



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)

Western Washington

City

Seattle

State

WA

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

Expand the definition of Girl Scout in the Membership Requirements section of the Credentials.

### STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL OR DISCUSSION TOPIC, QUESTION, OR ISSUE

(Proposals should be written in the form of a motion)

TOPIC, QUESTION, OR ISSUE

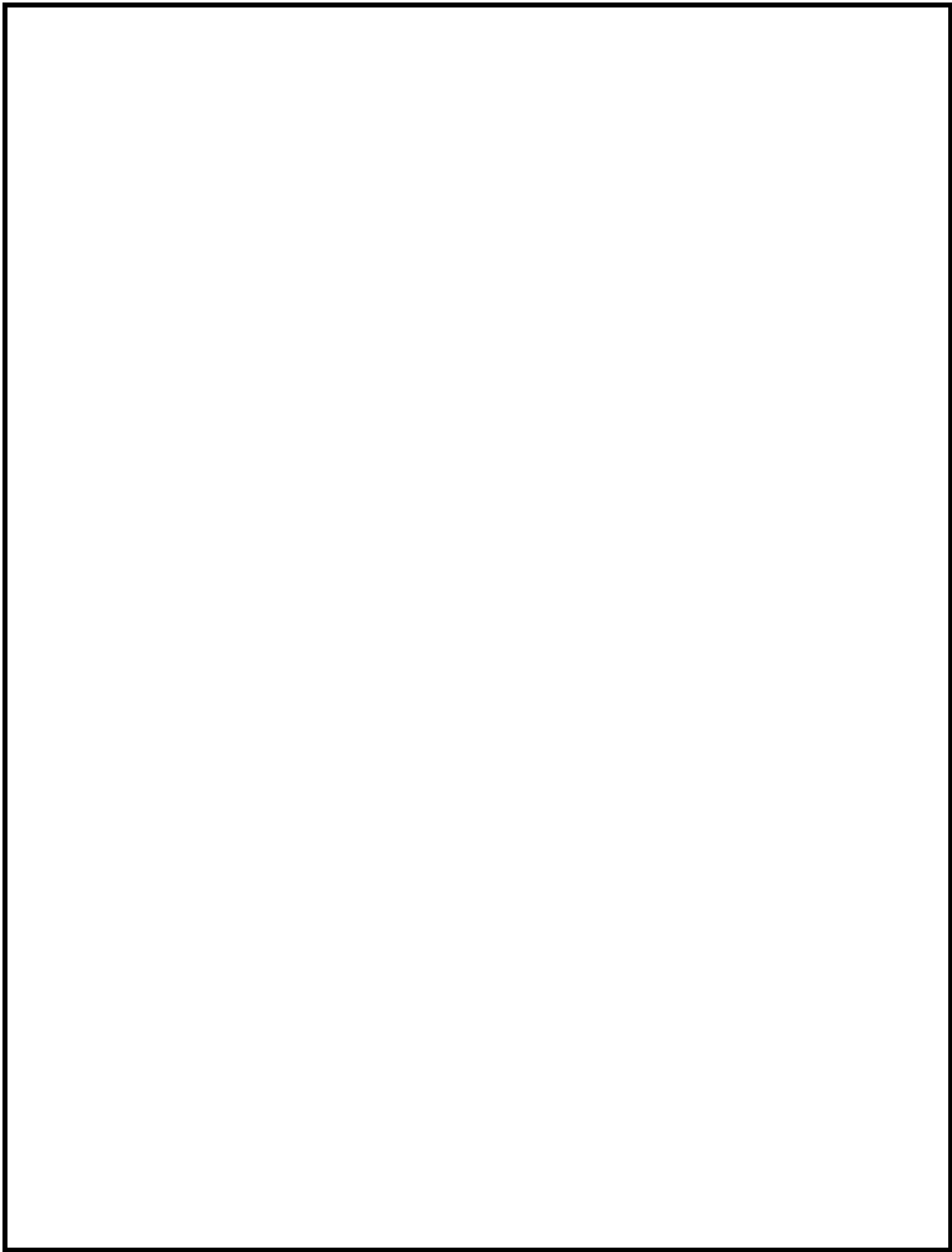
or

THAT The Delegates and Board of Girl Scouts of Western Washington propose to amend the word 'girl' to the word 'youth' in the credentials and further to add a bullet stating "Feels that the Girl Scout experience and environment aligns with their gender identity."

### MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership as a Girl Scout is granted to any ~~girl~~ youth who:

- has made the Girl Scout Promise and accepted the Girl Scout Law;
- has paid annual, or other applicable membership dues;
- meets applicable membership standards.
- **feels that the Girl Scout experience and environment aligns with their gender identity.**



## 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?

Members of Girl Scouts have shown that they may not view gender with the same binary lens as the language that is currently reflected in the Girl Scout membership credentials. To remain relevant there is a need to ensure that young people who resonate with the girl experience and yet do not feel comfortable with a 'girl' label can find a place for themselves within Girl Scouts, especially with the increasing number of youth who do not identify with the word girl.\* Making these changes ensures that youth see Girl Scouts as a welcoming environment and helps individual councils with inclusive language when youth or parents inquire about membership.

This change would apply across the Movement but would not change the way many councils already welcome non-binary and gender-expansive youth into their council. With a consistent definition of Girl Scout, we can ensure that every youth who identifies with the girl experience is welcomed in every council to be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Inclusive language that reflects Girl Scout membership and upholds the Girl Scout core values and emphasizes respect for self and others. Inclusive language directly supports these principles by:

- Promoting respect and kindness toward all individuals
- Fostering a welcoming, safe and affirming environment for every member
- Ensuring members feel valued and more connected to the organization
- Motivates members to participate and lead
- Enhances retention, engagement, and the overall success of programming.

If this proposal is not addressed at NCS58 the wording in the membership credentials continues to alienate a segment of the population that could find community in Girl Scouts, and delays forward progress on ensuring that Girl Scouting remains relevant into the future.

\* Among youth ages 13 to 17 in the U.S., about 1.4% (~ 300,000) identify as transgender, and 1 in 4 identify as non-binary. *Editorial: Child Adolesc Psychiatry Ment Health. 2024 Aug 24;18:105 [Supporting and understanding non-binary & gender diverse youth: a physician's view - PMC](#)*

## 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.

Not Applicable

Rochelle Whelan



5/14/25

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)].

**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)].

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.

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