



# CONVENTION Connections

LEADING TO INDIANAPOLIS

2008  
Girl Scout  
National  
Council Session  
Newsletter



## Business Meeting and Story Weaving: Opportunity Awaits

*How does the work of Story Weaving connect with the business that needs to be accomplished at our National Council Session? We hope this article provides some answers. If you have more questions, please e-mail them to [2008convention@girlscouts.org](mailto:2008convention@girlscouts.org).*

### **About the Business Meeting**

First and foremost, the responsibility of the National Council and its voting members is to take action on proposals, elect members to the National Board and the National Nominating Committee, and provide broad direction to the Movement. This is the highest priority for the meeting and will be given precedence over all other work.

Following the Stewardship Report, voting members will have the opportunity to ask questions of and engage in direct dialogue with those presenting the report.

When proposals are under consideration, voting members will sit in assigned sections and participate in discussion and debate. The delegate body will determine the length of time devoted to consideration of each proposal. When the voting delegates are ready, a vote will be taken. If debate takes longer than estimated, the time allotted for other work will be adjusted to accommodate the debate.

## About Story Weaving

During those times when proposals are not under consideration, Story Weaving strategies will make it possible for everyone to be engaged in conversation about the opportunities and challenges that our Movement faces. Voting members and others—all with important opinions and perspectives—will have a voice. This “first time ever” opportunity will bring greater voice to all members present.

- **Opening and Closing:** On opening night, our conversation will focus on leadership. (As the premier leadership program for girls, this is the right place to start!) Then, on the final day, our closing conversation will bring us back to center as we discuss the implications of our work and the opportunities for national and local leadership.
- **Giving Direction:** Conversation following the Stewardship Report on Friday, and the dialogue on Saturday morning, will give all members a chance to talk about the progress that’s been made, the challenges we face, and what needs to be done to move our mission forward. Discussion groups will generate answers to the question, “Are we on track?” and conversation topics on Saturday will focus on what we need to do in councils and at GSUSA to move our mission forward.

The collective messages from participants will be gathered, posted, and shared broadly. We expect that conversations will provide clear direction to GSUSA, to councils, and to our Movement as a whole.

## Connecting the Dots

Girl Scouts of the USA is looking to all National Council Session participants to help shape the future. Voting members will play their singularly important role in debating and voting. All members will provide critical input related to the Core Business Strategy, discussing the steps that need to be taken to ensure strength and prosperity in our future.

At this time in our Movement, it is important for us to take action and to talk honestly about where we are and where we are going. The design of this National Council Session will make this possible.

## What's on Tap

### 2008 National Council Session—Preliminary Agenda\*

\* *The final agenda will appear in the Program/Exhibit guide.*

#### **Wednesday, October 29**

Credentials/Registration

Noon–5 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

Girl Scout Leadership Institute

1–4:45 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center and

The Westin Indianapolis

Girl Scout Leadership Institute

Events

5–11 p.m.

Various locations

#### **Thursday, October 30**

Credentials/Registration

8 a.m.–10 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

Girl Scout Leadership Institute

*(pre-registration required)*

7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center and The

Westin Indianapolis

Open Space: Sharing and Learning

8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Marriott Indianapolis Downtown

History Gathering: "In their Own

Words"—Juliette Gordon Low and

Friends

1–2 p.m.

Grand Opening: Hall of Exhibits

2 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

Meet and Greet National Board

Members and Nominees

2:45 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

Hall of Exhibits Hours

2–6:30 p.m., 9–10 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center—

Halls D, E, F, and G

Gathering of Friends: WAGGGS World  
Centers

3–4:30 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

USA Girl Scouts Overseas Gathering

4:30–5:30 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

Girl Scouts Gold Award Alliance

Reception

4–6 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

Opening Ceremony

Conversation That Matters:

Swapping Our Stories

7–9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

Indiana Convention Center—

Halls A, B, and C

#### **Friday, October 31**

Credentials/Registration

8 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

Hall of Exhibits

Noon–8:00 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center—

Halls D, E, F, and G

#### **National Council Meeting I**

9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center—

Halls A, B, and C

WAGGGS Address

Credentials Report and Election of Members

Adoption of Standing Rules and Adoption of Program

Stewardship Report of the National Board of Directors

Conversation That Matters: Charting Our Progress  
*Opportunity to consider our Movement's challenges and opportunities through small-group dialogue*

National Board Chair and CEO Response to 'Charting Our Progress'

Announcements/Adjournment

Lunch  
12:30–2 p.m.

**National Council Meeting I**

2–5:30 p.m.  
Indiana Convention Center—  
Halls A, B, and C

Treasurer's Report

Open Discussion: Questions on Proposals

Consideration of Proposals

Young Women of Distinction Ceremony and Women of Distinction Award

Teresa, Performer and Songwriter

Announcements/Adjournment

Special Event  
(pre-registration required)  
Juliette Gordon Low Birthday Party and History of Girl Scouts  
Sponsored by Girl Scouts of Central

Indiana 7–9 p.m.  
Indiana State Museum

**Saturday, November 1**

Credentials/Registration  
8 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Indiana Convention Center

Hall of Exhibits  
10 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Indiana Convention Center—  
Halls D, E, F, and G

**National Council Meeting II**

9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Indiana Convention Center—  
Halls A, B, and C

Credentials Update

Conversation That Matters:  
Advancing Our Mission

Announcements/Adjournment

Lunch  
12:30–2 p.m.

**National Council Meeting II**

2–5:30 p.m.  
Indiana Convention Center—  
Halls A, B, and C

Credentials Update

Girl Scout Leadership Institute Report

Open Forum:  
Questions on Proposals

Consideration of Proposals

Address: National Board Chair

Nominations for National Board of Directors and National Nominating Committee

Election

Declaration of Election

Announcements/Adjournment

Conversation That Matters:  
Committing to Action

Special Event  
(pre-registration required)  
Power of Children Exhibit  
Sponsored by Girl Scouts of Central  
Indiana  
7–10 p.m.  
Indianapolis Children’s Museum

Installation of National Board

Address: Newly Elected Board  
Chair (2008–2011)

Closing

Adjournment of the National  
Council Session

**Sunday, November 2**

Credentials/Registration  
8 a.m.–noon  
Indiana Convention Center

Hall of Exhibits  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Indiana Convention Center—Halls  
D, E, F, and G

***National Council Meeting III***

9 a.m.–noon  
Indiana Convention Center—Halls A,  
B, and C

Credentials Update

*Keynote Speakers:*

Geena Davis, Actress, Founder,  
Geena Davis Institute on  
Gender in Media  
Marie Wilson, Author, Founder  
and President, The White  
House Project, and co-creator  
of Take Our Daughters and  
Sons to Work® Day

Time and Place of the 2011  
National Council Session

Report of National Council  
Tellers

## Weaving Our Conversations Together

The stories of our Movement are the threads that bind us together. Strength, diversity, endurance. Courage, confidence, character. Learning, laughing, sharing. All are part of who we have been, who we are, and who we will be. All will come alive at our National Council Session/convention, where the threads of our many conversations will define our future. Be on the lookout for:

- **Swapping Our Stories:** Opening night will give us all a chance to tell our leadership stories and share our leadership lessons with new and old friends. Some questions to consider: What brought you to where you are now? Who has helped you to become a leader in the Girl Scout Movement? What leadership lesson do you have to share?
- **Charting Our Progress:** On Friday morning, following the Stewardship Report, we will sit in small groups to consider our Movement’s challenges and opportunities. Drawing strength and insight from the previous day’s leadership lessons, we will talk together about the progress we have made and improvements to advance us even further.
- **Advancing Our Mission:** Saturday morning will challenge the “organizer” in all of us. Building on our previous day’s conversation about opportunities and challenges, we will break into discussion groups to answer the question, “What is essential for the success of our Movement?” Come prepared to work collectively to define our future.
- **Committing to Action:** The threads of all of our conversations—leadership lessons, challenges and opportunities, essentials for success—will come together on Sunday morning as we answer the question, “What is mine to lead?” This commitment to action in your community, your council, and our Movement will complete our tapestry and send us home with clear direction for success.

Pack your stories and your spirit of adventure and come to Indianapolis ready to be surprised!

## The Story Looms

The Story Weaving theme of the 2008 National Council Session/51st convention will be brought to life for all participants with a hands-on, visual experience. Join the fun—tell your story—and weave with us on the Story Looms.

These Story Looms will be constructed by volunteers in Indiana and installed at several central locations in the convention hall. Each member will have the opportunity to pause and “weave a bit of themselves” into the fabric of our Movement. Members are invited to bring weeds, flowers, leaves, bark, feathers, vines, seed pods, and other natural materials indigenous to their home

state as well as natural or synthetic fibers, yarns, and fabric strips. We will weave the materials together on the looms, creating gifts of friendship and a common call to action for the community of Girl Scouting.

Deposit your nature "stuff" and other materials when you arrive at the convention hall. Additional information will be available onsite.

See you there!

## Convention Facts

### Fragrance-Free Environment

While the National Council is in session, fragrance products shall not be worn in the meeting room. Individuals who are sensitive to fragrance products (perfumes, colognes, aftershave, hairsprays) likely meet the criteria for one of a number of disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. These include chemical sensitivity disorders, multiple chemical sensitivity, breathing and lung disorders, asthma, neurological impairments, etc.

### Celebrating Youth Leading the Way

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana invites girls and adults to two amazing and exclusive exhibits on Friday and Saturday evenings at the National Council Session/convention:

- **On My Honor, Indiana State Museum, Friday, October 31, from 7 to 9 p.m.**  
This exhibit, which takes place on the birthday of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low, chronicles and celebrates the history of Girl Scouts in Indiana. This event includes a patch, birthday cake, and punch. The Indiana State Museum is within walking distance of the Indiana Convention Center.
- **The Power of Children, Indianapolis Children's Museum, Saturday, November 1, from 7 to 10 p.m.** This exhibit focuses on the powerful lives of Ryan White, Ruby Bridges, and Anne Frank. Girls will also enjoy a "Power Party" that features music and dancing. Dinner will be available throughout the evening, as well as shuttle buses to transport participants from the convention center to the museum.

Tickets for the two-event package are \$70 per person. Registration forms are available on the Web site of the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana at [www.girlscoutsindiana.org/2008Convention/celebratingyouth.html](http://www.girlscoutsindiana.org/2008Convention/celebratingyouth.html). Sign up today to celebrate Girl Scout history and the power of our youth! Tickets may be picked up in the registration area at the convention center during registration hours.