



PROPOSAL FOR 2014 NATIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA:

AMENDMENT TO MANDATE
GIRL DELEGATE POSITIONS



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August 1, 2013

**Girl Scouting builds girls
of courage, confidence,
and character who make
the world a better place.**

Visit our website:
www.gsutah.org

**Utah Council
Resource Center**
445 East 4500 South
Suite #125
Salt Lake City, UT 84107
Tel. 801-265-8472
Fax 801-261-1213

**Northern Utah
Service Center**
4161 Riverdale Road
Riverdale, UT 84405
Tel. 801-394-3077

**Central Utah
Service Center**
215 North Center Street
American Fork, UT 84003
Tel. 801-224-9852

Dear Council CEO,

Girl Scouts of Utah is seeking support for an amendment to the Girl Scout Constitution at the National Convention in 2014. The specific proposal, analysis and supporting documents are attached. Essentially, the amendment would require councils to appoint girl delegates to attend the National Convention.

As our Constitution is written now, councils are not required to have any girl involvement in the convention, even though our organization espouses it is girl-led. Girl Scouts of Utah has had girl representation on our delegation the past three conventions with much success; we've found their perspective and energy to be refreshing and enlightening. As we plan for the National Convention to be held in Salt Lake in 2014, these girls have been completely invested and will be fulfilling important roles in the execution of the convention.

By giving girls the opportunity to compete for these positions, we believe this amendment will have the ancillary effect of increasing older-girl involvement and membership. The proposal would also give girls real-world advocacy experience that would be impressive on resumes and college applications. Most importantly, the amendment solidifies that Girl Scouts is truly an organization which is girl-led, believes in learning by doing and promotes cooperative learning.

Girl Scout of Utah is excited to propose this amendment and would like your input and support leading up to, and during the National Convention. If you'd like more information, please feel free to contact me. I'm happy to discuss the background and any reservations your council may have. If you support the concept of this proposal, I'm asking you to complete the "Support of Proposal" form, included in this packet by September 13, to be included in our official submission.

Sincerely,

Debbie Nielson, Council Board Chair
Girl Scouts of Utah

Cathleen Sparrow, CEO
Girl Scouts of Utah

P.S. Thank you again for your help, we hope to hear from you soon!

**Leave a Legacy!
Please consider
a planned gift
to GSU**

Contact
development@gsu.org



July 19, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Vanessa. I am seventeen years old, and I have been a Girl Scout for nine years. As an older Girl Scout, I have had many incredible experiences, including my participation in the National Convention in Houston, Texas, as an alternate delegate. My council, Girl Scouts of Utah, took eight people to attend the National Business Meetings. Of these eight people, five were girls. The girls from my council and I were shocked at the low representation of girls from other councils. Personally, I find it sad that so few girls were given an experience that I learned so much from.

I applied to be a national delegate over a year before I attended the National Convention. I was selected as an alternate, and I promised to attend National Convention in November 2011. This taught me commitment. Soon after I was selected as an alternate delegate, my council began training everyone who would attend. We learned parliamentary procedure, political process, and the specifics of what we would be voting on. We held town meetings, where we spoke to the members of our council about the proposals and listened to their feedback. This taught me not only the political process, but also what it means to represent other people. When the girls from my council arrived at the National Business Meetings, we were prepared. This reinforced the idea that practice makes perfect. In the meetings themselves, I learned more about the political process and parliamentary procedure, and I was given an enriching experience that allowed me to collaborate with adults, but to have my own voice in an organization that I love.

These are the kinds of experiences that build girls of courage, confidence, and character that make the world a better place. Earlier this summer, I attended Girls' State; I used what I learned through this experience to participate fully and to earn a place in our mock House of Representatives. I am looking forward to my AP Government and Politics class next year in school, and I am excited to register to vote as soon as I can. I am also working to change the politics of Girl Scouts with this amendment. Clearly my experience at National Convention has impacted me. Imagine what it can do for other girls.

Sincerely,

Vanessa S.



July 19, 2013

Dear Fellow Girl Scout,

Over the past three years as a national delegate I have grown and changed. Being a delegate has helped boost my confidence, increased my listening and reasoning abilities, and my ability to take action. The opportunity to be a delegate was intriguing; I had always wanted to be involved in Girl Scouts in some way that would help better the program and to make a difference.

Confidence and self-esteem is a necessary tool for any part of life. I had to gain confidence to be able to stand in front of others, make decisions, and to voice my opinion. Being a delegate forced me to believe in myself; it taught me to stand up for what I felt was best for the organization.

I believe the most important skill I acquired and improved while being a delegate was the ability to step-up and take action. As a girl we are encouraged to see an issue and then address it as we see fit. I realized the proposals were from people who saw a problem and then took action. This helped foster my belief in how a single person can make a big difference. When I was at the convention I noticed an issue, and when I returned to Utah I decided to take action. Being a delegate encouraged me to develop this 'take action' skill further.

I found being a national delegate for the Girl Scouts of Utah was both a wonderful experience and very educational. This experience gave me a chance to grow and make a difference. I would encourage any girl to apply to be a delegate to learn these life lessons.

Sincerely,

Bianca W.

2014 National Council Proposal

AMENDMENT TO MANDATE GIRL DELEGATE POSITIONS

Statement of Proposal:

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article IV (The National Council), Section 5 (Formula for Delegates), by inserting after the first paragraph, as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendments to Policy	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30 of the year preceding the regular session of the National Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. two (2) delegates; b. one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls; c. one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter. <p>USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively shall be entitled to the number of delegates according to the same formula prescribed for local councils. The prescribed figure of 3,500 girls may be adjusted when necessary to keep the total membership of the National Council no larger than 1,500.</p>	<p>Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30 of the year preceding the regular session of the National Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. two (2) delegates; b. one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls; c. one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter. <p><u>For each council represented by six delegates or more, 20 percent of delegate positions will be held by a girl member between 14 to 17 years old.</u> USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively shall be entitled to the number of delegates according to the same formula prescribed for local councils. The prescribed figure of 3,500 girls may be adjusted when necessary to keep the total membership of the National Council no larger than 1,500.</p>	<p>Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30 of the year preceding the regular session of the National Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. two (2) delegates; b. one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls; c. one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter. <p>For each council represented by six delegates or more, 20 percent of delegate positions will be held by a girl member between 14 to 17 years old. USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively shall be entitled to the number of delegates according to the same formula prescribed for local councils. The prescribed figure of 3,500 girls may be adjusted when necessary to keep the total membership of the National Council no larger than 1,500.</p>

Submitted by:
Girl Scouts of Utah

Rational of Originating Council:

Girl Scouts is a girl-led organization that fosters girls' leadership abilities and encourages them to become advocates of change. Inherently, girls should be at the helm of the organization to guide and influence the policies and procedures of the Girl Scout Movement. This amendment requires a council with more than 14,000 members to devote a proportion of their delegate positions to girls between 14 and 17 years old. Well-trained girl members of a delegation should be able to make voting decisions as capably as adult members. More importantly, girls have the drive, ability and ambition to help guide the Girl Scout Movement and should be given the opportunity to do so.

One criterion for a council in the Blue Book of Basic Documents is, "actively seeks to strengthen the stakeholder involvement and interaction to ensure that the membership is involved in influencing major policy decisions and helping to set strategic direction." What better way to comply with this directive than to see our most important stakeholders – girls—in leadership positions, helping to guide the Girl Scout Movement as delegates at the National Convention?

Financial Impact:

The budgetary impact of this amendment would be negligible. Training for girls and adults could be conducted simultaneously. Travel costs would be unchanged.





Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2798

PROPOSAL FOR 2014 NATIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA

Name of Girl Scout Council
Girl Scouts of Utah

City
Salt Lake City

State
Utah

Write the following information exactly as the council wishes it to appear in the *Workbook* if accepted for the agenda.

TITLE OF PROPOSAL

AMENDMENT TO MANDATE GIRL DELEGATE POSITIONS

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL (in the form of a motion)

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article IV (The National Council), Section 5 (Formula for Delegates), by inserting after the first paragraph, as follows:

For each council represented by six delegates or more, 20 percent of delegate positions will be held by a girl member between 14 to 17 years old.

(over)

REASONS

Girl Scouts is a girl-led organization that fosters girls' leadership abilities and encourages them to become advocates of change. Inherently, girls should be given the opportunities to experience a higher level of leadership within the organization and influence the policies and procedures of the Girl Scout Movement.

This amendment requires a council with more than 14,000 members to devote a proportion of their delegate positions to girls between 14 and 17 years old. Well-trained girl members of a delegation should be able to make voting decisions as capably as adult members. More importantly, girls have the drive, ability and ambition to help guide the Girl Scout Movement and should be given the opportunity to do so.

One criterion for a council in the Blue Book of Basic Documents is, "actively seeks to strengthen the stakeholder involvement and interaction to ensure that the membership is involved in influencing major policy decisions and helping to set strategic direction." What better way to comply with this directive than to see our most important stakeholders – girls—in leadership positions, helping to guide the Girl Scout Movement as delegates at the National Convention?

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Indicate the projected expenditures and impact on resources for councils and the national organization, for a five (5) year period.

The budgetary impact of this amendment would be negligible.
Training for girls and adults could be conducted simultaneously.
Travel costs would be unchanged.

Debbie Nielson, Board Chair

Name of chair, or secretary, council board of directors

August 6, 2013

Date of council board meeting

On or before October 18, 2013, email to: NCagenda@girlscouts.org

Or mail form to: Office of the National Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798.

Submission Deadline: October 18, 2013



Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2798

**SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL FOR 2014
NATIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA**
(Originated by another Council)

Name of Girl Scout Council

City State

TITLE OF PROPOSAL SUPPORTED

AMENDMENT TO MANDATE GIRL DELEGATE POSITIONS

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL SUPPORTED (exact wording)

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article IV (The National Council), Section 5 (Formula for Delegates), by inserting after the first paragraph, as follows:

For each council represented by six delegates or more, 20 percent of delegate positions will be held by a girl member between 14 to 17 years old.

REASONS OF SUPPORTING COUNCIL

Name of chair, or secretary, council board of directors

Date of council board meeting

On or before October 18, 2013, email to: NCagenda@girlscouts.org
Or mail form to: Office of the National Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798.

Submission Deadline: October 18, 2013

If additional space is needed, please attach a separate page.



Thank You!

