

Service Unit Delegates



Annual Meeting

Every spring, Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington (GSOSW) holds its Annual Meeting, the gathering of the organization's executives, board of directors, and members. During the Annual Meeting, an elected group of members called delegates directly participates in council governance—electing board members, voting on changes to organizational policies and bylaws, and providing feedback on topics most affecting our members.

Delegate Eligibility

Service unit delegates must be:

- Registered members of Girl Scouts of the USA
- Affiliated with a service unit through a troop, group, or role.
- At least 14-years-old



Girls 14+
can serve their
community as a delegate



Delegate Responsibilities

- Attend the Annual Meeting.
- Elect members of the board, Board Development Committee, and national council delegates.
- Vote on proposed amendments to the articles of incorporation and bylaws.
- Vote on other actions requiring a membership vote.
- Attend service unit volunteer meetings where issues relating to policy and governance will be discussed.
- Provide input to the board of directors and staff as needed.
- Disseminate information regarding governance issues to the constituents of the service unit they represent.
- Read and understand all materials received as a delegate.

Delegate Qualifications

- **Champion the Mission:** Embrace the mission and principles of the Girl Scout Movement as embodied in the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- **Interest in Governance:** Have an interest in council policy, governance and determining the general lines of direction in the council's jurisdiction.
- **Objectivity:** Be able to be objective and participate in the deliberation of matters that affect the total council.
- **Communication:** Possess good verbal and written communication skills.



Delegate Allocation & Alternates

Each service unit is allocated at least two delegates, with additional delegates allocated based on total girl membership. GSOSW's bylaws provides the formula used to calculate the number of allocated delegates for each service unit. To make sure that each service unit has enough representation at the Annual Meeting, service units elect delegates and alternates. So, if a service unit is allocated three delegates, the service unit will elect three delegates, and three alternates to step in if a delegate is no longer able to perform the duties of a delegate.

Delegate Election

Every service unit facilitates a service unit delegate election between December 1 and January 31 in anticipation for the Annual Meeting. Service unit managers must submit their delegate list to council staff by January 31.

Delegate Training

After being elected, delegates and alternates will need to complete training for the role prior to the Annual Meeting.

Interested?

If you are interested in being a service unit delegate, submit the Service Unit Delegate Interest Form! Your service unit will receive your submission and include you as a nominee.

Girls who represent their community at the Annual Meeting can work towards Service to Girl Scouts and Torch Awards!



Frequently Asked Questions



Why are delegates important?

Service unit delegates represent the interests, needs, and unique perspectives of their local Girl Scout community. As a membership organization, it's critical that the amazing diversity of our region is present at annual meeting.

What are the benefits of being a delegate?

Being a service unit delegate is a great leadership opportunity for girl and adult members alike, can be added to college applications and resumes, and supports girls in earning the Service to Girl Scouting bar and Torch Award pin for their grade level.

Do delegates have to be adults?

No! Girls can be service unit delegates as long as they are at least 14 years of age by the date of the Annual Meeting.

How many delegates must be present at the Annual Meeting?

The Annual Meeting must reach a quorum (the minimum number of members that must be present at a meeting to make the proceedings of that meeting valid) of:

- 25% of voting members
- Delegates representing a majority of service units

How does a delegate's role fit into the council?

Where council volunteers and staff support the operational body of the council, including the day-to-day management of the organization and the implementation of policy, service unit delegates are part of the governing body of the council that approves policy and elects positions within the governance, such as the board of directors, all as part of council bylaws.

Who else is a voting member at the Annual Meeting?

- **National Council Delegates:** Attend the National Council Session held every three years to approve changes to national Girl Scout policy.
- **The Board Development Committee:** Recruits and nominates board members and national council delegates and alternates for election.
- **The Board of Directors:** Sets and approves policy and appoints the Chief Executive Officer to manage operations.

Your community deserves members who champion them in council governance—submit your nomination today!