



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

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

## Agenda Item Submission Form 58th National Council Session

Name of Girl Scout Council(s)

South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands

City

State

Greenville

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 **X** Proposal?

Is this a draft or a **X** 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

Amend the Timing of a Special National Council Session Notification

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

THAT the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, Article V – Sessions of the National Council, Section 3 – Special Sessions, Paragraph 3 be amended from 30 days notification to 45 days such that Paragraph 3 reads as follows:

Notice of the special session, stating the time, place, and specific purpose, shall be mailed or delivered electronically not less than ~~30~~ **45** days before the session to each local council, each delegate from USA Girl Scouts Overseas, each member of the National Board of Directors and the National Board Development Committee, each Past President, and each member elected by the National Council who is entitled to vote at such session. **Proposals for the special session shall also be included in the notice.**

*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?
2. Are there other ways to address this issue?
3. How does this proposal improve Movement governance or policy? OR How does this discussion topic inform Movement strategy?
4. Does this agenda item have Movement-wide significance? Does it apply to all councils?
5. Is this agenda item time-sensitive? What happens if it is not addressed at NCS 58?

The Special 57th National Council Session in October 2024 was the first execution of this clause added during the 56th National Council Session in July 2023. During the preparation for the 57th NCS there were additional challenges faced by the delegations not typically faced during the triennial NCS preparation.

- Girl delegates were engaged in school during the 30 days.
- Requests for information by the NCS body accelerated the response timeline from the National Board and GSUSA staff.
- Delegate information and education sessions were on an accelerated basis and involved complex business and financial understanding.
- Delegations had very little time to obtain input from their Council members after understanding the scope themselves.

The purpose of the addition of this clause was to allow the NCS to move quickly for critical issues that required the full National Council body prior to the standard triennial schedule. However, the accelerated schedule of 30 days generated significant stress and challenges for the delegation, the National Board, and GSUSA staff. Delegates were occupied with work and school and information and education sessions were perceived as rushed. The complex topics of finances and business acumen required education of delegates not already familiar with these concepts and documents, especially Girl delegates already carrying their standard academic load.

A change of 30 days to 45 days would allow an extra 2 weeks for delegations to prepare and obtain input and feedback from their members, particularly when the scope of the Special Session involves proposals that can elicit emotional responses and are very complex.

An amendment of 30 days to 60 days was considered. Doubling the preparation time would counter the intended goal of addressing a critical time-sensitive issue. Therefore, 45 days is a compromise that provides additional preparation time while maintaining a balance of timing.

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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.

The Council is not able to quantitatively calculate exact financial figures. The qualitative positive impacts of this change are:

- Potential reduction in overtime for GSUSA staff with more time for preparation.
- Reduced travel cost / meeting costs for National Delegates meeting with their Council membership for education and feedback gathering, as extra time means less rush fees and possibly an opportunity for more delegates to participate.
- Reduced stress for GSUSA staff, National Board, and National Delegates with more time to understand and analyze the provided data and prepare for debate.

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 Kavita Borsum

5/28/2025

Signature and Printed Name of chair, council board of directors

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.