

# **MEMBERSHIP DUES PROPOSAL FAQs**

## **What is the Membership Dues Proposal?**

- The national board proposes an annual dues increase for girl members.
- The national board proposes an annual dues increase for adult members.
- The national council will use the “fill-in-the-blank” parliamentary process for this proposal.
- The national board recommends girl membership dues be \$85 and adult membership dues be \$45, effective for Membership Year 2026.

## **Why is GSUSA proposing a membership dues increase?**

GSUSA is proposing a membership dues increase for girls and adults to address rising costs that they have absorbed for councils over the past eight years, particularly regarding technology. After months of gathering input from local councils and delegates, the national board determined that increasing dues is necessary to sustain and support current and future members while continuing to invest in the Movement.

## **How will national delegates vote on the proposal?**

National delegates, including 10 from Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania, will cast their votes at the Special 57th National Council Session on Saturday, October 19, after extensive preparation, including proposal reviews and understanding parliamentary procedures. During the session, they will participate in informed and respectful debates, ensuring that decisions reflect the values of the Girl Scout Law and Promise while shaping the future of our movement.

## **Who are our national delegates?**

National delegates apply and are elected by Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania council delegates and include older girls and adults from across our council. National delegates are informed but not instructed on how to vote.

## **How can I voice my opinion?**

Our national delegates will be presenting the proposals and board resolutions at the upcoming Volunteer Engagement Roundtables and Fall Town Hall meeting. Here they will collect input from our council delegates to vote on behalf of our council at the Special 57th National Council Session on Saturday, October 19. Please register to attend a [Volunteer Engagement Roundtable](#) in your community (open to all active volunteers) or the virtual [Fall Town Hall Meeting](#) (open to girls ages 14 and older, council delegates, and any adult member) to learn more.

## **When was the last time GSUSA increased membership dues?**

The dues for both girls and adult members increased to \$25, effective for the 2017-18 membership year.

## **Board Resolutions – Actions Taken to Support Implementation**

In the July 2024 input sessions, national delegates spoke with great compassion about not wanting the cost of Girl Scouts to leave anyone out. In response to this powerful advocacy, and recognizing this is a large increase, the national board approved the following three resolutions to support girls and councils at its September 2024 meeting:

### **1. Financial Support to Councils**

- a. Recognizing that Girl Scout councils may require additional resources to execute the Movement strategy, including funding membership dues assistance, council financial support will be available if the national council approves girl membership dues over \$65. For five years, GSUSA will provide councils a percentage of the total annual girl membership.

### **2. National Membership Dues Scholarship Fund**

- a. In rare cases, a council's financial assistance provided by the previous resolution may not fully cover a council's membership dues financial assistance needs. To aid councils, with the approval of a girl membership dues of \$65 or more, the national board will create a membership dues scholarship support fund of up to \$5 million. Councils can apply for these funds if their incremental cost of membership dues financial assistance is more than the amount of council financial assistance (see #1) provided by GSUSA.

### **3. Phased Implementation**

- a. National delegates indicated they would be more supportive of a significant dues increase if this occurred over time versus all at once. In response, the National Board approved a resolution that, with the approval of girl membership dues of \$85 or more, GSUSA will implement a 20% discount on girl membership dues in year one (Membership Year 2026) and a 10% discount in year two (Membership Year 2027). This means that, if the National Council approves an increase in girl membership dues of \$85:
  - i. in membership year 2026, girl membership dues would be \$68,
  - ii. in membership year 2027, girl membership dues would be \$77, and
  - iii. in membership year 2028, girl membership dues would be at the approved \$85.
- b. These measures will ensure that Girl Scouts can continue to thrive and serve more girls while addressing financial challenges and keeping the organization strong for future generations.

### **Where will the additional money go?**

Increased dues will:

- make programs easier to deliver for volunteers,
- make technology easier to use, with more integration between platforms, including integrating technology tools that some volunteers already use,
- ensure that processes are easier, faster, and better streamlined, including more 'turnkey' training, recruitment tools, and programs,
- clarify and amplify for families and communities the value and impact of the Girl Scout experience and why girls should join and donors should invest,
- eliminate barriers so that every girl who wants to join Girl Scouts can do so and engage in all that Girl Scouting offers, and
- create new experiences, including opportunities to explore new places and better connect with our global sisterhood.

The chart below summarizes the investments that are possible based on the amount of annual membership dues.

## We must invest in girls. Our choice is now.

Girl Scouting must invest today to better serve our current members and to reach girls who are currently missing out on the Girl Scout experience. These are a few examples of initiatives that would be possible with an increase in national dues:

