



58th NCS and Girl Scouts Unite Event

Frequently Asked Questions

As of September 3, 2025

GENERAL EVENT DETAILS

What is the venue for the 58th National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite event?

The 58th **National Council Session (NCS)** and **Girl Scouts Unite** event will take place at:

Walter E. Washington Convention Center
801 Allen Y. Lew Place NW
Washington, DC 20001

[Visit](#) the official tourism site of Washington, DC, for planning resources.

Who decides the location of each National Council Session?

Girl Scouts of the USA's National Board determines where each NCS takes place based on a variety of factors, including ease of travel, capacity needs, and logistical considerations.

How did you select the dates for the 58th NCS and Girl Scouts Unite event?

We have heard from our members that July is a good time to hold the National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite event as it reduces the need for girl delegates and girl attendees to miss school. By offering this event in July, when the majority of the country is on summer break, we hope to provide the opportunity for more Girl Scouts, families, and troops to attend, participate, and witness the democratic process at NCS.

Is the Girl Scouts Unite event for all Girl Scouts or just older ones? Are families welcome too? And what about alums, volunteers, and other supporters of the Girl Scout mission?

This event is open to all, including Girl Scout members, alums, families, and non-members. We will be sharing more information about the specifics of the event as we have them, but there will be activities and demos in the Hall of Experiences, special guests, live performances, and much more.

EVENT NAME & THEME

What specifically does the Girl Scouts Unite event refer to?

The first three days of the event will be referred to as the **58th National Council Session**.

Girl Scouts Unite event is the name for the girl experience taking place Thursday, July 23, through Saturday, July 25, 2026, which is open to:

- girls in grades k–12 (members and non-members), parents, caregivers, siblings, and troop

leaders,

- Girl Scout alums and volunteers,
- sponsors and exhibitors, and
- industry leaders who care about girl issues.

Do I need to be a registered Girl Scout to attend the 58th National Council Session or Girl Scouts Unite event?

You do not have to be a registered Girl Scout to attend the 58th NCS as a visitor or the Girl Scouts Unite event. The events are open to members and non-members.

Is the theme "Girls Make History" the same for both NCS and the Girl Scouts Unite event?

The "Girls Make History" theme will carry through the programming for both NCS and the Girl Scouts Unite event. The speakers and program elements of the Girl Scouts Unite event will be selected with this theme in mind. The NCS program will be primarily driven by the proposals and discussion topics selected through the Movement governance process and will include program elements to connect it to the theme.

REGISTRATION

Can you please explain the difference between the 3- and 6-day tickets?

- The 3-day All Access ticket is for the Girl Scouts Unite event taking place Thursday, July 23, through Saturday, July 25, 2026. This ticket does not cover NCS.
- The 6-day All Access ticket is for those observing NCS, taking place Monday, July 20, through Wednesday, July 22, and participating in the Girl Scouts Unite event.

Is a unique email address required for each registrant?

Yes. Each registrant must have a unique email address. This includes caregiver-youth pairings; caregivers will need to provide a secondary email address for their youth.

Will an image release or other paperwork be required from each registrant?

Yes. The Event Terms and Conditions must be reviewed and accepted electronically by each adult and parent or legal guardian of a minor attending NCS and/or the Girl Scouts Unite event through the registration portal.

Will girls be able to use their cookie rewards to attend?

Each council determines how Girl Scouts can use the cookie rewards—including what some councils call "cookie dough"—that they have earned by participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Please check with your council to see if they will be offering this option.

HOTEL & TRAVEL INFORMATION

Is any one hotel considered the "main" hotel for this event?

No. GSUSA has secured room blocks at 17 hotels within one mile of the Walter E. Washington

Convention Center. You can select the hotel that best meets your budget and convenience needs.

Which hotel(s) is closest to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center? Are any connected?

All hotels part of GSUSA's room block are within one mile of the convention center. The Marriott Marquis is connected to the convention center.

How many days before and after the event will discounted hotel rates be available?

The shoulder dates vary by hotel, with most starting three days prior (Friday, July 17) and ending three days after (Tuesday, July 28).

When will we be able to book hotels, and how will it work?

The hotel reservation portal opened for the general public on September 3, 2025. Hotel reservations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Do registration and hotel prices include fees and taxes? If not, what percentage can we plan for budgeting purposes?

Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes. Fees, if applicable, vary by hotel and will be disclosed when the hotel reservation is made.

Event tickets and á la carte options available on the **Girl Scouts Unite** event registration site are not subject to taxes.

Is there an official airline partner for this event? Are bus trips being organized to/from this event?

Girl Scout members should check with their local councils to see whether they will be organizing any group travel plans or discounts from their regions.

Please note that there is currently no official or preferred national airline or bus company.

Should my troop travel to the Girl Scouts Unite event?

The Girl Scouts Unite event is a great experience for both families and troops. Troops can use the [Girl Scout Guide to U.S. Travel](#) to start brainstorming and troop leaders can take the gsLearn course "[GSUSA Field Trips and Travel](#)," an introduction to the Girl Scout travel progression and how to move from field trips to bigger adventures.

As soon as you decide to plan a troop trip, read the Trips/Travel chapter in the Safety Activity Checkpoints, available on your council's website, for more guidance, and contact your council to learn about resources, requirements, and training that may be available.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Is there a fee for the shuttle?

The shuttle from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center to and from the hotels with GSUSA room blocks will be available Monday, July 20, through Saturday, July 25. The shuttle is available to 3- and 6-day ticket holders free of charge.

SCHEDULE/AGENDA

What time does NCS start on Monday and end on Wednesday?

Based on the draft agenda, the **NCS** delegate education sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. ET on Monday, July 20. The **NCS** closing ceremony will end by 6:30 p.m. ET on Wednesday, July 22. These times are subject to change. The National Council can vote to extend the meeting.

What time does the Girl Scouts Unite event start on Thursday and end on Saturday?

Based on the draft agenda, the **Girl Scouts Unite** event will begin at 9:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, July 23. The **Girl Scouts Unite** event closing ceremony will end by 6:30 p.m. ET on Saturday, July 25. These times are subject to change.

À LA CARTE ACTIVITIES

Are all National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite events happening at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center?

Yes, all **National Council Session** activities will take place at the convention center. All activities included in the **Girl Scouts Unite** event ticket will take place at the convention center. However, we are exploring excursions and Girl Scout experiences outside of the convention center, to be offered at an additional cost to event registrants.

When will you provide more details on optional “à la carte” activities?

GSUSA is exploring excursions and Girl Scout experiences outside of the convention center, to be offered at an additional cost to event registrants. Examples of these à la carte activities may include a half-day trip to Mount Vernon or a movie night at a local museum.

We don't anticipate offering à la carte options when general registration first opens. The activities will be added to the event portal as they are confirmed, and an email will be sent to registrants alerting them when a new activity has been added. The activities may take place any time between Monday, July 20, and Saturday, July 25, and registration will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Are the National Bridging Ceremony and Gold Award Celebration considered à la carte activities?

No. Admission to the National Bridging Ceremony and Gold Award Celebration is included in 3- and 6-day tickets.

What is the Gold Award Celebration? Who can attend?

Girl Scouts of the USA invites you to celebrate and honor our Gold Award Girl Scouts at the 2026 Gold Award Celebration, including alums who have earned the Golden Eagle of Merit, Golden Eaglet, First Class, or Curved Bar. This multi-generational reception will be a high-energy event with opportunities for participants to make meaningful connections with Gold Award Girl Scouts of all ages and honor their legacy of making the world a better place.

This invite-only event is intended for Gold Award Girl Scouts of all ages, as well as Juniors (girls in grades 4) and above who have a 3- or 6-day registration. Capacity may be limited. Attendance will be first-come, first-served based on when participants complete their registration and confirm their attendance by responding to the email invitation sent in June 2026. Please confirm your award status is updated on your registration by June 1, 2026 to ensure you receive an invitation to this event.

NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

Are you considering doing a livestream of NCS?

At this time, we have no plans to offer a livestream of the **National Council Session**. Interested observers are encouraged to buy the **NCS** limited access one-day ticket (\$100 per day per attendee) or All Access: 6-Day ticket (\$600 per attendee).

If you are a National Council delegate or alternate delegate, please contact your council prior to registering to confirm which ticket type you will need.

Who can apply to be a National Council delegate at the 58th National Council Session?

National Council delegates are selected by their councils in the year before **NCS** takes place. Each council has its own timeline and process, but the eligibility requirements are the same for all:

- be a citizen of the United States of America as set out in GSUSA's Congressional Charter;
- be a registered member of the Girl Scout Movement;
- be able to consider a broad spectrum of the opinions of adult and older girl members from all parts of the council; and
- be willing to prepare thoroughly on the issues and business that will come before the National Council.

If you are interested in serving as a delegate at a future NCS, contact your council to learn about their process and timeline.

VOLUNTEERS & SPEAKERS

Will there be opportunities to volunteer at NCS or the Girl Scouts Unite event?

Yes. We welcome the support from local volunteers. Complete this [interest form](#) to be notified when the volunteer portal is live.

How do I express an interest in speaking or facilitating a breakout session at NCS or the Girl Scouts Unite event?

Thank you for your interest. [Complete this form](#) to be contacted by a member of the GSUSA Events team.

EXHIBITORS & SPONSORS

How can I learn about sponsoring the event?

With over 10,000 attendees expected, this will be our largest event yet. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to gain exposure and connect with Girl Scouts, families from across the country, non-members, troop leaders, alums, and passionate volunteers. By participating as a sponsor, you can amplify your brand's message and engage with a diverse demographic eager to learn more about your organization. **For more information about our sponsorship tiers and benefits, contact Alexandra Behette, vice president of institutional development, at abehette@girlscouts.org.**

How can I learn about participating as an exhibitor in the Hall of Experiences?

With over 10,000 attendees expected, this will be our largest event yet. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to gain exposure and connect with Girl Scout families from across the country, non-members, troop leaders, alums, and passionate volunteers. By participating as an exhibitor, you can amplify your brand's message and engage with a diverse demographic eager to learn more about your organization. **For more information about our booth packages and exhibitor add-ons, [view the prospectus](#) or contact Tiffany Taylor, manager of events, at ttaylor@girlscouts.org or 212-852-8020.**

STAY INFORMED

How can we stay informed about event updates?

Join our [Convention Insider email list](#) to be the first to receive updates as they become available.

CONTACT US

Who should I contact with questions?

- For any **event or registration questions** not addressed here, please contact the [GSUSA Events team](#).
- For any **hotel or GSUSA room block questions**, please email us at girlscoutsunite@resiada.com. Support is available from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
- For PayPal Payment questions, contact PayPal customer service at 1-888-221-1161 or connect with [PayPal's Customer Support](#).