

Welcome to Governance for Girl Scouts of Utah

The position of delegate is an important part of Girl Scouting. Delegates provide an information link between local girls and volunteers, and the GSU governing board. They also participate in the democratic process of electing officers and making changes in policy.

Governance in Girl Scouts:

- Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) uses the democratic process to make policy decisions for the Girl Scout Movement.
- The election of Board officers, Committee members, and National delegates is made by delegates who are authorized representatives of their respective councils.
- The GSUSA National Council is the major link between the national organization of Girls Scouts, and local councils.
- The National Council determines general policy, and elects the National Board and Board Development Committee (BDC).
- The National Board of Directors establishes and charters individual Girl Scout Councils, provides strategic leadership and direction, and manages the operation of GSUSA between the triennial National Council Sessions.
- Individual Girl Scout Councils elect delegates to the National Council which meets every three years. The Councils promote and deliver the GS program in their geographic region.
- Community delegates are elected to represent girls and volunteers in their local area. They serve as the communication link between their community and the Council Board. They are the official voting members for the business of the Council.

Governance vs. Operations

Governance This process looks at the big picture to set policies which support the overall vision for Girl Scouts. It involves strategic planning and money management. The voting members include the Board of Directors, Board Development Committee (BDC) and delegates.

Operations Volunteers and staff members take care of the day-to-day functions of the GS movement. This includes implementing the policies and vision established through the governance process, and setting/using the budget for troops, communities, and the council.

Responsibilities of Delegates

- Delegates need to complete the position description and agreement form and submit it to GSU either directly or through their community Delegate Representative.
- They are expected to attend regular Community meetings to understand the needs and opinions of local girls and volunteers, and to convey messages and business from the GSU Board.
- Delegates offer input to the GSU Council and Board by attending Town Meeting.
- They conduct the business of GSU when they participate in Annual Meeting.
-

Questions and Answers

- **Who is eligible to be a delegate?** Any girl Scout who is at least 14 years old and any adult leaders who serve on the Community Leadership Team (CLT).
- **How many delegates is my community allowed?** All communities have at least 2 delegates; communities whose girl membership exceeds 300 are allocated 3, and another delegate is allowed for each 100 girls thereafter.
- **What is the recommended ratio of girl to adult delegates?** It is recommended that no more than 50% of delegate positions be held by girls.
- **What if I cannot attend one of the meetings?** Each community may elect alternates to vote on behalf of their community if the delegate cannot attend. Alternates may be girls and adults.
- **What is the purpose of Annual Meeting?** This business meeting is required by law to maintain GSU's non-profit status, and provides a forum to vote on GSU officers and Board members, and policy changes.
- **How does the business of Annual Meeting happen?** A simple majority of the number of communities in the GSU Council is required to have a quorum needed to conduct business. Matters on the agenda include electing officers, and may involve amending By-laws to the GSU constitution.
- **Who determines the candidates for the slate of officers?** The BDC seeks and selects potential candidates. The slate represents individuals who provide a balance of candidates to meet the current needs of GSU. They support the values and purposes of Girl Scouts, and are willing to volunteer their time.
- **Why is there a single slate of officers presented at Annual Meeting?** The slate represents a carefully considered balance of candidates to meet the current needs of the Council. The BDC searches the Utah Community at large for individuals who support the values and purposes of Girl Scouts and are willing to volunteer their time.

Notes about Meeting dates: