

PROPOSAL 1

Girl Scout Highest Awards Solicitation of Contributions

Submitted by

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania and 40 additional councils.

Proposal

Update the first paragraph of the Solicitation of Contributions part of the Policies section of the *Blue Book of Basic Documents* on page 20 by inserting the bolded, green wording and deleting the strike-through text, as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors, who may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee.</p> <p>In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.</p>	<p>Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except girl members for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors, who may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee.</p> <p>In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.</p>	<p>Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money except girl members may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee.</p> <p>In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.</p>



RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL 1

What is the issue the discussion topic or proposal is trying to address?

Currently, only Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors may request donations for their Gold Award projects, excluding Silver and Bronze Awards. This restricts access to resources that could support meaningful community partnerships and limits the potential impact of Highest Award projects.

This proposal specifically expands access to those working on a Highest Award (Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award). This preserves important safeguards around solicitation while broadening the accessibility of our Highest Awards.

Are there other ways to address this issue?

Some councils might have created local exceptions or workarounds, but a unified national policy would help ensure fairness, reduce confusion, and eliminate barriers for all Girl Scouts eligible to achieve the Highest Award.

This proposal aims to level the playing field by giving all Girl Scouts working towards their Highest Awards equal opportunity to partner with their communities and secure the support needed for impactful, long-lasting projects.

How does this proposal improve Movement governance or policy? OR how does this discussion topic inform Movement strategy?

This proposal improves the Movement's policy by increasing equity and accessibility for all Higher Award project execution. It helps to empower all eligible Girl Scouts with the same tools to execute meaningful, well-resourced projects (while maintaining council oversight).

Does this agenda item have Movement-wide significance? Does it apply to all councils?

Yes, this will apply to all councils and help enhance consistency in the implementation of Highest Awards across the country. This would create a clear national standard that maintains required council oversight to safeguard against the risk of over-solicitation.

Additionally, this could potentially lead to a positive Movement branding by increasing the visibility and possible impact of the Highest Awards. This could help enable more ambitious, visible, and high-impact projects at the Highest Award levels. Bronze and Silver Award projects with access to appropriate funding have the potential to elevate the visibility and value of Girl Scouting across communities.

Is this agenda item time-sensitive? What happens if it is not addressed at NCS 58?

Yes, many girls plan and begin their Higher Awards year-round. Clarifying this policy at NCS 58 would ensure that future Girl Scouts interested in pursuing the Bronze and Silver Awards are fully supported in delivering projects that reflect the values and mission of Girl Scouting.

Without updated national guidance, Bronze and Silver Award candidates may continue to face barriers to success.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial cost to councils or the national organization. Allowing more girls to seek approved contributions could lead to increased community engagement and potentially greater visibility for Girl Scouts in local communities. Councils would continue to monitor and approve fundraising, mitigating the risk of over-solicitation to donors.

This change could lead to increased community engagement and visibility of Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects, while maintaining donor trust and mitigating the risk of over-solicitation.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE NCSAT

The NCSAT recommended board action on this proposal in advance of the 58th NCS.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD

The National Board carefully reviewed input from the council support survey and concluded that while the proposal had a lot of support from across the Movement, there are also many councils concerned that this policy change would create significant administrative burdens which could divert staff time from efforts to support and grow membership, as well as create volunteer confusion about when money earning or fundraising rules applied. Therefore, the board remains neutral on this proposal and welcomes the opportunity to learn more from delegate education and deliberation.