
New Council Delegate Orientation

Fall 2008

Purpose of this Orientation

- Provide a baseline understanding of the **delegate's vital role** in providing valuable guidance to the Board of Directors in its governance of the Council.
 - Stress the **importance of the democratic process** when influencing policy decisions.
 - Step through the **Annual Meeting process**.
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Basic Terms

Governance is many interdependent systems that set direction, make policy and provide oversight for the organization. Governance gives members a “voice” and provides access to decision makers. Structures generally are defined by bylaws and are tied together by the democratic process.

Democratic process is a basic belief that characterizes the Girl Scout Movement. Democracy is not only the right to vote, but the responsibility to vote for the good of the whole rather than for purely local interests.

Policy-influencing is the process by which members are informed, can discuss issues and provide input to the Board of Directors regarding policy changes that affect a large portion of the membership or require large expenditures of funds.

Operations involves the day-to-day processes necessary to run the organization (e.g. membership, programs, product sales, public relations, training, property management, human relations, safety).

Organization of GSCNC Membership

VOLUNTEER STAFF

National Board of Directors (elected)

Board of Directors (elected)
7 Officers and 23 Members at Large

Association Team

Assn Chairs/Asst Chairs (appointed)
Secretary, Money Manager, Product
Sales and SHARE Chairs, etc.

Service Unit Team

SU Managers and Registrars (appointed)
Delegates/Alternate Delegates (selected)
SU Organizers, SU SHARE Chair
SU Cookies Manager, etc.

Troop Leaders
Adult Volunteers

MEMBERSHIP STAFF

Executive Director

Deputy Executive Director
Area Membership Managers

Field Directors
Linguistic Outreach Specialists

GSUSA

GSCNC

ASSOCIATIONS
23 in MD, VA, DC

Service Units
145

Troops

4,558 Daisy, Brownie,
Junior, Cadette, and
Senior Troops

Juliettes

Registered,
Non-Troop Based Girls



53,609 registered girls

Key Responsibilities

- **Officers/Board of Directors** (President-Diane Tipton)
 - Sets Policy
 - Establishes Goals
 - Takes Budget Action
 - Sets Direction
 - **Executive Director** (Jan Verhage)
 - Manages operations via staff and volunteers
 - **Membership** (Registered members 14 y.o. and older)
 - Forms geographic Associations and Service Units
 - Selects Council delegates (1 for every 200 registered girls)
 - Provides input to Board of Directors and Executive Director
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Role of Council Delegate

- Provides valuable guidance to the Board of Directors in its governance of the Council.
 - Serves as a liaison and engages in open, constructive, two-way communication between the Board of Directors and Service Units.
 - Attends forums and the Annual Meeting
 - Is accountable to the Board of Directors and to the Service Units.
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Term of Position

- 1-year term (or unexpired term < than 1 year) with a maximum of 4 consecutive terms
 - Term is forfeited for **failure to attend the Annual Meeting** (or register on time)
 - Delegates who cannot complete their terms should notify their Service Unit Manager in writing.
 - Alternate delegates will fill any unexpired terms.
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What Happens at the Annual Meeting?

- Register in the main lobby at 8:00 a.m. by Area
 - Proceed to designated Area seating location by 9:15 a.m.
 - Meeting begins with flag procession and opening ceremony
 - Adoption of agenda and rules of order
 - Minutes and Treasurer's report are approval
 - Elections (Officers, Board, Nominating Committee)
 - President's and Executive Director's addresses
 - Forum feedback
 - Recognitions (retiring Board/Nominating Committee)
 - Installation (newly-elected Board/Nominating Committee)
 - Closing ceremony - 12 noon
 - ~~Recognitions Luncheon – 12:30~~
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Rules of Order

- All motions will be submitted to the Secretary in writing.
 - Speakers will state their name and their position.
 - All remarks will be addressed to the Chair.
 - All remarks will be germane (e.g. speak to the question)
 - Each speaker will have two minutes to speak.
 - No one will speak twice until everyone wishing to speak has spoken once.
 - Each motion will be allotted five minutes
 - Debates can be extended by a two-thirds vote and can be closed by a motion to “call the question.”
 - Amendments require a majority vote while bylaws adoption requires a two-thirds vote
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Resources

- WAGGGS <http://www.waggggs.org>
 - GSUSA Website <http://www.girlscouts.org>
 - GSCNC Website <http://www.gscnc.org>
 - Blue Book of Basic Documents
 - GSCNC Bylaws and Article of Incorporation
 - Volunteer Basics
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In Summary...

- Girl Scouting is based on democratic principles
 - Delegates make up a key policy-influencing group within GSCNC. Board of Directors are the decision makers
 - Currently, select 1 delegate to represent every 200 registered girl members
 - Delegate's term is 1-year long unless they are filling an unexpired term of less than 1 year
 - Delegates are responsible to the Board of Directors and to the Service Unit that selects them
 - Time commitment for a Delegate is year long
 - Delegates must attend the Annual Meeting
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Questions??
