



girl scouts  
of south carolina  
mountains to midlands

# **Council Delegate Information Packet**



Building girls of  
courage, confidence,  
and character,  
who make the world  
a better place.

# Girl Scouts of South Carolina—Mountains to Midlands COUNCIL DELEGATE PROCESS Information Packet

---

## GIRL SCOUTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA – MOUNTAINS TO MIDLANDS, INC.

### OVERVIEW

Girl Scouts is the world's pre-eminent organization dedicated solely to girls. Girl Scouting offers girls an accepting and nurturing environment in which they develop strong values, leadership skills, social conscience and conviction about their own potential and self-worth. The Girl Scout program can change the way girls see the world and their place in it. Girls learn the importance of personal responsibility, the value of goal-setting, the spirit of teamwork, and the thrill of accomplishment. They participate in programs involving leadership and self-esteem, community outreach and education, environmental awareness, financial literacy, health and wellness, arts, travel and science, technology, engineering and math. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts are our future community leaders.

### HISTORY OF GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts of the USA was founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912. Girls between the ages of 5 and 17 are invited to join one of nearly 240,000 local troops throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and more than 150 other countries as members of WAGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts). The nation's First Lady customarily has adopted the role as honorary leadership.

### THE COUNCIL

Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands serves nearly 15,000 girl and adult members who live in a 22-county region that stretches from the central Midlands throughout the western Upstate regions of South Carolina.

**Service Centers:** Columbia, Greenville, and Spartanburg, South Carolina

**Corporate Office:** Greenville, SC

**Budget:** 5 Million

**Total Assets:** 11 Million

**Web site:** [www.gssc-mm.org](http://www.gssc-mm.org) (separate delegate kiosk site after election)

### REFERENCE MATERIAL ON DELEGATE WEBSITE

Fact Sheet – Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA)

Fact Sheet – Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands, Inc.

Jurisdictional Map

# GOVERNANCE INFLUENCING SOUTH CAROLINA – MOUNTAINS TO MIDLANDS

## INTER-DEPENDENCE

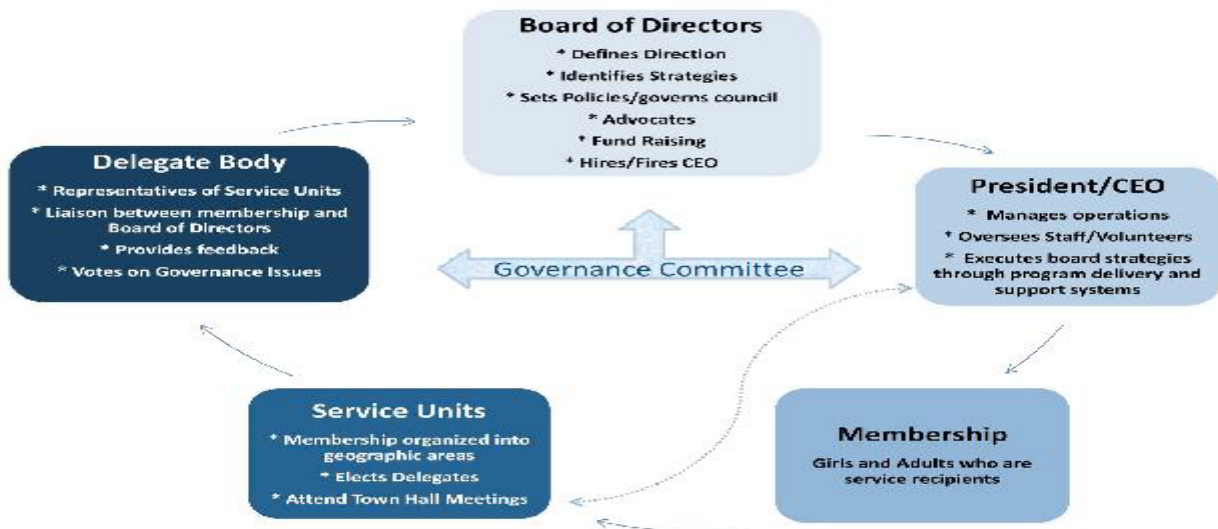
Girl Scouting is a Movement...it is constantly in motion, aligning with the current needs of the girls. Input at all levels -- discussion, evaluation, feedback and decision-making -- empowers the membership. Girl Scouting was built upon the inter-dependence model. Just as councils operate with the national organization, service units operate with local councils, and troops operate with local service units. Think if you will, McDonalds. There is the national corporation that provides the menus, advertising, brand marketing, and materials for delivery to customers. The local restaurants, while independently owned and managed, customize the national strategy and brand plan for positioning, sales, growth and service retention in their region.

Those that engage the process will impact the vision process – the foundation of the democratic process. Aligning ideas, efforts, and desires insures focused ownership, program delivery, and financial stability. Governance is about the overall policy issues of the council. The future is determined through the strategic direction of Girl Scouts of the USA, the regional work of the Board of Directors with focused priorities, and the support and feedback from the delegates representing the membership.

## REFERENCE MATERIAL ON DELEGATE KIOSK

Orientation Materials on Delegate Website (note: every elected delegate will receive a password for access with their January confirmation of term letter)

### How the Board of Directors Obtains Input from Delegates



# DELEGATES OF THE COUNCIL

## DELEGATE DUTIES

The council's delegate body is comprised from four different groups: peer-elected representatives from each council Service Unit, all members of the council's Board of Directors, all members of the Board of Director's Nominating Committee, and all council-elected National Council Delegate representatives.

With exception of the National Council Delegates who serve three years, all council delegates denoted above serve a two-year term (refer to Bylaw details under 'Term'). Primarily charged with providing an information conduit between the Service Unit to the Board of Directors, Council Delegates are charged with:

1. Hear the report of the Board of Directors
2. Act on information and action items presented to the delegation
3. Vote on amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws or related policy documents
4. Elect the Board of Directors from a slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee
5. Insure council representation at the National Council Session by electing National Council Delegates every three years
6. Communicate with the Board of Directors to help establish direction for on new strategies for success, growth and expansion throughout our regions served.

## DELEGATE CALCULATION BY SERVICE UNIT

The council's governing policies denote how many delegates each Service Unit may have as members of the council delegate body. Each Service Unit in the council is entitled to one Delegate for every 100 girls registered as members of the Service Unit as of September 30 of that year. Any Service Unit with less than 100 girls shall be entitled to one Delegate.

Election of the new delegates for the upcoming calendar year shall be conducted at a Service Unit meeting held in the first quarter of the Girl Scout fiscal year (October-December). Those members present and voting shall constitute a quorum. There is no proxy vote option. There is no Alternate Delegate provision. The Governance structure is that of "elected peer representation" vs. "one member, one vote". Each Girl Scout council determines the structure and denotes within the Bylaws. Election results must be detailed in the Service Unit meeting minutes and those minutes forwarded the council's Governance Project Manager for confirmation.

## TERM

Should Service Units not elect Delegates by the end of December, they will not have representation at council business meetings for the following calendar year.

- Each elected Delegate shall serve a two-year term
- Following Service Unit election, terms of office shall begin in January
- No elected Delegate shall serve for more than three consecutive terms. However, previously elected Delegates are eligible for re-election after the lapse of one year.
- Vacancies occurring by resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled until the next fall election of the Service Unit by an affirmative vote, with supporting minutes, of the Service Unit members in attendance. Any Delegate may resign from office at any time by delivering a written resignation to the Service Unit Manager, who confirms with the council governance contact. The resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or, if no time is specified, at the time of its receipt by the Service Unit Manager.



# COUNCIL DELEGATE DESCRIPTION

## THE POSITION

A Council Delegate is a corporate member of the Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountain to Midlands’s governance framework and provides information to the Board of Directors as well as receives and responds to reports and information *from* the Board of Directors.

The Council Delegate is accountable to the Delegate body as well as serves as the representative voice for the Service Unit that selected them charged with the dissemination of council and national Girl Scout governance information.

## ROLE/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Complete GSSCMM Delegate Orientation (on line)
- Attend two business meetings per year (meetings to be confirmed annually; refer to calendar of delegate work)
- Gather Service Unit membership feedback on projects, critical issues or areas of focus
- Interpret, support and convey all Council policies, goals and objectives, and fundraising efforts supporting the strategic priorities
- Attend the fall Council Annual Business Meeting to:
  - Be informed and prepared about key national and council projects so that you can update your Service Unit members
  - Provide input to the Board of Directors on proposed new policies and other major decisions, as relevant
  - Provide feedback and/or recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding strategies, plans, or change in council governing structure, as relevant
  - Elect the council Board of Directors from a slate provided by the Nominating Committee and the Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the National Council of GSUSA. (Note: Only the Council Delegate can vote, when the Annual Business Meeting is combined with volunteer recognition or other general meeting activity)
  - Be informed and prepared to take any action requiring membership vote and as announced in the Call to Meeting
- Encouraged to attend Town Hall and Service Unit meetings to promote two-way dialogue with relevant governance and operational topics
- Promote community visibility by:
  - Serving as a liaison between the Board of Directors and local community with strategic messaging
  - Identifying and communicating community needs to the Board of Directors at meetings
  - Interpreting the Board of Directors’ works to the community
  - Serve as an advocate of the Girl Scouts through leadership, role-modeling, and messaging or referrals
  - Refer any agenda items or referrals to the Governance Committee for consideration

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Currently registered with Girl Scouts of the USA in this council
- Active Service Unit member fourteen years of age or older
- No outstanding Council debts or related policy issue
- Positive support and promotion of the Board of Directors and Council goals, policies and objectives

## COMPETENCIES

Delegates to the Council Delegation or to the National Council Delegation are expected to demonstrate the following:

**Consensus Builder** – promotes partnerships, has commitment to a team approach; can explain to others and will support decisions of the Council delegate body and Board of Directors once made

**Decision-Making** – has the ability to analyze issues from a council and national perspective; demonstrates ability to weigh options and consider ramifications

**Girl Scout Knowledge** – an understanding of and experience with the council and the Girl Scout Movement through current membership

**Leadership** - be an active participant in moving the organization forward

**Informed** – perceived ability to come to the session informed, but not instructed

## BEHAVIOR

In this volunteer leadership role, behavior of a Council Delegate or National Council Delegate is guided by the Girl Scout Promise and with actions outlined in the Girl Scout Law. In addition, behaviors required of this role include:

- To prepare in advance, listen fully, and engage respectfully
- To represent the greater good of the Service Unit vs. the preferences of the individual
- Demonstrate good communication skills, sound judgment and objectivity when analyzing issues and participating in decision-making
- Commitment to fulfilling duties as outlined including training, two business meetings, and service unit communication annually
- Orientation is required
- Fulfill duties as outlined in position description

## REFERENCE MATERIAL ON DELEGATE WEBSITE

GSUSA Blue Book of Basic Documents  
Council Bylaws  
Council Governance Framework  
Available Delegates by Service Unit (update annually every October)  
She Sees the Future  
ToGetHerThere

---

## CONTACTS

### GOVERNANCE CHAIR

**Debra Hamm**  
**Chair, Board Governance Committee**  
Email: [governancechair@gssc-mm.org](mailto:governancechair@gssc-mm.org)

### STAFF GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR

**Governance Manager & Executive Assistant to the CEO & Board  
Council Contact for the Delegate Body & National Convention**  
Address: Five Independence Point Suite 120, Greenville, SC 29315  
Phone: 800-849-GIRL (4475) extension: 1407  
Direct: 864-770-1407  
Email: [tasplund@gssc-mm.org](mailto:tasplund@gssc-mm.org)

### GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP

**Rebecca H. Lever**  
**Chair of the Board of Directors**  
[boardchair@gssc-mm.org](mailto:boardchair@gssc-mm.org)