

## 2026 Forum Preparation

Dear Delegate:

Thank you so much for serving as a representative for your service unit. Our Board of Directors values the input of our members and relies on you to communicate on behalf of your service unit.

Each year at Forums [Service Unit Delegate Forums \(gscnc.org\)](https://gscnc.org), the Board solicits our members' input on a different topic. The Girl Scout program focuses on four program pillars: Outdoors, Entrepreneurship, STEM, and Life Skills. The Life Skills our Girl Scouts need today and into the future range from communication to decision-making and problem-solving to self-awareness and physical health. The Board wants to hear our members' ideas about preparing our Girl Scouts for independence.

To guide our delegates, the Board is interested in knowing the following:

- 1 How do we make Girl Scout programs feel less like an activity to our members and more like the lifelong intergenerational movement they belong to?
- 2 What do we need to do to transition from being a "nice to have" option to being the "must have for life" option for families?
- 3 How do we ensure that our program reflects what today's youth care about, not just what we think they care about?

We have developed a discussion guide to help you as a delegate solicit feedback from your service unit. If a Service Unit has more than one delegate, all delegates should have a role in the presentation. Ideally, the discussion would occur at your December or January service unit meeting, so please talk to your service unit manager, and ask for 15-20 minutes on the agenda. The feedback you collect can inform your participation in the Forum – truly representing your service unit.

Once you have gathered your feedback, you will have an opportunity to share at one of the Forums listed below.

## 2026 Forum Preparation

### 2026 Forum Dates

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Saturday, February 7	10 AM	Girl Scout office – Martinsburg 153 McMillan Court Martinsburg, WV 25404
Saturday, February 7	2 PM	Girl Scout office – Manassas 10432 Balls Ford Road, Suite 140 Manassas, VA 20109
Monday, February 9	7 PM	MANAT Offices Conference Room 20250 Century Boulevard Germantown, MD 20874
Saturday, February 14	10 AM	Girl Scout Office – Kingstowne 5680 King Center Drive Kingstowne, VA 22315
Wednesday, February 18 (Virtual)	7 PM	<b>Virtual –</b>  Zoom Link will be provided after registration
Saturday, February 21	10 AM	Girl Scout Office – DC 4301 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite M-2 Washington, DC 20008
Saturday, February 21– Teen Forum	10 AM	Girl Scout Office – DC 4301 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite M-2 Washington, DC 20008
Sunday, February 22	2 PM	Girl Scout Office – Brandywine 7704 Matapeake Business Drive Suite 220 Brandywine, MD 20613
Thursday, February 26 Virtual	7 PM	<b>Virtual –</b>  Zoom Link will be provided after registration

If you have any questions about registering for the Forums, please contact Council Care at [councilcare@gscnc.org](mailto:councilcare@gscnc.org). Thank you for all you do to make Girl Scouting possible.

Regards,

**Antoinette Barksdale**

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Second Vice President, Board of Directors

### Delegate Discussion Guide

Request 15-20 minutes on the December or January service unit meeting agenda. **Before arriving at the meeting**, make copies of handout (*see Activity Directions to determine quantity*).

#### Suggested Talking Points:

- **Introduction:** Introduce yourself as a service unit delegate, include other Girl Scout positions or program level, too.
- **Role of Delegate:** As a Delegate, I am responsible for communicating on behalf of this service unit to our Council's Board of Directors.
- **Forums:** Each year at regional meetings or Forums hosted the Board solicits feedback from delegates on different topics. I am planning to attend the Forum on *(date)*.

**Background:** Each year at Forums [Service Unit Delegate Forums \(gscnc.org\)](https://gscnc.org), the Board solicits our members' input on a different topic. The Girl Scout program focuses on four program pillars: Outdoors, Entrepreneurship, STEM, and Life Skills. The Life Skills our Girl Scouts need today and into the future range from communication to decision-making and problem-solving to self-awareness and physical health. The Board wants to hear our members' ideas about preparing our Girl Scouts for independence.

- **Forum Questions:**
  1. How do we make Girl Scout programs feel less like an activity to our members and more like the lifelong intergenerational movement they belong to?
  2. What do we need to do to transition from being a "nice to have" option to being the "must have for life" option for families?
  3. How do we ensure that our program reflects what today's youth care about, not just what we think they care about?
- **Preparation:** Before I attend the Forum, I wanted to get your input on these specific questions.
- **Activity Directions:** I would like you to split into small groups (*2-4 people each depending on the number of meeting attendees*). I have a handout with the questions I would like you to discuss as well as space to record highlights of your discussion. We will do some sharing as a large group, but I need you to capture your discussion in writing so that your ideas are not lost. Questions?
- **Wrap Up:** After about eight to ten minutes of discussion, gather the large group. Ask for two or three highlights in response to the question. Thank everyone for participating and collect handouts.

**Service Unit #:**

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**How do we make Girl Scout programs feel less like an activity to our members and more like the lifelong intergenerational movement they belong to?**

**What do we need to do to transition from being a "nice to have" option to being the "must have for life" option for families?**

**How do we ensure that our program reflects what today's youth care about, not just what we think they care about?**

**Additional Comments:**