



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 Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

City

State

Chicago

IL

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

Task Group to Research Equity in Distribution of GSUSA Gold Award Scholarships and to Look into Other Types of Scholarships that could be Available to Girl Scouts

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

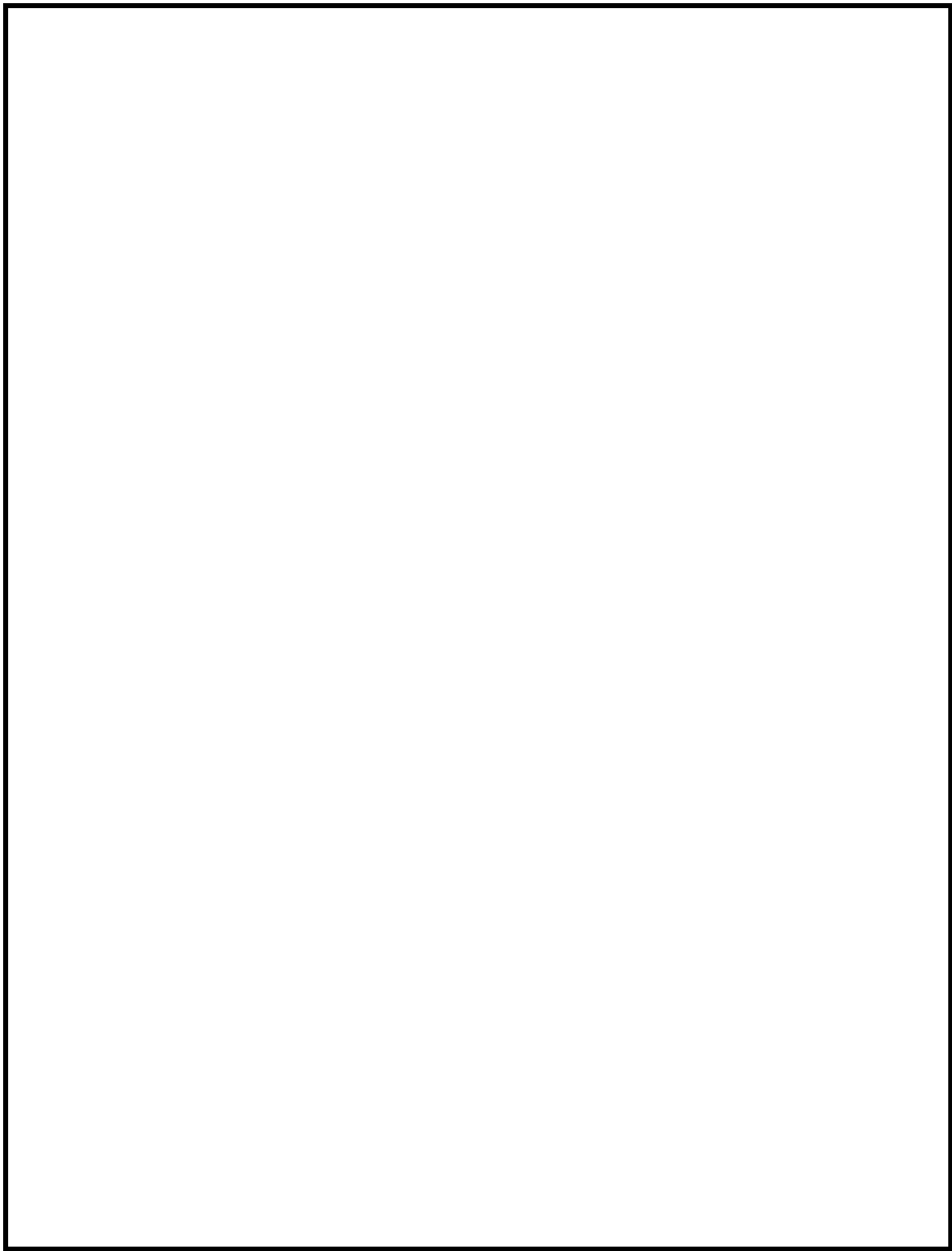
the National Board establish a Task Group of volunteers and staff charged with

1) Examining current criteria for GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship distribution in order to make recommendations for a more equitable structure. The recommendations for any changes to the current system would be completed before the 2029 NCS.

2) Researching and developing other scholarship opportunities available to Girl Scouts and Gold Award Girl Scouts and creating a listing of these scholarships before the 2029 NCS.

or

TO



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 distribution of the Gold Award Scholarship as it currently stands is not equitable due to the substantial disparity in the number of Gold Award recipients by the local councils. As it stands now, each of the 111 local councils receives one scholarship per year. The inequity is very evident when reviewing the number of Gold Award Recipients which varies by council. In assessing the 2024 membership year, there was a total of 2895 Gold Awardees across the country, while for 2023, the number was 3124, a difference of 229. When examining both membership years, it is evident that some councils had a substantially higher number of recipients than others. For instance, during 2024 Greater Los Angeles bestowed 207 Gold Awards, while Hawaii had only 1. Nevertheless, each of these councils received 1 Gold Award Scholarship. If we are following the Girl Scout Law and stand by our creed to be “honest and fair”, it is obvious that we are not adhering to this principle. When taking into consideration all 2895 recipients for 2024 and dividing that number by the 111 scholarships available, then there should be 1 scholarship for every 26 awardees. If using that calculation, the Greater Los Angeles Council should have had 8 scholarships to offer. Giving one scholarship per council might be the easiest way to do it, but this system is by far the most inequitable. Having a Task Group assigned to developing a fairer structure for distribution of the scholarships would ensure that our organization is following the law that we uphold.

With the focus on better serving and retaining older girls, it would also be beneficial to identify and create other scholarship opportunities for all Girl Scouts and not limited to those who have earned the Gold Award. Robust scholarship opportunities would encourage more girls to stay with Girl Scouts through their high school experience. We also need to recognize that there are numerous post high school avenues for them to explore. Therefore, other ways need to be found to support those Girl Scouts who are choosing a path that does not include college or who may have been committed to Girl Scouting but not had the opportunity to earn their Gold Award. If girls know that they have the possibility for scholarships to pursue their education in such fields, it might give them incentive to remain in Girl Scouts. The Task Group would also be charged with researching such scholarships and reporting back to NCS.

History shows when we support Girl Scouts through their life journey, we leave a lasting impact on our members and the world. Creating and identifying more scholarship opportunities will encourage girls to not only stay in Girl Scouts but to pursue their goals, making a difference across the movement and world.

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 monetary impact would be nominal. There could be costs involved when bringing staff and volunteers together to create a revised scholarship distribution system, but much, if not all, of the work would be done via conference calls and zoom. There would be some financial outlay for the revising of any official documentation involving the Gold Award Scholarship program. The same would be true for developing any other type of scholarship.



Jackie Barlow

Signature and Printed Name of chair, council board of directors

5.30.2025

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, 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.