



## **INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE**

**Nominations are accepted through February 20, 2025  
to become a National Delegate or Alternate for a three-year term and attend the 58<sup>th</sup>  
National Council Session July 20 – 22, 2026 in Washington, DC.**

### **What is the National Council Session?**

Every three years, Girl Scouts gather together at the National Council Session (NCS) to reinvigorate our Movement, celebrate our accomplishments, and chart our future. Our 2026 National Council Session in Washington, DC, promises to honor our cherished traditions and, at the same time, propel the Movement forward for girls and young women. <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/national-council-session-convention.html>

### **Who can be a National Delegate?**

Adult members and girl members 14 years of age and older on April 26, 2025 who are U.S. citizens registered with GSUSA through the Council and who reside in the Region. Delegates under age 18 will be chaperoned. The citizenship requirement is a requirement of the Congressional Charter that created GSUSA.

### **How are the Delegates Elected?**

The Board Development Committee is responsible for preparing a slate of National Delegates and Alternates to represent Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina for a three-year term, including attending the National Meeting in July 2026. GSUSA has not yet finalized the number of National Delegates for each council, but we estimate that our GSESC Council will have 3 National Delegates. The slate of National Delegates and Alternates will be voted on at our Council's Annual Meeting on April 26, 2025.

### **How do I apply to be a National Delegate?**

If you are interested in being considered to serve as a National Delegate, please complete the National Delegate Application and mail or e-mail it to the Council by February 20, 2025.

## What are the Criteria for Selecting the National Council Delegates?

Criteria on which applicants will be rated include:

- **Strategic Thinking** – Demonstrates ability to contemplate long-term goals and objectives that advance the Movement as a whole and is future-focused.
- **Communication** – Expresses ideas and facts in a clear manner.
- **Experience in Policy-influencing or Policymaking** – Has participated in Council meetings, such as the Annual meeting and Service Unit meetings; able to listen to different points of view from the membership and effectively summarize those ideas.
- **Knowledge of Girl Scouting (local and national)** – Has experience in many levels and areas of Girl Scouting. Has knowledge of Girl Scouting at the Council and of the Movement.
- **Decision-Making** – Ability to analyze issues from a council and national perspective; demonstrates ability to weigh options and consider ramifications.
- **Adaptability** – Demonstrates flexibility when new information is brought forward; comes to session informed, but not instructed.
- **Teambuilding** – Promotes partnerships and has a commitment to a team approach. Places the good of the whole above self-interests. Will support decisions of the National Council.
- **Listening/Representation** – Demonstrates the ability to consider the spectrum of opinions of adult and girl members from all parts of the Council and across the Movement to inform strategic decision-making and represent these communities at the national level.
- **Understands Commitment:** Understands and is willing to take on commitment of fulfilling the duties and obligations of a delegate throughout three-year term.

## What are the duties of a National Council Delegate?

1. **Throughout the triennium**, each individual elected by the Council as a voting member/delegate to the National Council takes personal responsibility to:
  - **Represent** their council as voting members of the National Council throughout the triennium.
  - **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 the council and participate in council forums and focus groups.
  - **Actively gather and consider a broad spectrum** of the opinions of members from all parts of your 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 the 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 the National Council Session**, each National Council voting member/delegate is prepared to:
  - **Report** at the Council's Annual meeting and/or the Council Board of Directors on the National Council decisions and the reasons for such decisions.
  - **Share insights** on information gained at the National Council Session.
  - **Assist the council** as it prepares to participate in the next National Council Session.
  - **Participate** in teleconferences/webinars and other opportunities for voting members/delegates.

### **What expenses will the Council cover?**

GSESC will cover the following expenses for National Delegates:

- Registration fees for:
  - National Council Session
  - Delegate-only sessions
  - Additional Delegate events as determined
- Roundtrip transportation to and from Washington, DC.
- Hotel accommodations, double occupancy – number of nights to be determined based on session start and end times. Delegates wishing private rooms may request (as available), but are responsible to pay the additional costs.
- Per diem allowance to cover additional meals and miscellaneous expenses (number of days to be determined based on session start and end times)
- Delegation identifying item(s)

The following expenses are the responsibility of the National Delegate:

- GSUSA special events
- Pre- and post- convention tours
- Personal souvenirs

### **Can Alternate Delegates attend the National Council Sessions?**

Alternate Delegates are welcome to attend the session as official visitors at their own expense. Alternate Delegates appointed to fill the vacancy of a National Delegate will be reimbursed for their expenses as outlined. GSESC will provide registration and hotel information as it becomes available to us.

For additional questions, please contact Cindy Watson at [cwatson@gseesc.org](mailto:cwatson@gseesc.org).