Troop Government for Older Girls

Older girl troops should be entirely in control of group decision-making. Girls should determine which form of troop government they would like to adopt and how to run the election if necessary.

Town Meeting
In a Town Meeting, troops work together to make decisions. A Moderator facilitates group discussions and can change with every meeting. Officers such as Secretary and Treasurer may be elected if the troop feels it is necessary. This form of government works best with small troops.

Executive Board
The Executive Board consists of four officer positions. Here are some sample roles for each position:

President: Leads discussion in troop and executive board meetings, initiates troop votes, and prepares material for meetings

Vice President: Assumes the role of president in her absence, facilitates election of officers, handles troop outreach

Secretary: Organizes and keeps a record of troop activities, prepares meeting agenda

Treasurer: Determines and collects troop dues, organizes troop goal-setting activities as they relate to troop funds, handles money on behalf of the troop in conjunction with troop leaders.

Other officer positions such as Historian, Programming Director, or Community Service Director, may be added if the girls decide to do so. Board members meet on a regular basis outside troop meetings to handle troop business that does not need to be conducted during a regular meeting. Troop matters are decided by the board but troop members make their stances known via discussion or a suggestion box. The board then reports on the result of votes at regular troop meetings. This system tends to work better with smaller troops.

Patrol System
The Patrol System divides large troops into smaller groups called patrols. Patrols are ideally 4-6 girls and have their own unique name (e.g. Star Patrol, Horseshoe Patrol, Lightning Patrol). Each Patrol elects a Patrol Leader who runs the patrol meeting and an Assistant Patrol Leader to fill in when the Patrol Leader is absent. Patrols vote on issues within themselves, then Patrol Leaders get together outside of the troop meeting to vote on troop matters. Each Patrol has its own role in meetings as determined by the Court of Honor, a gathering of Patrol Leaders, any other officers the troop has elected, and troop leaders; these could include chores, leading a badge activity, setting up the meeting room, conducting a flag ceremony etc.