



February 23, 2016

Dear Council Board Chair and CEO,

We are pleased to invite you and your council to partner with the National Board in building a strategic and future-focused agenda for the 2017 National Council Session/54th convention. The National Council Session is convened in the third year of the triennium and is Girl Scouts of the USA's major governance meeting.

Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-
2798

T (212) 852-5000
F (212) 852-6517

Office of the National
President and the Chief
Executive Officer

We welcome you to our Movement's gathering in Columbus, Ohio October 2-8, 2017. We are planning events to reinvigorate our membership, deepen our commitment to our Movement, and celebrate our successes. Together we will:

- engage in conversations on important topics facing Girl Scouts and all girls;
- participate in an array of educational opportunities and
- network, mingle, and renew friendships, while we celebrate the work we do together.

Responsibilities of the National Council members are listed in the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article V, as found in the current *Blue Book of Basic Documents* (the 2015 edition), available on our Girl Scout website and Pearl. These are:

- elections;
- amending the Constitution;
- establishing requirements for credentials;
- and determining the general lines of policy of the Girl Scout Movement and program by considering and acting upon proposals directed toward the fostering and improvement of Girl Scouting, by receiving and acting upon reports of its National Board of Directors, and by giving guidance to the National Board upon general lines of direction of the Movement and program.

To assist in development of a proposal statement, please see the Guidelines provided. Of special note:

- An agenda topic should provide strategic direction to the Girl Scout Movement. As an item for vote, it should give guidance at a major policy level, be far-reaching in its vision, and have national impact, or result in a major change to the governance structure through amendment of the Constitution.



- Each proposal statement should be brief, clear, organized, complete, and stated in the affirmative. Examples are provided in the Guidelines.
- To avoid having operational proposals or proposals with limited interest placed on the National Council agenda, we ask that a council board of directors support only those proposal topics for which there is a thorough commitment for adoption. An example of an operational proposal is one that seeks to establish program content or change insignia.

The National Board has set a postmark/email deadline date of **September 30, 2016**, in order to give councils ample opportunity to develop their ideas, while permitting sufficient time for the National Board to make a decision regarding agenda placement at its January 2017 meeting.

Since not all matters affecting Girl Scouting nationwide require formal action by the National Council, the council may wish to offer guidance to the National Board of Directors through a discussion topic. Discussion topic suggestions have the same postmark/email deadline date of **September 30, 2016**.

We look forward to your council board of directors' active engagement in building an agenda for our 2017 National Council Session. Together in Columbus, we will inspire a new generation of Girl Scouts as we reconnect with our alumnae.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Hopinkah Hannan".

Kathy Hopinkah Hannan
National President
Girl Scouts of the USA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna Maria Chávez".

Anna Maria Chávez
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of the USA