

Council Policy Structure

The council policy structure shows you how policies are shaped and what role you, as a Council Delegate, have in that structure.

The structure of a Girl Scout Council may be divided into three broad areas, all related to policy:

- Policy making
- Policy influencing
- Policy implementing

A policy is an established, binding course of action to be followed and is the guiding principle of council operations.

In Girl Scouting, policies are established by Girl Scouts of the USA (Refer to *Leader's Digest* and *Blue Book of Basic Documents*).

A policy defines any of the following:

- What shall be done
- What purpose shall be followed
- What financial procedures shall operate
- What personnel practices shall be implemented
- What course of action shall be taken

POLICY MAKING

The **policy-making** responsibility rests solely with the board of directors, under the direction of the chair. **ONLY THE BOARD CAN CHANGE POLICY OR VOTE EXCEPTIONS.**

POLICY INFLUENCING

The **policy influencing** responsibility is shared by the following:

- Council Delegates
- Board Development Committee
- Board Committees & Task Groups

POLICY IMPLEMENTING

The **policy implementing** responsibility is shared by both volunteers and employed staff who perform the day-to-day work of the council, under the direction of the chief executive officer, toward achieving the council's goals and objectives. The chief executive officer is accountable to the board of directors for administering the total operation.