

Basics of the National Council

The National Council is the membership body charged with giving broad policy direction to the future of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States. The National Council's responsibilities, eligibility requirements, composition, and size, and how and when its meetings are held, are outlined in the Congressional Charter and the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, as found in *The Blue Book of Basic Documents*.

The National Council convenes every three years, and its responsibilities are to:

- Elect the officers and other members of the National Board and National Board Development Committee
- Amend the Girl Scout Constitution as needed
- Establish requirements for certificates of membership, council charters, and all other credentials
- Act on proposals to foster and improve Girl Scouting, receive reports of the National Board of Directors, and give guidance to the National Board upon general lines of direction of the Girl Scout Movement and Girl Scout program

Composition

The National Council is composed of:

- Delegates elected by chartered Girl Scout councils
- Delegates from USA Girl Scouts Overseas
- Members of the National Board of Directors
- Members of the National Board Development Committee
- Past presidents of Girl Scouts of the USA
- Other persons as may be elected by the National Council

Delegates

The total number of delegates from councils chartered by GSUSA and USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively represents four-fifths of the entire membership and may not exceed 1,500. A formula is used to determine how many voting members each council may send to the National Council Session. This same formula is also used to select delegates to represent USA Girl Scouts Overseas.