

56<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION  
Summary of Actions Taken

Presented by:  
GSNEO National Delegates



# 56th National Council Session

## Summary of Actions Taken

July 2023

girlscouts

56th National  
Council Session

# Agenda

1. Overview
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At the 56th National Council Session, July 18–20, 2023, the body of delegates debated and voted on seven proposals and took the actions that are outlined in the following slides



This presentation has been provided to councils as a tool to share the summary of actions with council stakeholders

Proposal language can not be modified or changed from what is provided on these slides

Proposals are shared in the order they were discussed and voted on during NCS

Approved amended language is featured in GREEN

Please refer to your Delegate Workbook for additional information regarding the proposals

An updated *Blue Book* will be circulated shortly (date TBC)

Feel free to add additional context and content to this presentation to meet your needs.

## PROPOSAL 1 – APPROVED AS AMENDED

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: ALLOWING THE POSSIBILITY OF VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSIONS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

### ORIGINATED BY

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania

### PROPOSAL

To amend the Constitution and Bylaws of GSUSA as follows: Update Article V Sections 1, 3, and 4 of the Blue Book of Basic Documents, page 9, by inserting the bolded, green wording, as follows: [ADOPTED LANGUAGE ON FOLLOWING PAGE]



## PROPOSAL 1—APPROVED AS AMENDED

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: ALLOWING THE POSSIBILITY OF VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSIONS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

#### ADOPTED LANGUAGE

##### Section 1

There shall be a regular session of the National Council held triennially at such time and place as determined by the National Board of Directors. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of such session shall be mailed **or delivered electronically** not less than 60 days before the session to each local council, to each USA Girl Scouts Overseas committee, and to each member of the National Board of Directors and National Board Development Committee.

##### Section 3

Notice of the special session, stating the time, place, and specific purpose, shall be mailed **or delivered electronically** not less than 30 days before the session to each local council, each delegate from USA Girl Scouts Overseas, each member of the National Board of Directors and the National Board Development Committee, each Past President, and each member elected by the National Council who is entitled to vote at such session.

##### Section 4

Two hundred members of the National Council present in person shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at sessions of the National Council, provided, however, that delegates are present from one or more local councils in a majority of the geographical areas of the country as defined in the Bylaws. **At the sole discretion of the National Board, any special National Council session and in the event of an emergency any regular National Council Session may be held in whole or in part by means of the internet or other electronic communications technology pursuant to which the members of the National Council have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members, pose questions, and make comments. Attendance through such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting for quorum and voting purposes.** In the absence of a quorum, a majority of those present at the time and place set for a session may take an adjournment from time to time until a quorum shall be present.

## **PROPOSAL 2—PROPOSAL WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS; BOTH SECTIONS DEFEATED**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: AMEND THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE AND LAW TO USE MORE POTENT, ACTIONABLE LANGUAGE**

### **ORIGINATED BY**

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey

### **PROPOSAL**

THAT the Preamble of the Constitution of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America be amended to delete the words “try,” “to,” and “do my best” and to insert the word “will.”

**BLUE BOOK REMAINS UNCHANGED – Constitution of the GSUSA Preamble, page 6**



## PROPOSAL 3 – DEFEATED

### Constitutional Amendment: Council Representation on the National Board

#### ORIGINATED BY

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta

#### PROPOSAL

To amend Article X, Section 2 of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA to insert “at least three (3) of whom shall be Council Executives.” After the words “members-at-large,” and to insert the definition of “Council Executive” after the word “country.”

**BLUE BOOK REMAINS UNCHANGED – Article X, National Board of Directors, page 10**



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## **PROPOSAL 4—APPROVED AS AMENDED**

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: DEIRJ LANGUAGE PROPOSAL**

#### **ORIGINATED BY**

Girl Scouts of the USA National Board on Recommendation of the DEIRJ Board Advisory Committee

#### **PROPOSAL**

To amend the Preamble of the Constitution by inserting the words “and anti-racism” after the word “pluralism” in both places where that word occurs.

## PROPOSAL 4—APPROVED AS AMENDED

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: DEIRJ LANGUAGE PROPOSAL

#### ADOPTED LANGUAGE

#### DIVERSITY, PLURALISM AND ANTI-RACISM

Girl Scouts advance diversity, pluralism, and anti-racism and actively identify and oppose racism by removing systemic barriers to participation in our Movement and in the communities in which we live.

## PROPOSAL 5 – DEFEATED

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: FORMULA FOR DELEGATES

#### ORIGINATED BY

Farthest North Girl Scout Council

#### PROPOSAL

To amend Article IV, National Council, Section 5, by striking the number 3,500 in every place where it occurs and replacing it with the number 1,000 and by striking the word “no” and replacing it with the words the words “as close to but not” in the last sentence.

**BLUE BOOK REMAINS UNCHANGED – Article IV, National Council, Section 5, page 8**

## PROPOSAL 6—APPROVED AS PRESENTED

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: TIMING OF DELEGATE ALLOCATION

#### ORIGINATED BY

Girl Scouts of the USA National Board of Directors on Recommendation of the National Council Session Advisory Team

#### PROPOSAL

THAT Article IV (The National Council), Section 5 (Formula for Delegates) of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA be amended by striking “of the year,” and inserting the words, “two years” before the word “preceding.”

## PROPOSAL 6—APPROVED AS PRESENTED

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: TIMING OF DELEGATE ALLOCATION

#### ADOPTED WORDING

Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30, **two years** preceding the regular session of the National Council:

- a. two (2) delegates;
- b. one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls;
- c. one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter.



## PROPOSAL 7—APPROVED AS PRESENTED

### GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD SCHOLARSHIP

#### ORIGINATED BY

Girl Scouts of the USA National Board on the Recommendation of the Movement Gold Award Scholarship Foundation Task Force

#### APPROVED PROPOSAL

THAT the National Council hereby affirms the recommendation of the Movement Gold Award Scholarship Foundation Task Force to create a donor-restricted fund in support of Gold Award scholarships; and

THAT that in recognition of its importance, the existence of such fund shall be reflected in the *Blue Book of Basic Documents* in the Fundraising Policies section of the *Blue Book* (or any successor section of the *Blue Book* as may be appropriate from time to time).



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Thank You