



Agenda Item Identification Code  
(For National Board Office only):

Girl Scouts of the USA  
420 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018-2798

## Agenda Item Submission Form 58th National Council Session

Name of Girl Scout Council(s)

South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands

City

Greenville

State

SC

If a group of councils is submitting a single agenda item, all councils must be listed on this form.

Is this council(s) submitting a ☒ Discussion Topic or ☐ Proposal?

Is this a ☒ draft or a ☐ final submission?

Write the following information exactly as the council wishes it to appear in the *Workbook* if accepted for the agenda.

### TITLE OF PROPOSAL OR DISCUSSION TOPIC

Inclusivity in Girl Scouting

### STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL OR DISCUSSION TOPIC, QUESTION, OR ISSUE (Proposals should be written in the form of a motion)

Councils need guidance / new language / training & resources / process clarity with respect to being an inclusive organization. As membership in Girl Scouts is defined in the Blue Book, and therefore consistent across all Councils and Girl Scouts Overseas (USAGSO), the published definition of eligibility should be codified and centrally located.

*Strikethrough = text to be removed*

*Boldface = text to be added*

## REASONS:

### 1. What is the issue the discussion topic or proposal is trying to address?

An adult member is defined as any person [18 years of age or a high school graduate or equivalent]. There is currently not a definition of a girl member in the Membership Requirements.

### 2. Are there other ways to address this issue?

Currently, there is language from the Social Issues FAQ from GSUSA - "Girl Scouts is proud to be the premiere leadership organization for girls in the country. Placement of transgender youth is handled on a case-by-case basis, with the welfare and best interests of the child and the members of the troop/group in question a top priority. That said, if the child is recognized by the family and school/community as a girl and lives culturally as a girl, then Girl Scouts is an organization that can serve her in a setting that is both emotionally and physically safe."

Our CEO shared that GSUSA acknowledges this language has not been updated in several years and is looking to refresh it. While this document is helpful, it does not adequately address the needs of council staff, volunteers, or membership.

There is also standard language in the Volunteer Essentials – Troop Management documentation: Girl Scouts is for every girl, and that's why we embrace girls of all abilities and backgrounds with a specific and positive philosophy of inclusion that benefits everyone. Each girl—regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, physical or cognitive ability, sexual orientation, primary language, or religion—is an equal and valued member of the group, and groups reflect the diversity of the community. This needs to include gender identity as well.

### 3. How does this proposal improve Movement governance or policy? OR How does this discussion topic inform Movement strategy?

This conversation is so important to Movement strategy. Who will we include and what policies can we put into place to ensure we are welcoming everyone who wants to be part of the Movement?

### 4. Does this agenda item have Movement-wide significance? Does it apply to all councils?

This should apply to all councils, to provide a consistent message and Girl Scout experience no matter where the Girl Scout lives.

### 5. Is this agenda item time-sensitive? What happens if it is not addressed at NCS 58?

Girl Scouting is the answer to so many of the social problems facing our young people today. In a world where marginalized groups struggle, this topic is very time-sensitive. Our volunteers are looking for a consistent message and training to respond to the needs of membership.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

Indicate the projected expenditure and impact on resources for councils and the national organization, for a five (5) year period.

Recognizing the controversial nature of this discussion topic, it is likely several resources will be needed to facilitate this discussion including, but not limited to legal counsel, mental and physical health care professionals, government agencies, and advocacy organizations.

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 Kavita V Borsum

Signature and Printed Name of chair, council board of directors

May 6, 2025

Date of council board meeting

### **Open Comment and Collaboration Period: April 7-May 14, 2025**

To submit for Open Comment and Collaboration, completed forms must be emailed to [BoardOffice@girlscouts.org](mailto:BoardOffice@girlscouts.org), copying [abeck@girlscouts.org](mailto:abeck@girlscouts.org), with subject line: Draft Agenda Item from [INSERT COUNCIL(S)].

Please note that if a group of councils is submitting a single agenda item, the submission form should be signed by each council's board chair.

### **Final Submission Deadline: May 30, 2025**

Final submissions, signed off by your council(s) board chair must be emailed to [BoardOffice@girlscouts.org](mailto:BoardOffice@girlscouts.org), copying [abeck@girlscouts.org](mailto:abeck@girlscouts.org), with the subject line: Final Agenda Item from [INSERT COUNCIL(S)].

If additional space is needed, please attach a separate page.