

GSUSA National Council Session July 20-25, 2026 | Washington, D.C.

GSEMA National Council Delegate FAQ

HOW ARE NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES ELECTED?

Each Girl Scout council will elect a specific number of National Council Delegates and Alternates based upon a formula established by the National Board of Girl Scouts of the USA. At the GSEMA Annual Meeting, voting council members as defined in the [bylaws](#) will elect a slate of National Council Delegates and Alternates to serve a three-year term.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE?

Any registered member of GSEMA who is a U.S. Citizen and who will be 14 years of age or older by the date of election is eligible to apply. In accordance with council bylaws, at least one (1) National Council Delegate and one (1) alternate National Council Delegate shall be a girl member. For more information, please refer to the council [bylaws](#).

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE?

Please refer to the [National Council Delegate volunteer position description](#) for a summary of duties and responsibilities.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Applications are submitted online. The council's Board Nominating and Development Committee considers applications based on selection criteria provided by GSUSA, including the following:

- Strategic thinking
- Communication
- Experience (in either policy-influencing or policy-making capacities)
- Knowledge of Girl Scouting (local and national level)
- Decision-making
- Team-building
- Adaptability

Financial Commitment

WHAT TRAVEL EXPENSES DOES GSEMA COVER?

GSEMA will cover roundtrip air transportation, conference registration fees, and hotel lodging for all National Council Delegates (single-occupancy for adults; double or triple-occupancy for youth).

WHAT PERSONAL EXPENSES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH TRAVELING TO NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION (NCS)?

Adult National Council Delegates are expected to cover their own:	Caregivers of National Council Delegate Youth are expected to cover:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ground transportation to and from home airport and within the host city• Meals• Incidentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ground transportation to and from home airport• Meals• Incidentals

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Please do not let the inability to pay deter you from applying for this unique opportunity to represent the council. GSEMA may be able to offer some level of financial assistance to delegates with regard to reimbursing NCS-travel related expenses. Details on the process for submitting expense receipts for reimbursement will be provided by the council.

Preparation and Training

IS THERE TRAINING FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES?

GSUSA hosts a series of mandatory training webinars related to the National Council Delegate role in the months leading up to the 2026 National Council Session. GSEMA will also host additional delegate meetings.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES?

- Attend and participate fully at NCS from July 19-26, 2026 (inclusive of travel dates) in Washington, D.C. Travel dates may be adjusted by GSUSA or the council as needed.
- Participate fully in a variety of GSUSA and GSEMA online and in-person meetings and webinars prior to National Council Session. The training schedule will be determined by GSUSA.
- Gather feedback and input from council membership on NCS agenda proposals
- Carry out all duties and responsibilities as outlined in the National Council Delegate volunteer position description during the three-year term of service

WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION?

Anytime you are representing GSEMA at NCS, uniforms are preferred. Standard attire for adults is navy with scarf, tab and pins. Standard attire for girls is a vest or sash with khaki pants and white blouse.

HOW IS TIME SPENT AT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION?

It is an extremely busy time at NCS. Delegates spend most of their time together either in business sessions, council meetings, or other special events. There is limited time available for personal duties, homework, or sightseeing. Youth delegates must travel with and remain with the council chaperone throughout their time at NCS.

Next Steps

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY TO SERVE?

Candidate applications will be forwarded to the council's nominating committee for review. Interviews will be conducted and decision notifications will be issued to all applicants. Interview date, time and format to be announced.

CONTACT US

If you have additional questions about the National Council Delegate role, please [contact us](#).