

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION?

The National Council Session (NCS) is held every 3 years and is a time when Girl Scouts from around the world gather to conduct the business of the national organization, vote on national proposals, and celebrate Girl Scouting. This Movement wide meeting is a unique opportunity for Girl Scouts to mark its progress and set the direction for our future.

Members of the National Council consist of:

- Delegates elected by Girl Scout councils,
- Delegates from USA Girl Scouts Overseas,
- Members of GSUSA's National Board of Directors,
- Members of GSUSA's National Board Development Committee, and
- Past presidents of Girl Scouts of the USA

National Delegates participating in this event will:

- gain an appreciation for the size and scope of the Girl Scout Movement
- see and feel the passion for Girl Scouts and its mission through a variety of speakers, learning opportunities and breakout sessions.
- take part in and witness the governance of Girl Scouts in action, following all rules of parliamentary procedure to ensure the governance of the organization is enacted with fairness and civility,
- build personal connections with their peers across the Movement,
- strengthen relationships within their council by planning for, attending, and reporting on the experience in their local Girl Scout communities.

2026 GIRL SCOUT NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 58th National Council Session of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. will be held Sunday, July 20 – Tuesday, July 22, 2026 in Washington, D.C. This event is open to all members of the National Council who will be seated on the main floor of auditorium. Additional guests are welcome to watch the proceedings and Girl Scout governance in action! Guests will be seated in the visitor/observer section.

- GSSWT will pay the convention registration, travel, lodging and meals of our selected delegates only.

Following NCS, thousands more Girl Scouts (and alums, families, and non-members) stream into town for a multi-day event from Wednesday, July 23 - Friday, July 25, 2026. (*Previously known as PHENOM in 2023.*)

Follow the official [GSUSA National Convention](#) website for updates and registration info.

COMMITMENT FOR COUNCIL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

All National Delegates and Alternates will serve a three (3) year terms (2025-2028). Both girl and adult members of GSSWT are eligible to apply.

GSSWT Delegates & Alternates must be able to commit to the following:

- Maintain active Girl Scout/GSSWT membership during the three years term
- Attend all orientation, preparation meetings and trainings held by the council prior to NCS
- Participate in virtual briefings, webinars, and trainings held by GSUSA prior to NCS
- Attend all NCS 2026 sessions in-person in Washington, D.C. from July 20 – 22, 2026.
- Fulfill all criteria and duties outlined in the *National Council Delegate Position Overview* handout available on our website.

CRITERIA FOR COUNCIL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Girl Scout council delegates are elected based on the following criteria:

- Ability to think strategically and focus on the future of the Girl Scout Movement.
- Experience in policy-influencing and policy-making positions.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the workings of Girl Scout councils and the Movement.
- Ability to analyze issues from a national as well as a council perspective. National Council actions and decisions have Movement-wide implications.
- Commitment to attending council and GSUSA training sessions in order to be as informed as possible about the issues and democratic process utilized at the National Council Session.
- Willingness to support all the decisions of the National Council.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I apply?

1. Carefully review the *GSSWT Delegate Application Instructions* available on our website.
2. Click the appropriate link on our website for Girl Application or Adult Application.
3. Submit your letter of reference by the **application deadline extended: Friday, March 28, 2025**

What is the selection process?

The GSSWT Board Development Committee will review all applications and recommend a proposed slate of delegates and alternates to the GSSWT Board of Directors. The final list will be officially elected the GSSWT Board of Directors. Anticipated announcement of selected Delegates and Alternates is summer 2025.

How many Delegates and Alternates will be chosen?

All Girl Scout councils elect delegates to the National Council based on a formula established by the National Board of Directors. GSSWT has been allocated and will select eight (8) total delegates and approximately sixteen (16) alternates.

What is the role of the Alternates?

To be prepared to fill a spot immediately if needed, alternates are expected to fulfill all duties of the delegates including orientation, trainings, and preparation. Should a delegate no longer be able to fulfill their role prior to NCS or during the triennium, a selected alternate will be assigned to fill that spot.

Do I need any specific previous experience to be a national delegate?

No, previous experience is not required. Training will be provided prior to NCS. However, the selection committee will review applicants based on criteria outlined in the *National Council Delegate Position Overview*.

Can more than one person from a family apply?

Yes! If your family has more than one Girl Scout member who wishes to apply, each should fill out separate applications. The committee considers each applicant individually; selection of both is not guaranteed.

For additional questions, email customercare@girlscouts-swtx.org with subject "Delegate Application."