







Council delegates are an important part of the governance of Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania. They participate in Fall Town Hall meetings, engage in discussions on major issues, and interact with service unit members to gather input on proposed policy updates. Council delegates also attend the Annual Meeting to review financial reports, vote on board of director candidates, and give broad, general direction to the board of directors as it strives to make the most appropriate policy decisions.

Who is eligible to be a council delegate? A council delegate:

- is a currently registered member of Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania, aged 14 years or older,
- does not have an outstanding debt with council, and
- does not have any unresolved conflicts with council.

What qualities make for a great council delegate?

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  | Strategic Thinking | Demonstrates ability to think in terms of long-term goals and objectives that advance the council as a whole. Is future-focused. |
|  | Communication | Expresses ideas and facts in a clear manner. |
|  | Experience (policy influencing or policy making) | Has participated in service unit meetings and Annual Meetings. Demonstrates understanding of differences between operational and policy decisions. |
|  | Has Knowledge of Girl Scouting | Has knowledge of Girl Scouting at the council level and knowledge of the Girl Scout Movement. |
|  | Decision Making | Ability to analyze issues from a service unit and council perspective. Demonstrates ability to weigh options and consider ramifications. |
|  | Adaptability | Demonstrates flexibility when new information is brought forward. |
|  | Team Building | Promote partnerships. Has a commitment to a team approach. Will support decisions of the board of directors once made. |
|  | Listening/Representation | Ability to collect input from the service unit to inform strategic decision-making and represent their service unit at the council level. |

How many council delegates should be chosen?

- The board of directors has determined that all service units should have a minimum of two delegates which will increase depending on the previous year's girl membership.
- The number of council delegates and council delegate alternates to which each service unit is entitled shall be based on the number of girls in the service unit as of September 30 of each calendar year, and each service unit shall be entitled to at least two (2) council delegates. For example:

| If your service unit has... | Elect delegates | Elect alternates |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1-100 girl members | 2 delegates | 1 alternate |
| 101-200 girl members | 3 delegates | 1 alternate |
| 201-300 girl members | 4 delegates | 2 alternates |
| 301-400 girl members | 5 delegates | 2 alternates |
| 401-500 girl members | 6 delegates | 3 alternates |
| 501-600 girl members | 7 delegates and so on... | 3 alternates |

How are council delegates chosen?

A service unit should elect council delegates at the beginning of each membership year according to the ratios listed above. They should also elect alternate council delegates to equal no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ (one-half) of the number of elected council delegates per the ratio above.

- ✓ Each service unit team (or in the absence of a service unit team, council staff) will establish a nominating committee that will seek candidates for nomination and election.
- ✓ After the service unit elects council delegates and alternates, the service unit must submit the [delegate submission form](#).
- ✓ Council staff will confirm that the elected delegates and alternates fulfill the requirements, help them acquire any required training, and place them in the delegate role.

When do these council delegates need to be chosen?

Service units should complete the delegate submission form **by Nov. 15**. New delegates must complete the required training **by Jan. 30** to be made active in their delegate role.