



# Special 57th National Council Session

## GSUSA FAQ - October 19, 2024

GSUSA informed Movement members of the National Board's decision to hold a special session of the National Council on Saturday, October 19, 2024. The Special 57th National Council Session (NCS) will be virtual and available to all members via livestream from noon until voting is completed (6 hours maximum).

During this session, the National Council will discuss, debate, and vote on the National Board's proposal(s) to increase membership dues. An increase of more than 25% within a triennium requires a special session and a vote by National Delegates.

### **Why is GSUSA proposing a dues increase?**

GSUSA is proposing an increase in annual membership dues to address the rising costs of operating girl programming across the Movement. With a dues increase, GSUSA says they will have the opportunity to expand girl programming and enhance their experience.

They also propose that an increase will combat rising costs that they have absorbed over the past eight years—particularly related to technology. After months of gathering input from local councils and delegates, the National Board thinks that increasing dues is necessary to sustain and support for current and future members while continuing to invest in the Movement.

### **When was the last membership dues increase?**

It has been 8 years since the last increase in membership dues.

### **Is the Movement in danger?**

In the proposal, GSUSA states that staying at our current \$25 membership dues will require dramatic cuts in services—passing technology costs on to councils, decreasing marketing investments, and delaying enhancements of systems used daily to serve girls and councils. The dues opportunity our National Council will consider will help us continue to deliver the quality programming Girl Scouts need, and families expect, at a national level.

Our movement is nearly 2 million Girl Scouts strong, and we are all united in our commitment to attracting and retaining youth and adults, ensuring the public understands the value of Girl Scouting. Together, we're engaging and serving more girls, families, and volunteers who help make the world a better place.

### **How will increased dues help support Girl Scouting?**

Increased dues will:

- make programs easier to deliver for volunteers,
- make technology easier to use, with more integration between platforms, including

- integrating technology tools that some volunteers already use at your council,
- ensure that processes are easier, faster, and better streamlined, including more 'turnkey' training, recruitment tools, and programs,
  - clarify and amplify for families and communities the value and impact of the Girl Scout experience and why girls should join, and donors should invest,
  - eliminate barriers so that every girl who wants to join Girl Scouts can do so and engage in all that Girl Scouting offers, and
  - create new experiences, including opportunities to explore new places and better connect with our global sisterhood.

### **What are the proposed membership dues increases?**

The national board of Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has recommended a national dues increase to take effect for Membership Year 2026. There are two proposals: one for girl membership and one for adult membership. There are varied options of price points, and the approach could include a staggered increase and an opportunity to share some of these dues with the council.

For girl membership, the GSUSA National Board of Directors recommends a proposal for \$85 to be incrementally increased over membership years 2026, 2027, and 2028.

The second proposal is for adult membership. The National Board of Directors recommends a \$45 membership fee to implement for 2026.

It is important to note that this proposal is NOT set to a "yes or no" vote; delegates will have the option to propose amendments and vote for other amounts, including ones with less of an increase.

### **How will delegates vote?**

Delegates, including those representing Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan (GSSEM), will cast their votes at the Special 57th National Council Session after extensive preparation, including proposal reviews and understanding parliamentary procedures. During the session, they will participate in informed and respectful debates, ensuring that decisions reflect the values of the Girl Scout Law and Promise while shaping the future of our movement.

### **What financial resources are available to members and future members?**

Our priority is to make sure every member—and future members— can participate fully in Girl Scouts. We currently offer a variety of financial resources and assistance programs to include [\*\*financial assistance\*\*](#) towards membership dues, troop dues, camperships, programming grants, and more.

*Thank you to Girl Scouts of San Jacinto for this FAQ.*