

Frequently Asked Questions: Girl Scouts – Dakota Horizons Delegate Process

General Information

What is a Girl Scout Delegate? *A Delegate is a Girl Scout member who is selected to act for or represent others in her/his geographic area as a Council or National Delegate. The delegate system somewhat mirrors our elected legislators who represent constituents. You are nominated by your peers and elected by those who are members of your service units and associations.*

What kinds of Delegates are present in Girl Scouting? *There are two types of Girl Scout Delegates, Council Delegates and National Delegates.*

What is an Alternate? *An Alternate is selected to fulfill the duties of a Delegate if the selected Delegate is unable to perform her/his duties.*

What is a Quorum? *The number of delegates of a group or organization required to be present to transact business legally. This number is based on a percentage of the total number of delegates elected.*

Council Delegates

Who can be a Girl Scout Council Delegate? *Any registered Girl Scout 14 years of age or over, elected as a voting member of a local Girl Scout council.*

Why are Council Delegates important? *Representing Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons (GSDH) is an honor and a privilege. When you accept the nomination, you are proudly stating your commitment to place the needs and desires of the council, association, and service unit members above your own personal interests. We encourage you to become a delegate to represent your association and service unit. Being a delegate is a wonderful way to build your resume' for college applications and for your career.*

What are the responsibilities of a Council Delegate? *Council Delegates are responsible for attending the Council's Annual Meeting and any applicable trainings leading up to the annual meeting. Council Delegates are also responsible for electing the Board of Directors, determine general lines of direction for Girl Scouting within the jurisdiction of the Council by receiving and responding to reports and information from the Board of Directors, amending and revising the Articles of incorporation and Bylaws; and other duties outlined in the position description.*

How long is the term of a GSDH Council Delegate? *One year. Delegates may serve consecutive terms.*

How many delegates is my geographic area eligible to designate? *Service Units are entitled to designate one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate and for every fifty (50) girl members, whose population is determined as of September 30 of the preceding year. (In any geographic area, any remaining portion of girl members numbering 26 and greater shall designate an additional Delegate.) Every geographic area is entitled to designate at least one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate.)*

What is the GSDH Annual Meeting and why is it important? *The GSDH Annual Meeting is the yearly business meeting of the council. The time, date, and place, is determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors rotates the location of the annual meeting among the Districts so each District holds the meeting once every four years.*

National Delegates

Who can be a Girl Scout National Delegate? *A person 14 years of age or over, selected by a local Girl Scout council as a voting member of the National Council (Girl Scouts of the USA corporation).*

How long is the term of a National Delegate? *National Council delegates serve a three-year term.*

How many National Delegates is GSDH eligible to elect? *Each local council and USA Girl Scouts Overseas can elect two delegates, as well as another one for every 3,500 girls under its jurisdiction. To count toward the 3,500, a girl must have been a member registered with Girl Scouts of the USA as of September 30 of the year proceeding the National Council's regular session. The prescribed number of girls is adjusted up or down as necessary to keep the local council and overseas delegate total as close as possible to 1,500.*

What are the responsibilities of a National Delegate? *National Delegates are required to attend the National Council Session and any applicable trainings or meetings leading up to the session. The National Council at its sessions shall hold elections, amend the Constitution, establish requirements for credentials, and shall determine the general lines of policy of the Girl Scout Movement and program by considering and acting upon proposals directed toward the fostering and improvement of Girl Scouting, by receiving and acting upon reports of its National Board of Directors, and by giving guidance to the National Board upon general lines of direction of the Movement and program.*

What is the National Council Session? *The National Council Session is a tri-annual meeting of the National Council Delegates.*