

# #ProposalsOnTheAgendaForNCS2023

## Discussion Topics

One of the critical roles of the National Council is providing guidance to the National Board “upon general lines of direction of the Movement and program.” NCS agenda discussion topics are purposefully selected to highlight matters where we collectively – delegates, council leadership, and the National Board – will benefit from hearing multiple viewpoints, collecting feedback, etc. Additionally, discussion topics allow for dialogue in a less constrained format. This input informs both future delegate action during future National Council Sessions, as well as actions by the National Board on governance matters or GSUSA/council management teams on operational changes during the time between National Council Sessions. To gather more input from delegates and visitors, discussion topics may also be extended into the Hall of Experiences in the form of surveys, “chat areas”, etc.

**NCS 2023 Discussion Topic: Democratic Process and Delegate Voice** will provide input to improve our democratic process. Multiple councils submitted proposals related to Movement governance. This discussion topic will give delegates an opportunity to hear input more freely than within the narrow scope of proposal debate. Shaped by this discussion topic, a Movement Governance Advisory Team will be created to consider feedback and reflect on opportunities to strengthen and evolve our shared Movement governance. The Team will provide periodic updates to the National Board and delegates and may recommend practices for immediate action which do not require further deliberation by the National Council. The discussion topic will be shaped by ideas put forth in several submitted proposals that are not on the NCS agenda including:

- Constitutional Amendment: Role of the National Council
- Constitutional Amendment: Frequency of National Council Sessions
- Ensuring the Importance and Effectiveness of the Democratic Process in the Movement
- Constitutional Amendment on Credentials and Amendment to Credentials Section

## Proposals for Action

Proposals reflect the National Council Session’s responsibility to act on proposals to foster and improve Girl Scouting and to amend the Constitution. Const. Art. V, Sec. 2. *These items will be considered for a delegate vote during the NCS.*

### **Allowing the possibility of virtual attendance for National Council Sessions and for Special Sessions of the National Council**

This proposal would build on the 55<sup>th</sup> NCS held virtually in 2020 during the peak of the pandemic – the first ever virtual NCS. The proposal would build flexibility into our governing documents by amending the Constitution to allow for, but not require, virtual sessions which reflect a more efficient and agile meeting format.

### **Constitutional Amendment on the Timing of Delegate Allotment**

This proposal would amend the Constitution to simplify the process for councils as they choose National Council delegates. Changing the date on which delegate allocations (calculated using council membership size) are based would allow councils to more efficiently plan for and select their delegates.

### **Constitutional Amendment Formula for Delegates**

This proposal would create a Constitutional Amendment to help keep the number of delegates as close to 1,500 as possible while ensuring the number of delegates allocated to councils remains proportional to the council's girl membership.

### **Council Representation on the National Board**

This proposal would require the composition of the National Board to include three council CEOs. Recognizing implementation complexities including the National Board Development Committee (NBDC) effort required to assess the capabilities, geographic representation, diversity, etc. needed for an effective Board slate and then identifying, cultivating, and screening candidates relative to these requirements, this proposal will include a 2026 effective date.

### **Amend the Girl Scout Promise and Law to use more potent, actionable language**

The wording of our Promise and Law is deeply meaningful to Girl Scouts of all ages. This proposal provides the opportunity to debate and decide whether we should remove the words "try," "to," and "do my best."

### **DEIRJ Language Proposal**

Girl Scouting remains dedicated to supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice (DEIRJ). The Girl Scout Law affirms our commitment to being a sister to every Girl Scout. This proposal is an important step in our Movement's journey to become an anti-racist, inclusive organization. Inserting the word "anti-racist" in the Preamble to the Constitution would codify our commitment to racial equity in governing documents and would strengthen and refresh existing language that states, "Girl Scouts advance diversity and pluralism in our Movement and in the communities in which we live." It would also support and propel existing DEIRJ efforts across the Movement.

### **Girl Scouts Gold Award Scholarship Fund**

This proposal would fulfill the action taken by the National Council in 2020 and establish a donor-restricted fund that invests in the post-high school education of Gold Award Girl Scouts. In response to overwhelming delegate support for Gold Award Girl Scouts voiced during NCS 2020, the National Board has been proactively fundraising to ensure scholarships are available to girls who earn the highest award in Girl Scouting.