



58th National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite Event

Frequently Asked Questions

As of March 20, 2026

GENERAL EVENT DETAILS

What is the venue for the 58th National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite event?

The 58th **National Council Session (NCS)** and **Girl Scouts Unite** event will take place at:

Walter E. Washington Convention Center
801 Allen Y. Lew Place NW
Washington, DC 20001

Visit the official tourism site of Washington, DC, for planning resources, like things to do, restaurant information, and more.

Who decides the location of each National Council Session?

Girl Scouts of the USA's National Board determines where each NCS takes place based on a variety of factors, including ease of travel, capacity needs, and logistical considerations.

How did you select the dates for the 58th NCS and Girl Scouts Unite event?

We have heard from our members that July is an ideal time to hold the National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite event as it reduces the need for girl delegates and girl attendees to miss school. By offering this event in July, when the majority of the country is on summer break, we hope to provide the opportunity for more Girl Scouts, families, and troops to attend, participate, and witness the democratic process at NCS.

Is the Girl Scouts Unite event for all Girl Scouts or just older ones? Are families welcome too? And what about alums, volunteers, and other supporters of the Girl Scout mission?

This event is open to all, including Girl Scout members, alums, families, and non-members. We will be sharing more information about the specifics of the event as we have them, but there will be activities and demos in the Hall of Experiences, special guests, live performances, and much more.

EVENT NAME & THEME

What specifically does the Girl Scouts Unite event refer to?

The first three days of the event will be referred to as the **58th National Council Session (NCS)**. NCS is the business meeting where delegates from every council across the nation and from USA Girl Scouts Overseas meet to discuss, debate, and vote on issues important to the Girl Scout

Movement and elect national leaders for the next triennium.

Girl Scouts Unite event is the name for the girl experience taking place over the last three days, which is open to:

- girls in grades k–12 (members and non-members), parents, caregivers, siblings, and troop leaders,
- Girl Scout alums and volunteers,
- sponsors and exhibitors, and
- industry leaders who care about girl issues.

Do I need to be a registered Girl Scout to attend the 58th National Council Session or Girl Scouts Unite event?

You do not have to be a registered Girl Scout to attend the 58th NCS as a visitor or the **Girl Scouts Unite** event. The events are open to members and non-members.

Is the theme "Girls Make History" the same for both NCS and the Girl Scouts Unite event?

The "Girls Make History" theme will carry through the programming for both NCS and the **Girl Scouts Unite** event. The speakers and program elements of the **Girl Scouts Unite** event will be selected with this theme in mind. The NCS program will be primarily driven by the proposals and discussion topics selected through the Movement governance process and will include program elements to connect it to the theme.

REGISTRATION

Can you please explain the difference between the 3- and 6-day tickets?

- The 3-day All Access ticket is for the **Girl Scouts Unite** event taking place Thursday, July 23, through Saturday, July 25, 2026. This ticket does not cover NCS.
- The 6-day All Access ticket is for those observing NCS, taking place Monday, July 20, through Wednesday, July 22, and participating in the **Girl Scouts Unite** event.

As of March 13, multi-day tickets are no longer available. If you purchased multi-day tickets and have questions or modifications to your registration, please [email us](#).

When will one-day tickets become available?

A limited number of one-day tickets were released on March 16 for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The price and what's included with a one-day ticket depends on which day you attend the event (see chart below).

	All Access: One-Day Thursday, July 23	Limited Access: One-Day Friday, July 24	All Access: One-Day Saturday, July 25
Hall of Experiences			
Girl and Adult Programming			
Opening Ceremony			
Invitation to National Bridging Ceremony			
Closing Ceremony			
Regular Price	\$200	\$125	\$200

If tickets sell out before you are able to purchase one, you can add yourself to the [wait list](#) to be notified if more one-day tickets become available.

Is a unique email address required for each registrant?

Yes. Each registrant must have a unique email address. This includes caregiver-youth pairings; caregivers will need to provide a separate email address for each youth being registered.

Will an image release or other paperwork be required from each registrant?

Yes. The [Event Terms and Conditions](#) include an image release and other important terms that must be reviewed and accepted electronically at the registration portal by each adult and parent or legal guardian of a minor attending NCS and/or the **Girl Scouts Unite** event.

To review and accept the Event Terms and Conditions:

- Log into the [registration portal](#).
- Click on the “Update” text link next to Profile Information.
- Scroll down to the bottom of the Personal Information page and review the “Privacy and Data Protection” and “Event Terms & Conditions” sections in full.
- Check the boxes to indicate your agreement.
- Click on the Save button

The screenshot displays a registration review page with a dark green background. At the top, there are progress indicators for Profile, Registration, Get Your Membership, Package Options, Account Activation (coming soon), Review, and Confirm. The main heading is 'Review Information3:'. Below this, the 'Profile Information' section is circled in red and includes fields for First Name, Email, Last Name, Preferred First Name (with a 'JACKIE' example), Address 1, Address 2, City, State, Zip/Postal Code, and Country. An 'Emergency Contact's Name' field is also present. Below the profile information is the 'Privacy and Data Protection (GDPR):' section, which contains a paragraph of text and a checkbox labeled 'I have read and consent to Swapcard's privacy policy:'. The 'Event Terms & Conditions:' section follows, with a checkbox labeled 'By checking this box, I have read, understood, and agree to these Event Terms and Conditions.' and a link to 'View the Event Terms and Conditions.'. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'CANCEL' and 'SAVE'.

If I'm unable to attend the event, can I cancel or transfer my ticket to another person?

As indicated in your confirmation email, if a registrant is unable to attend the event, you have a couple of options:

1. You may submit a completed Registration Cancellation/Refund Request Form within 48 hours of registration to cancel your registration and receive a full refund of the registration fee.
2. You may submit a completed Registration Cancellation/Refund Request Form on or before May 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET to receive a 50% refund of the registration fee.

CANCELLATION REQUESTS SUBMITTED AFTER MAY 1, 2026, AT 11:59 P.M. ET ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A REFUND.

HOWEVER, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER YOUR TICKET TO SOMEONE ELSE

3. Individual tickets may be eligible for transfer to another individual that wishes to attend the Event:
 - Tickets can only be transferred for the same ticket type (for example, an individual with a 3-day ticket can only transfer their ticket to another 3-day attendee);

- Requests to transfer tickets will only be granted if the substitute assumes full responsibility for the registration and agrees to the Event Terms and Conditions.
4. Tickets purchased as part of a group package can only be transferred within the same group package. For example, an individual who registered as part of a group package registration can transfer their ticket to an individual who was not included in the original group package registration.
- The number of tickets in the group cannot be reduced/partially canceled.
 - Any payment or reimbursement arrangements between the original registrant and the substitute are the responsibility of those individuals. GSUSA does not facilitate financial transactions between parties.

REGISTRATION TRANSFERS WILL BE ACCEPTED THRU JUNE 30, 2026. NO TRANSFERS/SUBSTITUTIONS AFTER JUNE 30, 2026.

- To request the transfer of your ticket to another individual, send an email with the following information to convention@girlscouts.org:
 - First and last name and email of original registrant
 - First and last name and email of the new registrant
5. Purchasers must find their own substitutes. GSUSA cannot offer assistance finding substitutes for individual registrations

See the [Event Terms and Condition](#) for the substitution and refund policies.

Will girls be able to use their cookie rewards to attend?

Each council determines how Girl Scouts can use the cookie rewards—including what some councils call “cookie dough”—that they have earned by participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Please check with your council to see if they will be offering this option.

HOTEL & TRAVEL INFORMATION

Is any one hotel considered the "main" hotel for this event?

No. GSUSA has secured room blocks at 17 hotels within one mile of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. You can select the hotel that best meets your budget and convenience needs.

Which hotel(s) is closest to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center? Are any connected?

All hotels part of GSUSA’s room block are within one mile of the convention center. The Marriott Marquis is connected to the convention center.

How many days before and after the event will discounted hotel rates be available?

The shoulder dates vary by hotel, with most starting three days prior (Friday, July 17) and ending three days after (Tuesday, July 28).

When will we be able to book hotels, and how will it work?

The [hotel reservation portal](#) opened for the general public on September 3, 2025. Hotel reservations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Do registration and hotel prices include fees and taxes? If not, what percentage can we plan for budgeting purposes?

Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes. Fees, if applicable, vary by hotel and will be disclosed when the hotel reservation is made.

Event tickets and à la carte options available on the **Girl Scouts Unite** event registration site are not subject to taxes.

Is there an official airline partner for this event? Are bus trips being organized to/from this event?

Girl Scout members should check with their local councils to see whether they will be organizing any group travel plans or discounts from their regions.

Please note that there is currently no official or preferred national airline or bus company.

Should my troop travel to the Girl Scouts Unite event?

The **Girl Scouts Unite** event is a great experience for both families and troops. Troops can use the [Girl Scout Guide to U.S. Travel](#) to start brainstorming and troop leaders can take the gsLearn course "[GSUSA Field Trips and Travel](#)," an introduction to the Girl Scout travel progression and how to move from field trips to bigger adventures.

As soon as you decide to plan a troop trip, read the Trips/Travel chapter in the Safety Activity Checkpoints, available on your council's website, for more guidance, and contact your council to learn about resources, requirements, and training that may be available.

Which airport is closest to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center?

Ronald Reagan Washinton National Airport (DCA) is the closest airport; located approximately 4 miles away. [Visit](#) the official tourism site of Washington, DC, for planning resources, like things to do, restaurant information, and more.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Is there a fee for the shuttle?

The shuttle from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center to and from the hotels with GSUSA room blocks will be available Monday, July 20, through Saturday, July 25, free of charge. The shuttle is only available to 3- and 6-day ticket holders. A shuttle schedule will be provided in the Know Before You Go email in July.

Where can I rent a wheelchair or scooter locally?

Wheelchair and scooter rentals are available at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center through Scootaround. [Learn more.](#)

SCHEDULE/AGENDA

What time does NCS start on Monday and end on Wednesday?

Based on the draft agenda, the NCS delegate education sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. ET on Monday, July 20. The NCS closing ceremony will end by 6:30 p.m. ET on Wednesday, July 22. These times are subject to change. The National Council can vote to extend the meeting. Visit the event site for the [latest schedule](#).

What time does the Girl Scouts Unite event start on Thursday and end on Saturday?

Based on the draft agenda, the **Girl Scouts Unite** event will begin at 9:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, July 23. The **Girl Scouts Unite** event closing ceremony will end by 6:30 p.m. ET on Saturday, July 25. These times are subject to change. Visit the event site for the [latest schedule](#).

Where can I find a list of the workshops available for girls and adults?

We are offering 20+ interactive skill-building workshops daily for adults and girls in grades four and above. Visit the [event site](#) to see the list of workshops.

If you're registered/have purchased a ticket to NCS or the **Girl Scouts Unite** event, you can log into the [event portal](#) and use the personalization features to bookmark sessions and create your schedule. These selections will be available on the event app when it goes live in July. Schedules can be downloaded as a PDF and shared with others in your group. Be sure to enter the email address associated with your registration profile/ticket.

À LA CARTE ACTIVITIES

Are all National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite events happening at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center?

Yes, all **National Council Session** activities will take place at the convention center. All activities included in the **Girl Scouts Unite** event ticket will take place at the convention center. However, we are exploring excursions and Girl Scout experiences outside of the convention center, to be offered at an additional cost to event registrants.

When will you provide more details on optional "à la carte" activities?

GSUSA is exploring excursions and Girl Scout experiences outside of the convention center, to be offered at an additional cost to event registrants. Examples of these à la carte activities may include a half-day trip to Mount Vernon or a movie night at a local museum.

We don't anticipate offering à la carte options when general registration first opens. The activities will be added to the event portal as they are confirmed, and an email will be sent to registrants alerting them when a new activity has been added. The activities may take place any time between Monday, July 20, and Saturday, July 25, and registration will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Are the National Bridging Ceremony and Gold Award Celebration considered à la carte activities?

No. Admission to the National Bridging Ceremony and Gold Award Celebration is included in 3- and 6-day tickets.

What is the Gold Award Celebration? Who can attend?

Girl Scouts of the USA invites you to celebrate and honor our Gold Award Girl Scouts at the 2026 Gold Award Celebration, including alums who have earned the Golden Eagle of Merit, Golden Eaglet, First Class, or Curved Bar. This multi-generational reception will be a high-energy event with opportunities for participants to make meaningful connections with Gold Award Girl Scouts of all ages and honor their legacy of making the world a better place.

This invite-only event is intended for Gold Award Girl Scouts of all ages, as well as Juniors (girls in grades 4) and above who have a 3- or 6-day registration. Capacity may be limited. Attendance will be first-come, first-served based on when participants complete their registration and confirm their attendance by responding to the email invitation sent in June 2026. Please confirm your award status is updated on your registration by June 1, 2026, to ensure you receive an invitation to this event.

NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

Are you considering doing a livestream of NCS?

At this time, we have no plans to offer a livestream of the **National Council Session**.

Who can apply to be a National Council delegate at the 58th National Council Session?

National Council delegates are selected by their councils in the year before NCS takes place. Each council has its own timeline and process, but the eligibility requirements are the same for all:

- be a citizen of the United States of America as set out in GSUSA's Congressional Charter;
- be a registered member of the Girl Scout Movement;
- be able to consider a broad spectrum of the opinions of adult and older girl members from all parts of the council; and
- be willing to prepare thoroughly on the issues and business that will come before the National Council.

If you are interested in serving as a delegate at a future NCS, contact your council to learn about their process and timeline.

VOLUNTEERS & SPEAKERS

Will there be opportunities to volunteer at NCS or the Girl Scouts Unite event?

Yes. We welcome support from local volunteers. The volunteer portal is now live. Please [visit the volunteer portal](#) to create your profile to be notified when assignments are posted. Signups for volunteer shifts will begin in April 2026.

Volunteers are required to sign up for a minimum of one 4-hour shift. If you volunteer for a 4-hour shift, you will receive either an All Access: 1-day (Thursday or Saturday) or Limited Access: 1-day (Friday) ticket which can only be used on the day you volunteer. For instance, if you work a 4-hour shift in the morning, you will be able to attend the Girl Scouts Unite event in the afternoon and vice versa. This applies any time you sign up for a 4-hour shift.

If you volunteer for two 4-hour shifts on the same day, you will receive either an All Access: 1-day (Thursday or Saturday) or Limited Access: 1-day (Friday) ticket for a different day, so you can return and enjoy the event. Based on capacity and 1-day ticket availability, GSUSA will assign which day you can attend/redeem your 1-day ticket.

Tickets are issued to the individual who volunteered and are non-transferable.

How do I express an interest in speaking or facilitating a breakout session at NCS or the Girl Scouts Unite event?

Thank you for your interest. We have completed the selection process for session facilitators and speakers for the 2026 event. We hope you'll consider joining us at the **Girl Scouts Unite** event.

Where can I find a list of speakers participating at the Girl Scouts Unite event?

Space Gal Emily Calandrelli will be a keynote speaker on Thursday, July 23. Girl Scout book authors, Sayantani DasGupta and Yamile Saied Méndez, will be participating in book signings in the Hall of Experiences and mentor workshops. Additional speakers and sessions are being added regularly. Visit the event site to see the [list of speakers](#).

EXHIBITORS & SPONSORS

How can I learn about sponsoring the event?

With over 10,000 attendees expected, this will be our largest event yet. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to gain exposure and connect with Girl Scouts, families from across the country, non-members, troop leaders, alums, and passionate volunteers. By participating as a sponsor, you can amplify your brand's message and engage with a diverse demographic eager to learn more about your organization. **For more information about our sponsorship tiers and benefits, contact Alexandra Behette, vice president of institutional development, at abehette@girlscouts.org.**

How can I learn about participating as an exhibitor in the Hall of Experiences?

With over 10,000 attendees expected, this will be our largest event yet. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to gain exposure and connect with Girl Scout families from across the country, non-members, troop leaders, alums, and passionate volunteers. By participating as an exhibitor, you can amplify your brand's message and engage with a diverse demographic eager to learn more about your organization.

For more information about our booth packages, pricing, and exhibitor add-ons, [view the exhibitor prospectus](#) or contact Tiffany Taylor, manager of events, at ttaylor@girlscouts.org or 212-852-8020.

Ready to reserve your booth space? Visit the [exhibitor portal](#).

CONVENTION CENTER AMENITIES

Does the Convention Center have private spaces available for nursing and pumping?

Yes. The Walter E. Washington Convention Center has dedicated, private nursing rooms and [Mamava lactation pods](#) for nursing and pumping which will be available during NCS and the **Girl Scouts Unite** event. Key locations include pods near Room 103 B (South Building), Room 140A (North Building, near the spiral staircase), and on the L Street side.

Key details for nursing parents:

- Access: Pods can be unlocked via the [Mamava app](#) or by using the code 8008 on the keypad.
- Amenities: These private, quiet spaces typically include benches, a fold-down table, and power outlets.

Does the Convention Center have private spaces for prayer and meditation?

Yes. A prayer and meditation room will be available Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in room 157.

Does the Convention Center have a quiet space for sensory relief?

Yes. The Calm Corner will be available Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in room 154 A/B. It's a space where Girl Scouts can disconnect, recharge, and relax.

STAY INFORMED

How can we stay informed about event updates?

Join our [Convention Insider email list](#) to be the first to receive updates as they become available.

CONTACT US

Who should I contact with questions?

- For any **event or registration questions** not addressed here, please contact the [GSUSA Events team](#).
- For any **hotel or GSUSA room block questions**, please email us at girlscoutsunite@resiada.com. Support is available from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
- For PayPal Payment questions, contact PayPal customer service at 1-888-221-1161 or connect with [PayPal's Customer Support](#).