

## GSSGC National Delegate Timeline & FAQs–NCS 2026

2025-2028 Delegate Timeline
<p><b>Oct</b> – Applications open October 1, 2024 through November 1, 2024</p> <p><b>Oct</b> – Applicants are invited to join National Delegates in person for the Special 57<sup>th</sup> National Council Session (NCS) on October 19, 2024. From 8:00-8:45 a.m. hear from our current National Delegates about what is involved and an overview of the process.</p> <p><b>Nov</b> – Application review and interviews through December 18, 2024 (and early 2025 if necessary)</p> <p><b>Jan 2025</b> – Delegate selection and notification</p> <p><b>May 10, 2025</b> – Delegates voted in at Annual Meeting</p> <p><b>June 2025 - July 2026</b> – GSSGC &amp; GSUSA Trainings and Meetings</p> <p><b>July 20-25, 2026</b> – 58<sup>th</sup> NCS &amp; Convention in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> – Webinars and decision-influencing opportunities as scheduled</p>

### FAQs

- Where can I find more information about becoming a National Delegate?**  
Information can be found at [www.gssgc.org/nationaldelegates](http://www.gssgc.org/nationaldelegates) and/or you can email [nationaldelegates@gssgc.org](mailto:nationaldelegates@gssgc.org).
- When is the application open to apply?**  
You can submit applications beginning October 1, 2024 through November 1, 2024.
- When and where will the next Girl Scout NCS & Convention take place?**  
The 58<sup>th</sup> National Council Session (NCS) and Convention will take place from July 20-25, 2026 in Washington, D.C.
- How many National Delegates are selected?**  
Delegate selection is based on a formula provided by GSUSA. It is based on our girl membership number. However, you could potentially be one of over 800 National Council members made up of delegates from around the world. We had over 90 delegates representing California Girl Scout councils, which made up the largest state presence at the 2023 National Council Session.

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

A girl needs to be 14 years old at the time of election to apply to be a delegate. Election will be held at the Council's Annual Meeting on May 10, 2025.

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

Yes, Girl Scouts that are 18 and/or graduating high school in 2026 can apply as a girl delegate. They are still considered girl members until September 30, 2026. If she turns 18 before this time, she can apply to be an adult delegate.

Ex: Girl Scout is graduating in 2025—they would apply to be an adult delegate for 2026 NCS even though they are currently still a girl member. We will take this into account when going through the application and interview process.

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

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

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

GSSGC can subsidize the cost for delegates based on budget available. In the past we have been able to cover the full cost for Girl Delegates including travel, hotel, food, registration, and some extra activities.

For adult delegates, in the past we have been able to cover travel, hotel (for the duration of NCS and sometimes convention), registration, as well as a stipend for travel and food costs. Some meals are included in registration and provided by GSUSA during National Council Session.

Alternate(s) who are selected and choose to attend NCS may have to pay their own way. If the budget is available, the Council may be able to cover all or a portion of the expenses related to the NCS; however, this will not be determined until later in 2025.

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

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

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

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

For reference, packages from the 56<sup>th</sup> NCS and 2023 Girl Scout Convention included the following:

The 3-day ticket includes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**12. The 2023 Girl Scout Convention was already held on the East Coast. Why did you choose Washington, D.C., for 2026?**

2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the USA. Across the country, celebrations are being planned to make it the largest, most inclusive commemoration in history. What better place to hold our convention than Washington, D.C.? As the capital of our nation, Washington, D.C. is the symbolic and literal representation of people who live in every corner of the United States. Similarly, National Council Session is where delegates representing every corner of the Girl Scout Movement come together to discuss, debate, and make Girl Scout history.

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

Send an email to [nationaldelegates@gssgc.org](mailto:nationaldelegates@gssgc.org) and we will respond to your inquiry. Please include your phone number in your email.

## **TERMINOLOGY**

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

### **Convention**

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

### **Governance**

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

### **National Council**

The membership of the National Council consists of:

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

### **National Council Session (NCS)**

We often use the acronym NCS to describe the National Council Session, where members of the National Council gather every three years to elect a National Board of Directors and National Board Development Committee. We also amend the Girl Scout Constitution, establish requirements for credentials, act on proposals and overall have the ability to influence the strategic direction of the Movement by providing guidance to the National Board. In so many words, you have the ability to use your voice to determine the future of Girl Scouts as a movement. This process takes place over three days of business meetings—we recommend lots of snacks and water! Special National Council Sessions can be called by the GSUSA Board of Directors. This happened for the first time ever in 2024. This Special National Council Session is being held virtually on October 19, 2024 and the agenda will be focused on one item—increasing national dues.

### **National Delegate**

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

**Parliamentary Procedure**

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

**Proposal**

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

**Triennium**

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