Advisory Team's recommendations that time at NCS be focused on strategic questions which have Movement-wide impact. The board also welcomed the NCSAT guidance, aligned to the Movement Governance Advisory Team recommendations, that they maintain the cadence of delegate engagement throughout the triennium—identifying topics of importance to the Movement where delegate input will strengthen our strategy and its execution.

Discussion Topic Prior to the 58th NCS

Secure Tomorrow

Noting the number of discussion topics and proposals suggested by councils that related to funding our Movement, the National Board held delegate webinars for the first discussion topic on the Secure Tomorrow pillar of Vision 2030 in December 2025. Themes related to securing tomorrow were raised during the membership dues conversations in the fall of 2024, when delegates asked the board to explore all sources of revenue, and in the following council-originated discussion topics and proposals.

- A New Vision for Girl Scout Philanthropy
- Hardship Relief for Councils
- How GSUSA can Help Troops Diversify Revenue Streams
- Revenue Sharing from Licensing Royalties
- Girl Scout Highest Awards Solicitation of Contributions
- Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration
- Preservation of Girl Scout Leadership Experience Relating to the Entrepreneurship Program

The December 2025 discussion topic webinars gathered delegate input on GSUSA’s licensing and philanthropy strategies in support of Vision 2030. Delegates provided valuable feedback that will inform these strategies going forward. After the sessions, GSUSA shared additional information on these efforts in response to the discussion. The board will continue to evaluate opportunities throughout the triennium where additional discussion topics on Securing Tomorrow will support our shared work.

Discussion Topics Placed on the 58th NCS Agenda

Two discussion topics were placed on the NCS agenda—*Revolutionize Engagement: Girl Scouts Her Way* and *Amplify Impact: Building Connections with Our Communities*. Prior to being together in Washington, DC, delegates and alternates will engage in two different discussion topics held in a “series” of multiple sessions to build understanding and share input, with the discussion evolving from session to session. Both discussion topics will also continue at the in-person 58th National Council Session. Discussion topics, as recommended by the Movement Governance Advisory Team, are an important decision-influencing process for National Council delegates, which include the sharing of information, the opportunity for inquiry about the topic and then, after the sessions, reporting back to delegates on how the input is influencing future actions (information + inquiry + reporting back = decision influencing). At each of the discussion topic sessions leading up to and during the National Council Session, delegates will learn more about the work underway at GSUSA and in partnership with councils, and provide real-time input to shape our next steps as we deliver on [Vision 2030](#).

A. Revolutionize Engagement: Girl Scouts Her Way

This discussion topic engages the delegate body in critical Movement conversations about “why and how” we need to evolve the ways girls and families can increase access to Girl Scouting for all girls. Councils originated multiple discussion topics and proposal ideas that addressed themes about how we attract and retain members. The board, with input from the NCSAT and GSUSA management, has incorporated these themes into a discussion topic, including themes from the following council-originated agenda items:

- Amending the Credentials Section to Allow Girls Age Five to be Members Discussion Topic
- Proposal to Establish a National Pilot for Daisy Sprouts

When delegates discussed our Movement strategy in the summer of 2024, they shared related feedback on supporting families, girls, and volunteers. This discussion topic will build from those sessions. During this discussion topic, we will share research findings on how current and prospective families want to see our offerings develop, discuss how we can make joining and staying in Girls Scouts easier, collect input to influence national pilot programs, and inform a robust discussion at NCS of how we revolutionize engagement to ensure a thriving future for our Movement.

B. Amplify Impact: Building Connections with Our Communities

The National Board and NCS Advisory Team agreed that the discussion topics and proposals suggested by councils raised important questions about inclusivity, how we live our Girl Scout values, and how we ensure that we are welcoming to all girls and their families. The National Board, working in collaboration with GSUSA management, crafted a discussion topic that allows delegates to address these topics holistically and comprehensively. Agenda item ideas submitted by councils that align to the *Amplify Impact* discussion topic include:

- Advancing Inclusivity Discussion Topic
- Inclusivity in Girl Scouting Discussion Topic
- Proposal to Amend the Preamble of the Constitution to Add ‘Inclusivity’ to ‘Diversity, Pluralism, and Anti-Racism’
- Proposal to Expand the Definition of Girl Scout in the Membership Requirements Section of the Credentials

At the same time, in response to delegate input into the Movement strategy discussions throughout 2024, we know that communicating the value of the Girl Scout experience to today’s families is a priority. This discussion topic will explore what we have learned families—including families already involved and those yet to join—are seeking from their experience with us and where consistency and flexibility enhance it; discuss how our Girl Scout values underpin that experience and where this may create unintended barriers; and what support our members need to promote and deliver the Girl Scout experience in their communities.

Discussion Topics Not Placed on the 58th NCS Agenda

While the *Establishing a National Girl Trust Index* and *GSUSA Alumni Engagement* discussion topics have not been placed on the 58th NCS Agenda as submitted and are not strongly connected to the *Revolutionize Engagement* and *Amplify Impact* discussion topics, the National

Board will continue to evaluate opportunities to discuss the themes raised in them with the National Council throughout the triennium.

Proposals

The National Board evaluated all council-submitted proposals, informed by NCSAT guidance as well as feedback provided by councils and delegates via the Council Support Surveys. Five proposals were submitted by at least 15% of chartered councils. Three of these proposals have been included on the 58th NCS Agenda, and two have been addressed through National Board action. Informed by feedback provided by delegates, the Council Support Surveys, and the NCS Advisory Team, the National Board determined that the other proposals submitted by councils did not address urgent issues facing the Movement that necessitated discussion at the 58th National Council Session.

Proposals Addressed by Board Action

Aligned with the NCSAT's recommendation, the National Board determined that the following proposals had strong support across the Movement and that the Movement would benefit from action ahead of the National Council Session. The National Board partnered with the submitting councils to ensure that its action supported the intent of the council-submitted proposal and addressed the concerns raised by councils in the Council Support Surveys. In both instances, the submitting councils agreed that the board's action sufficiently addressed the intent and concerns raised by the proposal and chose to withdraw the submission. Because the board will take action to implement the following proposals in advance of NCS, they will not be placed on the 58th National Council Session Agenda.

The National Board welcomes this collaboration to address council concerns in a manner that allows us to collectively use our National Council Session as efficiently and effectively as possible.

A. Establishment of a National Pilot Program for Daisy Sprouts

Submitted by Girl Scouts of Western New York

This proposal directed the establishment of a pilot for a Daisy Sprout program for pre-Kindergarten youth ages four to five. The pilot process will evaluate existing Pre-K programs within and beyond the Movement to develop council pilots for Pre-K girls and families. Councils who opposed the proposal's inclusion on the agenda were concerned with two main issues: That the proposal was operational and as such it did not require National Council deliberation and that required participation in the pilot or a national program could negatively impact their capacity to deliver existing programming. As participation in the pilot would be optional and the data gained from the pilot will inform any potential future programming, the

National Board agreed that data from a pilot would be beneficial to the Movement to inform future decisions on programming.

The National Board took action to request that GSUSA staff, in partnership with councils, establish a national Daisy Sprouts pilot.

B. Task Group to Research Equity in Distribution of GSUSA Gold Award Scholarships and to Look into Other Types of Scholarships That Could Be Available to Girl Scouts

Submitted by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

This proposal directed the establishment of a task group of volunteers and staff charged with examining the current criteria for GSUSA Gold Award scholarship distribution and making recommendations for an equitable distribution structure, and to research and develop other scholarship opportunities. The board will establish a Task Group that builds on GSUSA's current four-year Gold Award scholarship research study to make recommendations for any evolution or changes to the current scholarship system and search engine before the 2029 NCS. Councils who opposed the proposal's inclusion on the agenda were concerned with two main issues: that the proposal was operational and as such did not require National Council deliberation, and that the potential findings of the Task Group could negatively impact the GSUSA Gold Award scholarship program. As the Task Group would analyze data from the current research study and would include representation from diverse community members from across the Movement, the board felt confident that the Task Group's recommendations would be informed by rigorous data analysis and diverse perspectives, providing valuable input into future program planning.

The National Board took action to request that GSUSA staff, in partnership with councils, establish the GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship Task Group.

Proposals Placed on the 58th NCS Agenda

A. Girl Scout Highest Awards Solicitation of Contributions

Submitted by Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania

List of all councils that submitted this proposal is posted on the [delegate website](#).

Proposal

To amend the Policies of GSUSA as follows: Update the first paragraph of the Solicitation of Contributions part of the Policies section of the *Blue Book of Basic Documents* on page 20 by inserting the bolded, green wording and deleting the strike-through text as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If adopted, will read
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Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors, who may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee. In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.	Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except girl members for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout <u>Bronze, Silver, and</u> Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee. In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.	Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except girl members may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee. In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.
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Rationale Submitted by Originating Council

What is the issue the discussion topic or proposal is trying to address?

Currently, only Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors may request donations for their Gold Award projects, excluding Silver and Bronze Awards. This restricts access to resources that could support meaningful community partnerships and limits the potential impact of Highest Award projects.

This proposal specifically expands access to those working on a Highest Award (Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award). This preserves important safeguards around solicitation while broadening the accessibility of our Highest Awards.

Are there other ways to address this issue?

Some councils might have created local exceptions or workarounds, but a unified national policy would help ensure fairness, reduce confusion, and eliminate barriers for all Girl Scouts eligible to achieve the Highest Award.

This proposal aims to level the playing field by giving all Girl Scouts working towards their Highest Awards equal opportunity to partner with their communities and secure the support needed for impactful, long-lasting projects.

How does this proposal improve Movement governance or policy? OR How does this discussion topic inform Movement strategy?

This proposal improves the Movement's policy by increasing equity and accessibility for all Higher Award project execution. It helps to empower all eligible Girl Scouts with the same tools to execute meaningful, well-resourced projects (while maintaining council oversight).

Does this agenda item have Movement-wide significance? Does it apply to all councils?

Yes, this will apply to all councils and help enhance consistency in the implementation of Highest Awards across the country. This would create a clear national standard that maintains required council oversight to safeguard against the risk of over-solicitation.

Additionally, this could potentially lead to a positive Movement branding by increasing the visibility and possible impact of the Highest Awards. This could help enable more ambitious, visible, and high-impact projects at *all* Highest Award levels. Bronze and Silver Award projects with access to appropriate funding have the potential to elevate the visibility and value of Girl Scouting across communities.

Is this agenda item time-sensitive? What happens if it is not addressed at NCS 58?

Yes, many girls plan and begin their Higher Awards year-round. Clarifying this policy at the 58th NCS would ensure that future Girl Scouts interested in pursuing the Bronze and Silver Awards are fully supported in delivering projects that reflect the values and mission of Girl Scouting.

Without updated national guidance, Bronze and Silver Award candidates may continue to face barriers to success.

Financial Impact Statement Submitted by Originating Council

There is no direct financial cost to councils or the national organization. Allowing more girls to seek approved contributions could lead to increased community engagement and potentially greater visibility for Girl Scouts in local communities. Councils would continue to monitor and approve fundraising, mitigating the risk of over-solicitation to donors.

This change could lead to increased community engagement and visibility of Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects, while maintaining donor trust and mitigating the risk of over-solicitation.

Recommendation of the NCSAT

The NCSAT recommended board action on this proposal in advance of the 58th NCS.

Recommendation of the National Board

The National Board carefully reviewed input from the council support survey and concluded that while the proposal had a lot of support from across the Movement, there are also many councils concerned that this policy change would create significant administrative burdens which could divert staff time from efforts to support and grow membership, as well as create volunteer confusion about when money earning or fundraising rules applied. Therefore, the board remains neutral on this proposal and welcomes the opportunity to learn more from delegate education and deliberation.

B. Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration

Submitted by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

List of all councils that submitted this proposal is posted on the [delegate website](#).

Proposal

To amend the Credentials Section of the Blue Book of Basic Documents, Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If adopted, will read
The National Board of Directors must obtain approval from the National Council whenever a planned dues increase will result in dues increasing more than a total of 25% in any one triennium.	The National Board of Directors must obtain approval from the National Council whenever a planned dues increase will result in dues increasing more than a total of 25 15% in any one triennium.	The National Board of Directors must obtain approval from the National Council whenever a planned dues increase will result in dues increasing more than a total of 15% in any one triennium.

Rationale Submitted by Originating Council

1. *What is the issue the discussion topic or proposal is trying to address?*

25% of the upcoming \$65 dues is a much larger dollar amount than was 25% of the \$25 dues amount when this was first proposed in 2020.

2. *Are there other ways to address this issue?*

The issue of limiting the dues increases within each triennium gives the National Board the opportunity to react to financial conditions without consulting the National Council, however when this proposal was created, we could not have predicted the level of dues increase needed to make our national organization whole. The thoughtful and robust discussions and debate which resulted from the Special Session allowed the National Council and the National Board to reach an agreed-upon dues increase, and those discussions should happen regularly.

Discussions such as this are essential to maintain the partnership between the National Board and the National Council, and therefore should happen on a regular basis, potentially at every National Council Session, if needed. Amending the 25% level to 15% we feel allows enough leeway for the National Board to keep up with inflation, while reinforcing the importance of the National Council in making the tougher decision should another large increase in National Dues be necessary.

3. *How does this proposal improve Movement governance or policy? OR How does this discussion topic inform Movement strategy?*

Membership Dues increases should be reasonable and gradual to keep pace with inflation. Large dues increases would be best appropriately debated by the membership.

4. *Does this agenda item have Movement-wide significance? Does it apply to all councils?*

Yes. And Yes

5. *Is this agenda item time-sensitive? What happens if it is not addressed at NCS 58?*

Yes, this saves the additional cost of holding another Special Session, while moderating the level of dues increase the National Board can impose between sessions of the National Council.

Financial Impact Statement Submitted by Originating Council

This proposal revises the guardrails on the National Board to increase dues without consulting the National Council but would also allow for robust discussion on finances and membership dues at each triennial National Council session as needed.

Recommendation of the NCSAT

The NCSAT, while not indicating agreement with the proposal's intention, recommended that the National Board consider taking action in advance of NCS. The NCSAT did, however, recognize that the board may not be able to take such action given its fiduciary duties.

Recommendation of the National Board

The board does not recommend adoption of this proposal. The National Council already debated and took action on this matter at the 2020 National Council Session, where the 25% dues increase threshold was set. At that same NCS, in partnership with the NCS Advisory Team and its Dues Sub-Group, the National Council passed related proposals for a dues-setting process that would best meet the needs of our Movement and the girls we serve. These proposals clarified the shared responsibility for setting membership dues by the National Board and National Council, and established requirements for the National Board to seek delegate and council input prior to any membership dues increase. These measures codified the National Board's commitment to seeking input from councils and delegates on the scope and purpose of any potential membership dues changes, and to report back to delegates and councils on their decisions and their impact.

The board demonstrated its commitment to the spirit and letter of these requirements when, in 2024, it undertook extensive engagement with delegates and councils on our Movement strategy and how it should be funded. The board has continued these discussions through the *Secure Tomorrow* discussion topic held in December 2025 and subsequent report backs to delegates.

As financial stewards and fiduciaries of the organization, with responsibility to act on the Movement's behalf, the National Board must retain the authority to make economic decisions on behalf of the organization informed by delegate input to address the circumstances at the time. Dues increases are only contemplated after careful consideration of the need and impact. The National Board believes that the existing threshold set by the National Council in 2020 remains appropriate and that reducing that limit would unnecessarily hinder the organization's ability to meet future challenges.

C. Preservation of Girl Scout Leadership Experience Relating to the Entrepreneurship Program

Originated by Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland

List of all councils that submitted this proposal is posted on the [delegate website](#).

Proposal

To amend the GIRL SCOUT TRADEMARK section of the *Blue Book of Basic Documents* as follows:

Policies of Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Endorsements/Trademark/ Marketing/Internet Sales

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If adopted, will read
GIRL SCOUT TRADEMARK Every product sold in connection with a Girl Scout council-sponsored product sale shall bear the Girl Scout name and service mark, either on the product or on its packaging. Every item bearing any of the registered Girl Scout names, logos, or marks purchased or developed for resale,² including items to be sold in council-sponsored product sales, shall be purchased (1) from a GSUSA-licensed vendor, (2) from Girl Scout Merchandise, or (3) produced with prior approval from GSUSA when items are not readily available from a licensed supplier. Every item bearing the Girl Scout name and service mark, including items for resale or non-resale³ by councils, shall conform to the Girl Scout Brand Standards published by GSUSA. Items used for both resale and non-resale shall adhere to the stipulations stated above for resale items.	GIRL SCOUT TRADEMARK Every product sold in connection with a Girl Scout council-sponsored product sale shall bear the Girl Scout name and service mark, either on the product or on its packaging. Every item bearing any of the registered Girl Scout names, logos, or marks purchased or developed for resale,² including items to be sold in council-sponsored product sales, shall be purchased (1) from a GSUSA-licensed vendor, (2) from Girl Scout Merchandise, or (3) produced with prior approval from GSUSA when items are not readily available from a licensed supplier. Every item bearing the Girl Scout name and service mark, including items for resale or non-resale³ by councils, shall conform to the Girl Scout Brand Standards published by GSUSA. Items used for both resale and non-resale shall adhere to the stipulations stated above for resale items.	GIRL SCOUT TRADEMARK Every product sold in connection with a Girl Scout council-sponsored product sale shall bear the Girl Scout name and service mark, either on the product or on its packaging. Every item bearing any of the registered Girl Scout names, logos, or marks purchased or developed for resale,² including items to be sold in council-sponsored product sales, shall be purchased (1) from a GSUSA-licensed vendor, (2) from Girl Scout Merchandise, or (3) produced with prior approval from GSUSA when items are not readily available from a licensed supplier. Every item bearing the Girl Scout name and service mark, including items for resale or non-resale³ by councils, shall conform to the Girl Scout Brand Standards published by GSUSA. Items used for both resale and non-resale shall adhere to the stipulations stated above for resale items.
² “Resale” is defined as any item resold or given away in connection with an event for which a fee, price, or admission is paid.	<u>GSUSA, along with its alliances and relationships with corporations and businesses, shall not sell, license or otherwise provide for sale any food product</u>	GSUSA, along with its alliances and relationships with corporations and businesses, shall not sell, license or otherwise provide for sale any food product

This includes, but is not limited to, product sales. ³ “Non-resale” is defined as any item provided, consumed, or used for the promotion and delivery of Girl Scouts program. This includes items given as donor recognitions.	<u>bearing the Girl Scout name or service mark when related to the flavors, branding, or likeness of Girl Scout Cookies during the designated entrepreneurship program sales period of any Girl Scout council.</u> ² “Resale” is defined as any item resold or given away in connection with an event for which a fee, price, or admission is paid. This includes, but is not limited to, product sales. ³ “Non-resale” is defined as any item provided, consumed, or used for the promotion and delivery of Girl Scouts program. This includes items given as donor recognitions.	bearing the Girl Scout name or service mark when related to the flavors, branding, or likeness of Girl Scout Cookies during the designated entrepreneurship program sales period of any Girl Scout council. ² “Resale” is defined as any item resold or given away in connection with an event for which a fee, price, or admission is paid. This includes, but is not limited to, product sales. ³ “Non-resale” is defined as any item provided, consumed, or used for the promotion and delivery of Girl Scouts program. This includes items given as donor recognitions.
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Rationale Submitted by Originating Council

1. What is the issue the discussion topic or proposal is trying to address?

Girl Scout youth participating in the Entrepreneurship Program, as an element of the acclaimed Girl Scout Leadership Experience, are experiencing undue competition from GSUSA and their relationship with corporations and businesses. GSUSA is receiving royalties from food products sold by retailers during the same time period as Girl Scout youth are selling products as a part of the Entrepreneurship Program. Girl Scout youth are put into situations with consumers whereby the youth are expected to answer questions or respond to comments about Girl Scout cookie-inspired products and the cost comparison to Girl Scout cookies.

Girl Scout councils and their established alliances with businesses in local jurisdictions are experiencing competition from GSUSA and their relationship with corporations and businesses when Girl Scout cookie-inspired food products are promoted, especially during the Entrepreneurship Program sale.

GSUSA is not upholding the guiding principles of cause-related marketing (*Blue Book*, page 19) which includes “• program activities will be enriched; and • the integrity and financial well-being of GSUSA and Girl Scout councils will be maintained or enriched”.

GSUSA is receiving financial gain by producing commercial competition with the girl entrepreneurship program to the detriment of the girl program and councils, and GSUSA is reducing the financial well-being of the councils through competition of Council’s local marketing partnerships. GSUSA’s commercial competition is not upholding the Girl Scout Law as it is not fair or being a sister to the girls or councils. Furthermore, the competition from GSUSA creates barriers to Councils for meeting the CRITERIA AND STANDARDS FOR AN EFFECTIVE GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL (*Blue Book*, Mission Delivery, Standards 1 and 3, page 29) as the Girl Scout Leadership Experience positive girl outcomes are diminished, and creates barriers to meeting the needs and interests of girls in the jurisdiction.

2. Are there other ways to address this issue?

An alternative way to address this issue is for Girl Scouts of the United States to provide an equal revenue share of royalties gained through cookies and other food products to councils, so councils can meet the needs of the girls. The royalties could be divided equally by the total number of councils participating in the entrepreneurship program plus GSUSA. Consumers currently have a misperception that they are contributing to local Girl Scouts when purchasing Girl Scout cookie flavor-inspired products.

3. How does this proposal improve Movement governance or policy? OR How does this discussion topic inform Movement strategy?

This proposal strengthens policy by protecting the financial stability of individual councils while fully promoting the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

[This] is directly related to the Movement strategy of financial stability for GSUSA and all councils.

4. Does this agenda item have Movement-wide significance? Does it apply to all councils?

This proposal has Movement-wide significance as it protects the Girl Scout Leadership Experience provided locally through the Entrepreneurship Program.

5. Is this agenda item time-sensitive? What happens if it is not addressed at NCS 58?

This proposal needs to be addressed at the NCS 58 as council financial stability has been greatly impacted due to the GSUSA membership dues increases for which councils are paying financial assistance for girls to participate in Girl Scouting while trying to maintain quality Girl Scout Leadership Experience programs; GSUSA continues to increase the commercialized competition

for girl cookie, nut and candy sales; national consumer trends include lowered cookie and snack sales as a part of what is referred to as the “Ozempic Effect” for weight-loss; and girls at cookie booths have to provide customers the reason why purchasing a package of Girl Scout cookies is more beneficial than purchasing a cookie-inspired product.

Financial Impact Statement Submitted by Originating Council

The potential financial impact to GSUSA and councils has not been determined and cannot be projected as increased details of royalty agreements have not been made public.

GSUSA’s 990 through 9/30/2023 indicated \$10,353,004 in royalties received during the fiscal year and commission expenses of \$1,038,901. The 990 through 9/30/2022 indicated \$10,579,898 in royalties received. The 990 through 9/30/2021 indicated \$9,605,776 in royalties received. There is no break-out of what royalties are secured through food related products or sales occurring specific times of the year.

The financial impact on councils is directly related to reduced/strained local partnerships and the reduction in girls’ product sales. This financial impact is difficult to quantify across all councils.

An actual example of future potential negative financial impact to a local council is through competition created by the national partnerships with Andy’s Frozen Custard and Wendy’s for frozen ice cream shake products. The direct competition is with a local partnership where Thin Mint cookies are purchased from the council and are used in a restaurant shake. The competing national partnerships resulted in lowered local restaurant sales contributing to future lowered cookie sales through the council and reduced local Girl Scout marketing. The national competition also created ill-will that the council had to navigate by detailing the partnership entered into by GSUSA.

Recommendation of the NCSAT

The NCS Advisory Team considered this an operational proposal related to complex contract law which would require significant delegate education to ensure that delegates were able to make informed decisions during the NCS. The NCS Advisory Team did not recommend placement on the 58th NCS Agenda.

Recommendation of the National Board

GSUSA is committed to ensuring financial stability for our Movement. This includes supporting our entrepreneurial programs, which largely generate the revenues that support local Girl Scout troops and councils *and* National licensing product revenue that fund national program resources, which in turn are used to support the Movement overall.

The proposal would jeopardize the cookie and fall product programs, negatively impacting each council, Girl Scouting's brand strength, and ultimately the Movement the proposal seeks to protect.

In making its recommendation, the National Board carefully reviewed the Council Support Survey and the recommendation of the NCS Advisory Team. The council survey revealed that more councils opposed the proposal's inclusion on the NCS agenda than supported it (the proposal did meet the minimum number of votes requiring it to be addressed at or in advance of on the NCS agenda).

Given these and other legal and economic risks detailed below, the board opposes the proposal.

There are several consequences to restricting licensing, but perhaps the most damaging, is that it weakens our Movement's ability to stop others from profiting from our valuable Girl Scout name, including cookie trademarks.

Limiting trademark licensing creates perceived gaps in the marketplace that invite copycats and infringers to exploit "unclaimed" product categories. By remaining active in multiple product categories, including food and beverage, GSUSA preserves the strength and enforceability of its trademarks. Through licensing, GSUSA has extended its rights beyond cookies, allowing us to challenge infringers in adjacent food categories and prevent misuse of our iconic brands. Exiting the food and beverage market would reduce the reach and strength of our trademarks, making them harder and more costly to defend over time. To effectively protect our marks from commercial exploitation, GSUSA must retain the freedom to use and license them. Expanding the reach of our trademarks—not shrinking it—is the most effective way to maintain control across channels and categories.

Also, as written, the proposal could be interpreted to prevent GSUSA from licensing cookie names to our bakers, which would in turn prevent bakers from selling Girl Scout Cookies and product program items to councils. Ironically, the very program the proposal aims to protect could be put at risk. These risks were shared with the originating council before the 58th NCS Agenda was finalized. Additionally, this proposal relates to complex areas of contract and Intellectual Property (IP) law, which GSUSA's legal team carefully drafts based on deep knowledge and experience in this area of the law to ensure the Movement's interests are protected. In addition to potentially prohibiting the cookie program, the proposal's open-ended language invites amendments that could introduce unintended legal consequences. Drafting legal contract language through the National Council debate introduces significant risk for the organization and should not take place on the NCS floor.

The proposal directs GSUSA and its partners to, "not sell, license or otherwise provide for sale any food product bearing the Girl Scout name or service mark when related to the flavors,

branding, or likeness of Girl Scout Cookies during the designated entrepreneurship program sales period of any Girl Scout council.” As GSUSA shared in its “[report back](#)” to delegates on the December 2025 Secure Tomorrow Discussion topic, this proposal would severely limit GSUSA’s ability to license food and beverage products *at any time*. GSUSA works with the companies that manufacture the licensed products—and retailers ultimately control the timing of product sales. It is impractical and unrealistic to expect that GSUSA can negotiate sales-timing restrictions with a licensee and any attempt to do so would severely curtail GSUSA’s ability to find licensing partners willing to operate under restrictions that conflict with their market realities, unintentionally forcing us to exit this market. Furthermore, this language is broad enough that it could also negatively affect fundraising efforts such as cause-related marketing partnerships (e.g., “When you buy X, \$Y benefits GSUSA or council”) with food-industry partners, where the Girl Scout name is used to designate Girl Scouts as the beneficiary of a product sale. This would further limit GSUSA’s ability to secure opportunities that directly support the movement.

The National Board also recognizes that restricting our licensing program undermines our ability to deliver on Vision 2030. Licensing supports the strategic pillars of Vision 2030, such as Amplify Impact and Secure Tomorrow. It is not just a revenue stream; it is a brand-building strategy that strengthens awareness of Girl Scouting and generates resources for the Movement. Today, GSUSA’s licensing program currently contributes approximately \$5 million in revenue annually which GSUSA reinvests into programs available to every girl in our Movement, including updating our programs for girls, the Girl Scout Experience Box, national recruitment campaigns, and operational and program support to every council, including support for our Movement’s entrepreneurship programs. Imposing permanent licensing restrictions through the *Blue Book* prevents flexibility in how we use licensing to support our Movement strategy for future growth. As shared in [response to questions](#) raised in the December 2025 *Secure Tomorrow* discussion topic, while GSUSA continues to pursue licensing partnerships with non-food brands, these arrangements are more complex, harder to secure, and unlikely to generate enough revenue to replace lost food and beverage-based partnerships.

Also, the proposal rationale assumes the availability of Girl Scout Cookie-inspired food and beverage products undermines troop cookie sales. As we shared in the [report out](#) of the recent independent market research, licensed products actually *increase* brand awareness and positively influence consumers’ decision to buy Girl Scout Cookies. The data does not support that there is a negative correlation between licensing revenue and cookie sales. Additionally, the originating council has not provided any evidence to support the claim that licensed product sales reduce troop cookie sales. In contrast, GSUSA routinely conducts market research to assess the impact of licensing, and this research indicates a positive correlation between licensed

products and cookie purchases. Research found that respondents who were aware and/or purchasing Girl Scout licensed products, *regardless of category*, had stronger brand connection and behaviors and are more likely to buy Girl Scout Cookies in the future. Therefore, removing GSUSA's ability to license these products may harm girl's cookie sales and lower awareness of Girl Scouts' mission among the public. The board appreciates that troops may experience challenges while selling cookies, including instances when customers comment on our licensed products. However, the research data doesn't support the claim that anecdotal cookie booth experiences reflect a national trend.

The proposal could also create immediate contractual exposure. GSUSA has binding agreements with food and beverage licensees, and a blanket prohibition would likely conflict with these obligations. This could create contractual risks, including the possibility that licensees assert claims or remedies which GSUSA would need to manage, including damage to GSUSA's reputation as a reliable partner. Licensing relationships take months or years to develop, and licensees invest significant resources in these collaborations to create not only the product but a fully integrated marketing campaign that marries the best of each brand. A pause or early termination, even if temporary, could discredit GSUSA in the marketplace, making future licensing opportunities, whether in food or non-food, more difficult to secure.

The intellectual property (IP) GSUSA owns in cookie-related names and flavors is a significant asset for the Movement—in terms of the general public's awareness of our organization, and as a community-based source of revenue. This proposal prevents GSUSA from using this asset to support our shared mission and, as worded, jeopardizes the Movement from operating the cookie and fall product programs and other relationships. The complexities of IP and contract law mean that amending the proposal during NCS debate presents significant risk for the Movement. Therefore, the National Board recommends that delegates reject the proposal.

Proposals not placed on the 58th National Council Session Agenda

Recommendation of the NCSAT

The NCSAT recommended not placing any other submitted proposals on the 58th NCS Agenda. The NCSAT concluded that these proposals did not directly address urgent issues of Movement-wide significance.

Recommendation of the National Board

The board aligned with the NCSAT's recommendation and also noted that several proposal themes would benefit from robust delegate conversation and could therefore be incorporated into discussion topics before, during and following the 58th NCS.

The board determined not to place the following proposals on the 58th NCS Agenda (in alphabetical order by proposal title). The full proposals are posted on the delegate website for your reference.

- A. [A Proposal to Prohibit GSUSA from Promoting, Advocating, or Discouraging the Discussion of Proposals that Will Be Voted on at NCS or Special Sessions Outside of the Educational Trainings/Opportunities Offered to All Delegates](#), submitted by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
- B. [Amend the Timing of a Special National Council Session Notification](#), submitted by Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands
- C. [Amendment to the Preamble of the Constitution to Add “Inclusivity” to ‘Diversity, Pluralism, and Anti-Racism’](#), submitted by Girl Scouts of Greater New York
- D. [Change to the Procedures for Non-Issuance or Revocation of Charters](#), submitted by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana
- E. [Constitutional Amendment to Change Delegate Minimum Age to Thirteen \(13\) Years](#), submitted by Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta
- F. [Expand the Definition of Girl Scout in the Membership Requirements Section of the Credentials](#), submitted by Girl Scouts of Western Washington
- G. [Prioritizing Girls’ Physical and Mental Health](#), submitted by Girl Scouts of Central Indiana
- H. [Spirituality and GSUSA](#), submitted by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana
- I. [Voting for Any Dues Increase Must Be Done During an In-Person National Council Session](#), submitted by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan

Standing Rules

Introduction

The NCSAT solicited delegate input on the draft standing rules and appreciates the comments provided. Delegate feedback was reviewed by the NCS Advisory Team, and the revised rules were reviewed by the NCS parliamentarian.

Amendments

- Delegates asked whether amendments to correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation that change the meaning and interpretation of a proposal should be allowed.
- Standing rule 2.c provides this clarification.

Debate

- Delegates sought to ensure sufficient opportunity to debate motions, including proposals, before the making of a motion to close debate (previous question).
- Standing rule 3.e provides this clarification.

National Member Comfort

- Delegates sought clarification around the rule prohibiting delegates from wearing products with fragrances, specifically about how such a rule would be monitored and enforced.
- Standing rule 7.b was edited to remove the rule about fragrances. Under standing rule 7.a, delegates may address the ushers regarding matters of comfort, including sensitivity to strongly scented fragrances.

Delegate education on parliamentary procedure and the ability to practice debating and voting will be included in the parliamentary procedure webinars. In addition, the *Delegate Workbook*, to be published in late Spring, will include processes and procedures for participating in the National Council Session.

The National Council formally accepts the standing rules by vote at the National Council Session in July.

Proposed Standing Rules

1. Credentials

- a. Credentials must be worn and easily visible at all times.
- b. Delegates may give their credentials to someone else only when they are permanently leaving the National Council Session, and only after completing a delegate change form at the Credentials Registration Desk.

2. Amendments

- a. Before being introduced on the floor, amendments to proposals must be submitted in writing on the form provided.
- b. No amendment to a proposal may be introduced until at least two National Council Members have spoken in favor of the proposal and two National Council Members have spoken in opposition to the proposal.
- c. Amendments to correct grammar and spelling or to correct punctuation that does not change the meaning of a sentence are out of order. The CEO and National Board Chair may make any such necessary changes.

3. Debate

- a. National Council Members recognized to speak must first self-identify by saying their name and council, USA Girl Scouts Overseas, or position. If applicable, the Member must also state the number of the motion form submitted.
- b. Each National Council Member may speak two times on each motion, following self-identification, for up to two minutes each time.
- c. The following groups are each limited to four speeches on the same side of a motion: (1) the past presidents, (2) the National Board and National Board Development Committee, and (3) each council.
- d. If no National Council Member is seeking recognition to speak on one side of a motion, debate will be closed, and a vote will be taken.
- e. A National Council Member may not move the Previous Question on any motion until at least four National Council Members have spoken in debate on that motion.
- f. A National Council Member moving the Previous Question must do so immediately after self-identification and may not do so after first making comments in debate.
- g. If the National Council Session recesses while a motion is on the floor, all microphone debate queues shall be cleared at the start of the recess and reopened by a presiding officer following the recess. National Council Members may not reserve a place in a queue during the recess and may rejoin a queue only after a presiding officer states that the queues are open.

4. Voting

- a. Electronic voting shall be the default voting method, but the presiding officer shall have discretion to use other voting methods (e.g., unanimous consent, voice, hands, standing, and ballot) to expedite business.
- b. National Council Members may vote on a proposal only from their seat but may vote on any other motion while standing in line to speak.
- c. National Council Members who leave the meeting room must give their electronic voting device to an usher. They may not take their electronic voting device from the room or leave it at their seat.

5. Nominations and Elections

- a. National Council Members making a nomination from the floor shall state only the name of the nominee and the position for which the individual is nominated.
- b. Nominations are not debatable.
- c. Printed biographical information for nominees from the floor is the responsibility of the individual making the nomination and may be provided to National Council Members on the floor of the National Council Session only if:

- i. at least 1,500 copies of the information are delivered to the Washington Convention Center at least 48 hours before the published start time of the meeting at which the election will occur; and
 - ii. the information is in the same format and length as the information in the Workbook for individuals nominated by the National Board Development Committee.
 - d. After the opening ceremony, ushers will distribute any printed biographical information for nominees from the floor at a time when the National Council Session is in recess by placing it on each National Council Member's seat. Printed information shall not be distributed at any other time.
 - e. Write-in votes are not permitted.
 - f. For any election that includes a nominee from the floor, the tellers and presiding officer shall report only the name of the individual elected, not the number of the votes received. Complete results of any such election shall be reported in the minutes of the National Council Session and posted in the Registration Area.
6. Minutes
- a. The National Board of Directors is the 2026 National Council Session Minutes Approval Committee, authorized to approve and distribute the minutes of the National Council Session.
7. National Council Member Comfort
- a. Questions and remarks related to delegate comfort shall be addressed to the ushers, not the presiding officer.
 - b. Objects that obstruct a delegate's ability to see the stage shall not be displayed in the meeting room.
8. Electronic Devices
- a. Electronic devices must be silenced, and no National Council Member shall use any electronic device to make a video or audio recording of any part of the National Council Session, except as authorized by the GSUSA National Board.

Thank You

GSUSA, the NCS Advisory Team, and the National Board appreciate the effort that so many members of our Movement dedicated to developing these discussion topics and proposals, as well as their engagement in our democratic process. Engaging in important dialogue through the delegate website, delegate education sessions, and when NCS convenes in July 2026 will actively shape the way forward.