



GCNWI National Delegate Criteria, Position Description & FAQ

Every three years, members from each council in Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) gather to conduct business on a national scale. National Council Delegates are elected by local councils to represent them at this meeting and throughout a three-year term. They gather input, debate and vote on proposals that impact the future of the Girl Scout Movement, including changes to the [Blue Book of Basic Documents](#). National Delegates also elect the National Board of Directors and the Board Development Committee.

National Delegates are also voting members of Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana (GCNWI) and participate locally in our council's Democratic Process. National Delegates serve as a link between our members and the Board of Directors. They gather opinions on governance matters, elect our Board of Directors and approve changes to our council Bylaws.

GCNWI is seeking applicants for consideration for the 2025-2028 Class of National Delegates.

To apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/gsgcnwiDelegate>

Applications will close December 1, 2024 at 11:30pm

Position Description

Requirements to be a National Council Delegate:

- Must be available to attend the National Council Session and travel to Washington, DC between Sunday, July 19-Sunday, July 26 2026 (exact dates TBD)
- Be a citizen of the United States (this is based on the GSUSA Congressional Charter)
- Be a registered member of the Girl Scout Movement, with GCNWI and remain so during the term
- Be 14 years of age or older at the time of election (GCNWI Annual Meeting April 26, 2025)
- Be committed to participating in National Delegate training and preparation sessions offered by GCNWI and GSUSA
- Be committed to a three (3) year term (April 26, 2025-April TBD 2028) as a National Council Delegate and actively participate in the role throughout the entire time.
- Be committed to participating in National Council Session follow-up activities sponsored by GCNWI or GSUSA
- Be committed to participating in GCNWI Delegate Meetings, including Delegate Quarterly Meetings and the GCNWI Annual Meeting while a National Delegate.

Responsibilities of a National Council Delegate:

- Be committed to a 3-year term, starting at the 2025 GCNWI Annual Meeting and ending at the 2028 GCNWI Annual Meeting



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- Be committed to participating in GSUSA Delegate Meetings and Trainings throughout the term (held virtually)
 - Be committed to participating in GCNWI Delegate Meetings and trainings, including Delegate Quarterly Meetings and the GCNWI Annual Meeting throughout the term (While the majority are held virtually, the Annual Meeting is in person within the councils geographical footprint, and there will be several in person meetings for the Delegation)
 - Be committed to reviewing any materials in advance of meetings and replying timely to emails
 - Be committed to participating in Delegate opportunities, such as, gathering feedback from members, representing the council or delegation, drafting proposals, etc.
- Must be available to attend the National Council Session and travel between Sunday, July 19-Sunday, July 26, 2026 (exact dates TBD)
- Elect the National Board of Directors and National Board Development Committee to provide leadership for the 2026-2029 triennium
- Provide input to the National Board on major topics to guide the future direction of the Girl Scout Movement and program
- Vote on proposals and amendments to the Constitution placed on the agenda
- Receive a National Board report on its stewardship of the Movement, with opportunity for dialogue

Please review the following National Delegate FAQ for additional information.

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Applicants will be asked to attend an interview in January. These will be held virtually via Zoom, with a call-in option available for those who need it. Further information and timeslot sign up will be emailed in December to applicants.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of application in early 2025. Those selected for the delegation will begin their term in April 2025, when elected at the GCNWI Annual Meeting.

Questions or further information needed? Please email Alaina Greene, Delegate Liaison, at nationaldelegate@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

FAQ – National Delegate

What is Convention?

GSUSA hosts a convention every three years in different parts of the country where all Girl Scout members are welcome to attend and enjoy special events, workshops and experiences.



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In addition, the National Council Session takes place, typically the first 3 days of the week. Learn more about the [2026 Convention and sign up for the GSUSA Insider Email here](#). Learn more about [GCNWI Troop 70694's trip to the 2023 Convention here](#).

What is the National Council Session?

The National Council Session is the business portion of the convention. National Council Members, which includes Delegates elected by local councils and USA Girl Scouts Overseas, and members of the National Board and National Board Development Committee, gather to discuss, debate and vote on topics and proposals that can change or direct the future of the Girl Scout Movement. They also elect the National Board and the National Board Development Committee. This meeting typically takes place over the first 3 days of the convention. Visitors are also welcome to observe the National Council Session.

Learn more about the [GCNWI National Delegate experience at the 2023 NCS here](#).

Who can apply to be a National Delegate?

Any registered member of GCNWI (youth or adult) who is 14 years of age or older by time of election (GCNWI Annual Meeting – April 26, 2025).

What is the application process?

National Delegate Applications will be open online Fall 2024 and close on December 1, 2024. In December, applicants will receive an email with instructions to sign up for a virtual interview in January 2025. These will take place via Zoom, with a call in option. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application between February-March 2025 and those selected for the Delegation will be elected on April 26, 2025 at the GCNWI Annual Meeting.

Do I need any previous experience to be a National Delegate?

No previous experience is required. Training will be provided to all National Delegates on Robert's Rules of order, parliamentary procedures and items of business prior to the National Council Session. Those interested are asked to bring interest and enthusiasm.

What is the time commitment?

National Delegates and Alternates serve a 3-year term, from April 26, 2025-April 2028 (TBD date based on the GCNWI Annual Meeting) and must be able to attend the National Council Session (NCS) in Washington, DC, between July 19-26, 2026 (Exact dates TBD on agenda).

Prior to NCS, National Delegates and Alternates will be expected to attend training and webinars offered by GCNWI (in person or virtually) and GSUSA (virtually) to prepare for NCS.



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They will also be asked to read and review materials on their own to be informed on important topics related to NCS. In addition to NCS related meetings, National Delegates are asked to attend and vote at the GCNWI Annual Meeting (held in person every April within the councils geographical footprint) and Delegate Quarterly Meetings (held virtually).

National Delegates and Alternates should expect monthly engagement after election from GCNWI and GSUSA, with robust engagement in the 6 months leading up to the National Council Session, which may include weekly work or multiple virtual meetings.

After the 2026 NCS, engagement will lighten but National Delegates and Alternates may experience periods of heightened engagement such as during the proposal period or if a Special Session of the National Council is called.

Due to the collaboration between the local councils and GSUSA, we are unable to provide an exact schedule.

Being a National Delegate can be a demanding role and is a role that is what you make of it – the more engaged you are, the more you will get out of the experience.

I am graduating high school during the Delegate Term. Can I still apply?

Yes! If you are graduating during the 3-year term, you are still welcome to apply! We just ask that all Delegates keep an active registration with our council and remain engaged!

Is there a cost to being a National Delegate?

GCNWI typically covers the majority of costs associated with travel and attendance to the National Council Session. There may be additional minimal costs for Delegates. For example, Girl Scout Uniform is typically worn at certain National Council Session meetings, which is the responsibility of the National Delegate (Financial Aid is available to assist with certain uniform needs). Delegates are also responsible for their own transportation to the airport or to any in-person GCNWI Delegation Meetings (which will take place within the council footprint). Delegates who wish to help cover the cost of their expenses will be given information on how to do so.

What is an Alternate National Delegate?

Each council is allotted a certain number of Delegates based on their membership number. GCNWI always selects multiple Alternate Delegates in case a National Delegate is no longer able to serve in their role. Alternates will be called up to replace National Delegates as needed and are an important part of our democratic process and making sure the voice of GCNWI is heard.



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Alternates are invited and encouraged to participate in training and meetings to be informed on the process and prepared to step into the role should they be pulled up. Alternates are not allowed to vote on council or national issues until they are pulled up and they do not attend the National Council Session unless they are pulled up as National Delegates. In the case an Alternate is not pulled up before NCS, Alternates are welcome to attend at their own expense. Information will be provided on this opportunity for anyone who is interested. Alternates are welcome to attend local governance meetings, such as the Annual Meeting and Delegate Quarterly Meeting, though they may not vote unless pulled up to serve as a Delegate.

How many Delegates and Alternates are selected?

Delegate selection is based on a formula provided by GSUSA that is based on our girl membership numbers. The last Delegation was made up of 22 Delegates and 9 Alternates. How many are selected changes term to term.

Questions can be directed to nationaldelegate@girlscoutsgcnwi.org
Learn more and apply by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/gsgcnwiDelegate>

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