

**Girl Scouts of the USA**  
**2026 National Council Session - 58<sup>th</sup> Convention**  
**July 20-22, 2026**  
**Washington, DC**

**Requirements to be a National Council Delegate**

1. Be a citizen of the United States, registered Girl Scout, and at least 14 years of age (by March 29, 2025).
2. Be available to attend the National Council Session (July 20-22, 2026) in Washington, DC.
3. Attend orientation, training, and at least one additional meeting prior to the convention.
4. Serve as a National Council Delegate for the three years and participate in occasional National Meetings during that period.
5. Serve on the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Member Advisory Committee (MAC) for three years.
6. Report on the National Convention to the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan membership.

**Definitions: Selection Criteria (Competency)**

Strategic Thinking	Demonstrates ability to think in terms of long-term goals and objectives that advance the Movement as a whole. Is future-focused.
Communication	Expresses ideas and facts in a clear manner.
Experience (policy-influencing or policy-making)	Has participated in council meetings. Effectively represents different points of view of the membership.
Has knowledge of Girl Scouting (local and national)	Has knowledge of Girl Scouting at the council level, and knowledge of the Movement.
Decision-Making	Ability to analyze issues from a council and national perspective. Demonstrates ability to weigh options and consider ramifications.
Adaptability	Demonstrates flexibility when new information is brought forward. (Comes to the session informed but not instructed.)
Team building	Promotes partnerships. Has commitment to the team approach. Will support decisions of the National Council once made.
Listening/representation	Ability to collect input from local stakeholders to inform strategic decision making and represent these communities at the national level.

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## **Delegate Role**

### **Before National Council Session**

Before attending National Council Session, each individual elected by the council as a delegate should take personal responsibility for:

- ✓ Studying all business items on the agenda (proposals and discussion topics), background information, and recommendations of the National Board of Directors.
- ✓ Attending briefings conducted by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan; and participating in forums and focus groups, as requested.
- ✓ Participating in webinars hosted by the National Board (when feasible).
- ✓ Obtaining a broad view of the opinions of adult and older girl members from all parts of the council.
- ✓ Becoming thoroughly informed on facts about Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan.
- ✓ Becoming thoroughly informed on facts about the national organization.
- ✓ Being familiar with the contents of the current edition of the Blue Book of Basic Documents.
- ✓ Knowing some basic parliamentary procedures.

### **During National Council Session**

While attending the National Council Session, each delegate is responsible for:

- ✓ Attending all meetings and participating in the proceedings.
- ✓ Being fully prepared on all business items.
- ✓ Planning (with the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Board Chair and CEO) the information to be gathered at the National Council Session and the kinds of reports that will be made to the council when the National Council Session is over.
- ✓ In addition to fulfilling their official responsibilities while attending the National Council Session, delegates should be sure to participate in celebratory and other non-business events. In this way, they experience the full benefit of coming together with such a large group of individuals from all over the country and the world who share a common purpose and the same values and beliefs.

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**After National Council Session**

Upon returning from the National Council Session, each delegate is responsible for:

- ✓ Reporting on the National Council decisions and the reasons for such decisions at Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan's Annual Meeting, to the Board of Directors, and to as much of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan's constituency as possible, as requested.
- ✓ Sharing insights gained at the National Council Session.
- ✓ Assisting Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan as it prepares to participate in the next National Council Session, as requested.