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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the GSNEO Governance Enews.

This inaugural issue of the GSNEO Governance Enews is being sent to the Board of Directors, Board Development Committee, National Delegates, Membership Delegates, and the Girl Advisory Board as you are involved in the governance of our council.

The Preamble to the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America states: "The ultimate responsibility for the Girl Scout Movement rests with its members."

The Democratic Process is a central tenet of Girl Scouting. We achieve it for girls by making our activities girl-planned and girl-led to the fullest extent possible. For older girls and adults (14+), we currently have a General Assembly of elected representatives who

meet annually to elect board members and officers and approve bylaws changes.

Members of the General Assembly are members of the Board of Directors, Board Development Committee, National Delegates, Alternate National Delegates, and Membership Delegates.

As part of GSNEO's Bylaws there are also elected National Delegates who meet every three years to conduct the business of the organization.

In order to keep the members of GSNEO's General Assembly and our National Delegates well informed, below is an introduction to our Governance Communication Plan:

- A minimum of two Governance Webinars will be held annually. The first one was held on Wednesday, March 29th. Please visit the GSNEO website Governance Page to listen to the [Governance Webinar Recording](#). You will be prompted for your name and email address. The dates of future webinars will be announced shortly.
- GSNEO's Governance Enewsletter will be published quarterly. For those delegates who prefer hard copies, please email names and addresses and they will receive a hard copy through USPS.
- Please feel free to reach me: Mona Karoghlanian, GSNEO Executive Services and Governance Officer by emailing Mkaroghlanian@gsneo.org or Governance@gsneo.org or you may reach me by phone: 330-983-0407 (office) or 330-690-9741 (cell).

Governance and Governance Roles





What is Governance

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio and Girl Scouts of the United States of America are governed by an efficient and effective democratic process that includes the core values of a representative democracy, access to decision-makers, and participatory involvement valued at all levels of the council.

Governance versus Operational

Governance and Operations are different and the role of a delegate, board development committee, and the board of directors are established solely for the efforts to ensure the governance of the council.

Key among these Governance roles are:

- Provide policies that assure the success of the organization and its membership
- Assure the financial health of the council
- Maintain our not-for-profit status
- Report to the membership and community
- Evaluate and deliver on bylaws requirements for participation in the council governance process

Operational roles include:

- Plan and maintain program
- Responding to concerns of the staff and volunteers

- Provide learning opportunities to volunteers
- Representing Girl Scouting in the community
- Employ, direct and conduct performance reviews of the staff
- Prepare performance reports and exhibits as required by the board or committees

Membership Delegates role:

Membership Delegates are elected by the service unit members to serve as their voting representative in matters related to the governance.

- Entrusted with the responsibility of sharing information, as received from council leadership and then utilizing her/his communication skills and an open mind to gather feedback from girl and adult members.
- Understand the issues and concerns of the girl and adult members as well as appreciated council-wide issues to think globally for the good of the entire organization.
- Serves as a channel of two-way communication between members and council leadership.
- Promote GSUSA/GSNEO program, services, and goals to the community-at-large.

National Delegates:

Every three years, national delegates representing each council in GSUSA gather for the National Convention and conduct business at the National Council Meeting.

View the [Roster of the newly Elected National Council Delegates](#) who will serve the 2017-2020 term.



GSUSA's 54th National Convention

When: Wednesday-Sunday, Oct. 4-8, 2017

Where: Columbus, Ohio

National Delegate responsibilities:

- Attend all orientation and preparation meetings prior to the National Convention.
- Study the National Council Meeting agenda.
- Understand Girl Scouts of North East Ohio's stance on actions to be taken by the National Council.
- Attend all National Council meetings and report National Council actions to Girl Scouts of North East Ohio members.
- Know parliamentary procedures and how to use them.
- Participate as a national delegate for the entire three-year period of 2017-2020.
- Able to represent the points of view of various ethnic, racial, educational, civic, religious, and socioeconomic groups
- Willing to prepare thoroughly on the issues and business that will come before the National Council.

GSNEO Annual Meeting of General Assembly

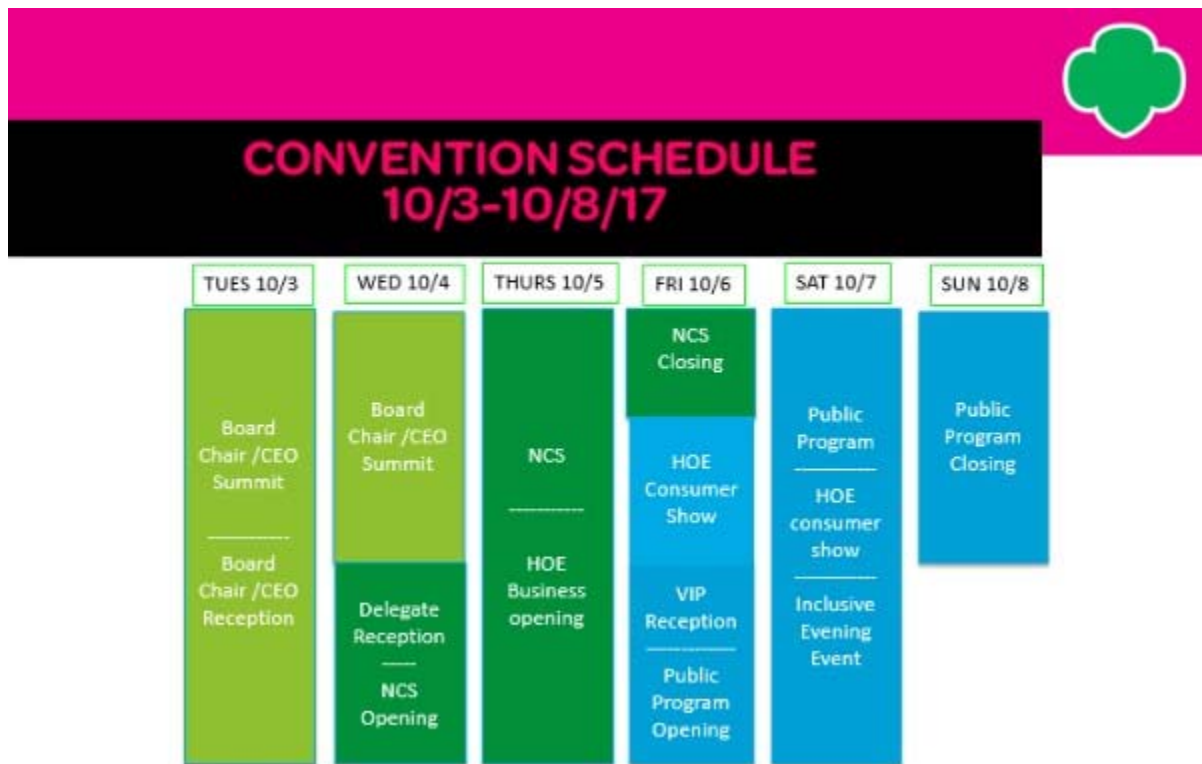


What happens at the GSNEO Annual Meeting of the General Assembly?

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio is governed, according to its Bylaws, by the Board of Directors composed of volunteer women and men who believe in the values of Girl Scouting and who are elected by the General Assembly. The Membership Delegates vote at the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly to elect the Board of Directors, as well as the Council Board Development Committee, and every three years the National Council Delegates and an Alternate. Their approval is also needed on any revisions to the Council By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation.

[View the Annual Meeting Presentation](#)

National Convention Calendar



Calendar Key: NCS-National Council Session, HOE- Hall of Experience

At past Conventions, you know that girls were involved as NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES and at what we called GSLI - the Girl Scout Leadership Institute. In 2017 there is a robust leadership and learning experience for girls - just like GSLI did - but changes have been made based on girl feedback.

In the past, there was limited participation to 10 girls, who had to apply and be selected by their councils. Participation is now unlimited and open to ALL girls who want to join in. Not only is the older girl weekend experience expanded to include Cadettes, but for the first time, there is a weekend-long experience for Brownies and Juniors.

In 2017 it doesn't have to be a council-organized trip - girls can now attend with their troop, service unit, or family member.

As to the schedule, girls felt there were greater opportunities if the leadership program was on a weekend, especially because it would be

open to more girls being able to attend. Also, if the girls are delegates as well, they can complete their delegate business obligations and then be able to participate in all that G.I.R.L. 2017 has to offer.

Finally, one key change is that there is now a movement-wide committee of girls who are driving the planning of all elements of G.I.R.L. 2017 - not only the girl sessions and girl special events, but the plenary sessions, adult sessions, the Hall of Experiences, and more. Everything that girls and adults will experience at G.I.R.L. 2017 will be driven by the planning of this team of 21 girls representing 17 Girl Scout councils from across the USA.



Convention Girl Experience Overview Options

Daisies

- Day Pass (\$10 for girls and \$20 for adults) - Hall of Experiences

Brownies and Juniors

- Day Pass (\$10 for girls and \$20 for adults) - Hall of Experiences;
or
- Weekend Pass (\$150) which includes: Opening & Closing, Hall of Experiences, Saturday dinner & G.I.R.L. Camp-In sleepover, including breakfast.

Cadettes, Seniors, & Ambassadors

- Day Pass (\$10 for girls and \$20 for adults) - Hall of Experiences
- Weekend Pass (\$295) which includes: Opening & Closing, G.I.R.L. Talk and breakouts, Hall of Experiences, Meals Saturday morning through Sunday morning and Friday welcome event, Saturday girl Luncheon and Saturday evening girl event.



More Awesome Convention News!

GSNEO will be offering buses from Service Centers at a reduced rate on Saturday, October 7. Visit G.I.R.L. 2017 on girlscouts.org for the most up to date information and registration.

You can volunteer for the convention through gsneo.org or gsoh.org.

54th National Council Session Proposals & Discussion Topic

The National Board of Directors has approved for placement on the 2017 National Council Session agenda.

Proposals:

1. Reduce the size of the National Board-from 30/31 to 20/21 members overall-by reducing the number of members-at-large from 25 to 15
2. Establish the National Board Development Committee (NBDC) as a standing committee of the Girl Scouts of the USA Board of Directors and specify that only one member of the NBDC may be eligible to be nominated for an officer position
3. Amend the "Credentials" section of The Blue Book of Basic Documents related to lifetime membership dues and categories

Discussion Topic:

Serving next-generation girls: What does Girl Scouts need to do to help every girl be a G.I.R.L.?



GSNEO Proposal Status

Girl Members-at-Large on the National Board of Directors

During the January GSUSA National Board of Directors Meeting, our proposal "Girl Members-at-Large on the National Board of Directors" was considered for the National Council Session Agenda.

GSUSA has notified GSNEO that after much discussion and evaluation in accordance with the criteria below it voted **not** to include our proposal "Girl Members-at-Large on the National Board of Directors" on the National Council Session Agenda.

The National Board looks to the following standards in determining which proposals and discussion topics to place on the National Council Session agenda:

- An agenda topic should provide strategic direction to the Girl Scout Movement.
- As an item for vote, a proposal should give guidance at a major policy level, be far-reaching in its vision, and have national impact, or result in a major change in governance structure through amendment of the Constitution.
- Agenda topics should avoid being operational or having limited interest.

New Edition of the Blue Book

The [Blue Book](#) was revised to reflect decisions made by the National Board of Directors at the January 26, 2017 meeting. The revisions include:

- Certain changes to the Procedures for Reviewing and Issuing Girl Scout Council Charters and to the First and Third Criteria and Standards for an Effective Girl Scout Council. Many of these latter changes were based on work and input of the network alignment strategy team to ensure that councils are aligned around a nationally consistent program with demonstrable outcomes and a unified brand voice.

- Amendment to correct Article IV of the Bylaws (Executive Committee) to remove the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Executive Committee, to conform to the 2014 National Council vote to change the reporting relationship of the CFO from the National Board to the CEO.

For details of the specific changes to the Blue Book of Basic Documents, email: Mkaroghlanian@gsneo.org or Governance@gsneo.org.

- We can supply you with a detailed red-lined copy of the changes.
- A Spanish-language version is also available on girlscouts.org.
- Additionally, we encourage you to send the updated versions to your boards, staff, and delegates.
- **Suggestion:** At a future Service Unit Meeting, share the Blue Book of Basic Documents! It a great resource for all of us.

Board of Directors Meeting Mission Minute Presentation



At the start of each Board of Directors Meeting, a Mission Minute with a guest speaker is made for 3-5 minutes to keep the members of the Board of Directors connected to the Girl Scout Mission programmatically or at the troop or service unit level. This is being shared with you as a Membership and/or National Delegate as background information.

At the January board meeting, Dawn Allis played a special new role ...Messenger... and delivered a check. Dawn is employed by UPS and the UPS Foundation likes to support the causes where their employees are engaged.

Many of you know Dawn from her many volunteer roles with Girl Scouts of North East Ohio. She is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts with close to 25 very active years and has served on numerous committees. She is one of two GSNEO Level 3 Archery Facilitators, a Camp Coach, and has been co-chair of our Adult Learning Experience (A.L.E.). She is a recipient of various Girl Scout National Awards: Appreciation Pin, Honor Pin, Thanks Badge, and Thanks Badge II. She is also an active member of the Green Hat Society and the Order of the Silver Trefoil. I think it is safe to say she bleeds green!

With Dawn as our champion, we secured a grant for \$5,000 to be used toward hosting GSNEO's website, which provides new and useful resources for volunteers. These resources will help us recruit and retain volunteers, as the updated technology will create a more positive experience for our volunteers.

Thanks, Dawn, not only for all you do for GSNEO and the inspiration you provide to thousands of girls and volunteers but for helping secure this gift to support our wonderful volunteers!



Have a question? Don't be shy!
Contact us for more information.

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