



Council Delegate F.A.Q.

What is an area association?

- Area associations are geographic areas established by the council board of directors (in this case, Service Units) to provide the means for members, 14 years of age and over, to influence policy-making, elect delegates to the council (corporate body), initiate discussions of issues related to policy-making, and give input to the council board of directors regarding decisions on major policy issues.

What is the council (corporate body)?

- The membership of the council includes all active members of the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois, 14 years of age or over. *Membership of the corporation shall consist of : 1) elected members of the board of directors, if not otherwise member of the corporation; 2) members of the Board Development Committee, if not otherwise members of the corporation; 3) delegates elected by the Service Units, 4) delegates-at-large appointed by the board of directors.*

The number of members of the corporation shall be no fewer than 90 nor more than 250.

At least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the corporation shall be those elected by Service Units.

How is the number of delegates per association determined?

- According to the GSSI Bylaws *Each Service Unit shall be entitled to at least two (2) but not more than four (4) delegates.* The number of delegates that each association gets to represent them is based on the total girl membership as of September 30th of each year. This number is determined by a percentage of girls in the Service Unit divided by total girl membership.

Delegates shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected and assume Office.

Delegate Determination based on total girl membership		
% of girls in a Service Unit	Delegates	Alternates
1.74% or less	2	1
1.75% - 2.99%	3	1
3.00% or more	4	2

What is the delegate voting process?

- Each Service Unit needs to make quorum in order to vote. Quorum is met when at least one (1) person from the majority of Troops is represented. For example, if your Service Unit has 12 Troops, at least one person from 7 different Troops must be present in order to vote.

If quorum is not met, voting cannot take place. In this case, voting will take place by mail-in voting. This will be initiated by staff. There will be no need of holding an additional meeting.

What is the difference between Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois and "the council"?

- Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois is the total jurisdiction, meaning all registered girls, volunteers, and staff. "The council" (corporate body) are elected delegates plus the board and Development Committee.

What is the information chain for the association?

- STEP ONE: Information the board will be considering is sent to the delegate chair.
- STEP TWO: The delegate chair reads the information and shares with other delegates and the area association members for discussion (Service Unit).
- STEP THREE: The delegate chair talks with the convener (board representative) about the information gathered from the other delegates and area association members.
- STEP FOUR: The convener takes the information received from the delegate chair back to the board for consideration.

What are the requirements of a delegate/delegate chair?

- Accepts the principles and beliefs of Girl Scouting; is a currently registered Girl Scout member; and supports the policies, standards and procedures of Girl Scouts of the USA and the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois.

What is the purpose of the delegate chair?

- To serve as a direct line to the board of directors as a policy-influencer by requesting input from the members of the association, and by giving those reactions to the board on issues that will affect the entire council and impact upon strategic planning of the board.

What is the purpose of the delegate?

- To serve as a voice of the membership for the associations as policy decision-influencers to the council by fulfilling the responsibilities as defined in the council bylaws.

What are the duties of the delegate?

- Elect the officers of the council, the board of directors, the members of the Board Development Committee and the delegates to the National Council of GSUSA.
- Vote to amend the articles of incorporation and bylaws.
- Take all other action requiring membership vote and conduct such other business that may come before the members.
- Determine the general lines of direction of Girl Scouting locally by receiving and acting upon reports of the board of directors and giving guidance to the board.
- Attend the meeting of delegates called by the association delegate chair.
- Prepare for and attend the annual council meeting and special council meeting.
- Keep informed about Girl Scouting in the association and the council.

What are the duties of the delegate chair?

Has all the duties of the association council delegate in addition to the following:

- Provides for training of the delegates elected by the association and convenes them as necessary to inform them of the issues to be considered at the annual meeting.
- Informs the association of council proposals.
- Receives telephone calls and emails from the association convener (a member of the board of directors) prior to the board meetings as requested by the board chair, and discusses items that are on the agenda which will directly affect the association.

Who makes decisions on the council level--the staff or board?

- The staff makes operational decisions such as what program activities to offer during the year. These decisions of operations are based on the strategic goals set forth by the board of directors. The board of directors works toward setting the governance and structure of the council. An example of council policy and an operational procedure follows:

Council Policy	Operational Procedure
Training All volunteers will complete required training for their position within three months of appointment. Additional training must be completed as deemed necessary within a specified time frame. At least one adult in a leadership role from each troop must complete Girl Scout Basic Leadership.	Training Girl Scout Basic Leadership consists of: Introduction to Girl Scouting at GSSI, appropriate Grade Level or Leadership Essentials.