

Delegate Formula and Process for Election of National Delegates

By November 8, 2019, Girl Scouts of the USA will send a letter to each Girl Scout council indicating the number of National Council delegates the council is entitled to elect for the Girl Scout 2020 National Council Session, to be held October 21-25, 2020 in Orlando, Florida. The information below is being sent in advance to help prepare councils for this process and to answer any preliminary questions that may arise.

How is the Delegate Formula Determined?

As indicated in Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (found in the Blue Book of Basic Documents, February 2019 edition):

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:

- Two (2) delegates;
- One (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls;
- One (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter.

USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively shall be entitled to the number of delegates according to the same formula prescribed for local councils. The prescribed figure of girls may be adjusted when necessary to keep the total membership of the National Council no larger than 1,500.

Adjusted Formula

The National Board adjusted the delegate formula for the 2020 National Council Session at its January Board 2019 Board Meeting, with the intention of increasing National Council delegate representation. Each council will be entitled to elect:

- two (2) delegates;
- one (1) additional delegate for up to 1,500 girls;
- one (1) additional delegate for every 1,500 girls thereafter.

Note: this formula is changed from the ratio of 1 additional delegate for every 2,000 girls used for the last three National Council Sessions and will increase the number of delegates a council is entitled to elect. The formula determines the number of delegates to which a council is entitled, not required, to elect.

For those councils that will need to slate and/or elect their National Council delegates and alternates prior to receiving official notification of their delegate count from GSUSA, please see the guidelines below or contact BoardOffice@girlscouts.org for additional guidance.

What is the procedure if the election occurs prior to receipt of the official letter from GSUSA?

The following procedure is for use by Girl Scout councils when council governing documents require election of delegates prior to receipt of the official letter from GSUSA verifying the delegate count:

1. In the call to the meeting, announce that the election is being conducted based on the **“best estimate,”** of the number of National Council delegates the council will be entitled to send to the 2020 National Council Session. The number of delegates the council is actually entitled to send to the 2020 National Council Session may change based on the council’s FY2019 year-end girl membership.
2. Conduct the election by ballot so that delegates and alternates can be ranked (e.g. highest vote getter is delegate 1, next highest vote getter is delegate 2 and so forth).
3. Elect **fewer** delegates than the council believes it will be entitled to send to the National Council Session.
4. Elect at least half as many alternates. Once the official number of delegates allocated to the council is received from GSUSA, alternates (in rank order) can fill the vacant positions for delegates not elected.
5. Document in the minutes of the meeting that the election was based on the Council’s “best estimate.”

Example

If the Council believes it will be entitled to 15 delegates to the National Council Session:

1. Elect fewer than 15 delegates (e.g., 12)
2. Elect more than half that number as alternates (e.g., 7-10)
3. Based on FY19 membership data, the Council receives the official count from GSUSA and it is entitled to 17 delegates
 - a. The 12 elected delegates retain their elected positions
 - b. Alternates numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 step in to fill the unfilled delegate positions
 - c. The remaining alternates (6-10) retain their alternate positions

Questions

Please email the Office of the National Board at BoardOffice@girlscouts.org.