



Date: November 5, 2020

To: Council Board Chairs
Council Chief Executive Officers

From: Office of the National Board

Subject: Blue Book of Basic Documents, October 2020 Edition

Thank you all for your dedication and engagement in the recent successful 55th National Council Session.

We are pleased to bring you the newly revised **Blue Book of Basic Documents, October 2020 edition.**

The Blue Book (**attached**) was revised to reflect changes approved at the 55th National Council Session to both the Constitution and the Credentials section.

We encourage you to send the updated versions to your boards, staff, and delegates. The Blue Book will also be posted on the delegate website. The Spanish-language version will be posted in the future on girlscouts.org and the delegate website.

The specific changes to the Blue Book are set forth below:

- **Constitutional Amendment on Membership Dues (Article IX) (page 10)**

Every person accepting the principles of the Girl Scout Movement and desiring to be a member of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States of America shall pay annual, lifetime, or other applicable membership dues to Girl Scouts of the United States of America. [Dues are set by the National Council or the National Board.](#)

[The National Board shall implement procedures for communicating with and seeking input from Girl Scout councils and National Council delegates prior to any membership dues change by the National Board.](#)

- **Communications Procedures for National Board Dues Changes (page 24)**

[Prior to any vote by the National Board to change membership dues structure or amount, Girl Scouts of the USA shall communicate with and seek input from all local Girl Scout councils and National Council delegates on the proposed changes, intended use of the funds, and potential impact on the Girl Scout Movement. After action is taken by the National Board, there shall be a report to all local Girl Scout councils and National Council delegates of the decision taken and the impact of the dues change.](#)

- **Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration (page 23)**

In order to be a member of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States of America, a person must register with and pay annual, lifetime or other applicable membership dues to Girl Scouts of the United States of America. This is done locally through the Girl Scout council of USA Girl Scouts Overseas committee with which she or he is affiliated or through national headquarters if she or he has no council affiliation. [The National Board of Directors must obtain approval from the National Council whenever a planned dues increase will result in dues increasing more than a total of 25% in any one triennium.](#) Girl Scout councils account for membership dues in the custodian fund and transmit to GSUSA within two months of receipt all monies received for membership dues. These funds are not to be invested by the council for the purpose of generating income for the council.

- **Constitutional Amendment on Consistency in Delegate Terms (Article IV, Section 7) (page 8)**

Subject to the requirements of the preceding sections of this article, delegates elected by local councils [shall be elected in the calendar year preceding the National Council Session and](#) shall serve as members of the National Council for three years from the date of their election or until their successors are elected, provided they remain the delegates of the local council which elected them; delegates from USA Girl Scouts Overseas shall serve as members for three years from the date of their selection or until their successors are selected, provided they remain delegates from USA Girl Scouts Overseas; members of the National Board of Directors and National Board Development Committee shall be members of the National Council during their term of office; those persons elected by the National Council shall serve until the next regular session of the National Council.

- **Lifetime Membership Discount (page 24)**

Lifetime members pay \$400 lifetime membership dues at the time they become lifetime members; discounted lifetime membership dues of \$200 shall be offered to anyone who was a registered Girl Scout member before the age of 18 and is under the age of 30 at the time of becoming a lifetime member; [discounted lifetime membership dues of \\$200 shall be offered to anyone who is a registered member and has served as a volunteer for a period of 10 or more years at the time of becoming a lifetime member.](#)

In addition to the foregoing Blue Book revisions, the National Council also approved the following:

- **Establishment of a Task Force to Examine the Feasibility of a National Gold Award Scholarship Foundation**

THAT the National Council establish a task group, overseen by GSUSA and 2 council representatives, that includes volunteers, council staff, GSUSA Board members, and GSUSA representatives, charged with examining the feasibility of developing a college scholarship foundation to benefit Gold Award Girl Scouts. The task group will report back for a vote at the 2023 NCS on the feasibility, recommendation, and timeline for potential

establishment of the foundation by the 2023 National Council Session. All members of this task force shall be appointed by the GSUSA Board of Directors.

Finally, the footnote on page 9 of the Blue Book has been removed as that provision expired upon the conclusion of the 55th National Council Session.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Office of the National Board

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