



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)

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania

City

Miquon

State

PA

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? ☒ Proposal

Is this a draft or ☒ final submission? ☒ 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

Girl Scout Highest Awards Solicitation of Contributions

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL OR DISCUSSION TOPIC, QUESTION, OR ISSUE

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

TOPIC, QUESTION, OR ISSUE *We hereby make a motion to amend the Policies of GSUSA as follows:*

Update the first paragraph of the Solicitation of Contributions part of the Policies section of the Blue Book of Basic Documents on page 20 by inserting the bolded, green wording and deleting the strike-through text, as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors, who may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind	Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except girl members for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors, who may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of	Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except girl members may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout Bronze,

<p>goods for Girl Scout Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee.</p> <p>In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.</p>	<p>cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee.</p> <p>In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.</p>	<p>Silver, and Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee.</p> <p>In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.</p>
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REASONS:

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

Currently, only Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors may request donations for their Gold Award projects, excluding Silver and Bronze Awards. This restricts access to resources that could support meaningful community partnerships and limits the potential impact of Highest Award projects.

This proposal specifically expands access to those working on a *Highest Award* (Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award). This preserves important safeguards around solicitation while broadening the accessibility of our Highest Awards.

2. Are there other ways to address this issue?

Some councils might have created local exceptions or workarounds, but a unified national policy would help ensure fairness, reduce confusion, and eliminate barriers for all Girl Scouts eligible to achieve the Highest Award.

This proposal aims to level the playing field by giving all Girl Scouts working towards their Highest Awards equal opportunity to partner with their communities and secure the support needed for impactful, long-lasting projects.

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

This proposal improves the Movement's policy by increasing equity and accessibility for all Higher Award project execution. It helps to empower all eligible Girl Scouts with the same tools to execute meaningful, well-resourced projects (while maintaining council oversight).

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

Yes, this will apply to all councils and help enhance consistency in the implementation of Highest Awards across the country. This would create a clear national standard that maintains required council oversight to safeguard against the risk of over-solicitation.

Additionally, this could potentially lead to a positive Movement branding by increasing the visibility and possible impact of the Highest Awards. This could help enable more ambitious, visible, and high-impact projects at *all* Highest Award levels. Bronze and Silver Award projects with access

to appropriate funding have the potential to elevate the visibility and value of Girl Scouting across communities.

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

Yes, many girls plan and begin their Higher Awards year-round. Clarifying this policy at NCS 58 would ensure that future Girl Scouts interested in pursuing the Bronze and Silver Awards are fully supported in delivering projects that reflect the values and mission of Girl Scouting.


Without updated national guidance, Bronze and Silver Award candidates may continue to face barriers to success.

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.

There is no direct financial cost to councils or the national organization. Allowing more girls to seek approved contributions could lead to increased community engagement and potentially greater visibility for Girl Scouts in local communities. Councils would continue to monitor and approve fundraising, mitigating the risk of over-solicitation to donors.

This change could lead to increased community engagement and visibility of Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects, while maintaining donor trust and mitigating the risk of over-solicitation.


Joann Gonzalez-Generals, Board Secretary
(on behalf of Board Chair Nicole LeVine)
Signature and Printed Name of chair, council board of directors

May 28, 2025

Date

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, copying 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, copying 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.