

Constitutional Amendment on the Timing of Delegate Allotment

Originated by:

Girl Scouts of the USA National Board of Directors on recommendation of the National Council Session Advisory Team

Proposal

THAT Article IV (The National Council), Section 5 (Formula for Delegates) of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA be amended by striking “of the year,” and inserting the words, “two years” before the word “preceding.” If approved the text would read as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30 of the year preceding the regular session of the National Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. two (2) delegates; b. one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls; c. one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter. 	<p>Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30, two years of the year preceding the regular session of the National Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. two (2) delegates; b. one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls; c. one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter. 	<p>Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30, two years preceding the regular session of the National Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. two (2) delegates; b. one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls; c. one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter.
<p>USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively shall be entitled to the number of delegates according to the same formula prescribed for local councils.</p>	<p>USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively shall be entitled to the number of delegates according to the same formula prescribed for local councils.</p>	<p>USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively shall be entitled to the number of delegates according to the same formula prescribed for local councils.</p>
<p>The prescribed figure of 3,500 girls may be adjusted when necessary to keep the total membership of the National Council no larger than 1,500.</p>	<p>The prescribed figure of 3,500 girls may be adjusted when necessary to keep the total membership of the National Council no larger than 1,500.</p>	<p>The prescribed figure of 3,500 girls may be adjusted when necessary to keep the total membership of the National Council no larger than 1,500.</p>

Rationale

Proposal Summary

This proposal amends the Constitution to adjust the membership year on which delegate allotment is based. The change will allow GSUSA to confirm the number of delegates to which each council is entitled before any delegate election occurs, avoiding the need to conduct elections based on preliminary data and potentially adjust after receiving final numbers. The time when councils elect delegates is not affected by this proposal. In proposing this Constitutional amendment, it is the intent of the National Board to lessen the administrative burden on councils when selecting their National Council delegates.

Current Practices/Background

In 2020, the National Council amended the Constitution to require national delegates be elected in the calendar year preceding the National Council Session. Implementation of this change has been generally positive. Under the Constitution, the number of delegates to which each council is entitled is based on membership numbers as of September 30 of the calendar year preceding NCS. Those numbers are not finalized and released until November 30. Since many councils elect their delegates at annual meetings between January through April (e.g., for NCS 2023, from January through April 2022), they must estimate how many delegates they will have and adjust if needed after receiving their official membership numbers.

Timeline for 2023 NCS:

- Councils elected their delegates in the calendar year 2022.
- However, official girl membership numbers for MY 2022, which currently dictate the number of delegates allotted to a council, were not available until November 2022.
- The councils who elected delegates January 2022 through November 2022 estimated their delegate allotment and elected a ranked list of alternates.
- When final allocations were known, councils adjusted their data, if necessary.

This proposal eliminates the need for preliminary data to be adjusted by changing the timing of the delegate allotment. If approved, councils will know their delegate allotment number before any delegate elections occur.

Financial Impact Statement

This proposal has a positive financial impact by streamlining the National Council delegates election process allowing staff resources to be focused on other initiatives.