



# Delegate Training Webinar

March 14, 2023

*\*training will be recorded & available for later viewing*



# Presenters



Vivian TerMaat  
Chief Executive Officer



Jessica Bowman  
HR & Governance Director

# Agenda

- Why do we have delegates?
- What do delegates do?
- What is Parliamentary Procedure?
- What do delegates vote on?
- What do delegates do after the Annual Meeting?

# Why do we have Delegates?

- System of governance of GSMISTS.
- Two-way communication between the board and volunteers.
- Elect the Board of Directors and Board Development Committee.
- Attend the Annual Meeting - on April 22, 2023, at 10:00am.
- Report back to your Service Unit members.
- Lead Governance Meetings in your Service Unit.

# Two Types of Delegates

## Council Delegates

Elected based on the number of girl members in each Service Unit as of September 30 of the calendar year.

- At least one (1) delegate
- One (1) alternate
- Ex Officio Board members and members of the Board Development Committee

## National Delegates

Council is entitled to delegates based on the number of girl members as of September 30 of the year preceding the regular session of the National Council:

- At least two (2) delegates
- One (1) additional delegate for up to 1,500 girls
- One (1) additional delegate for every 1,500 girls thereafter



# Council Delegate Composition

- Delegates are elected by the Service Unit or are delegated by virtue of another position they hold;
  - SU Delegates are nominated and elected directly by the Service Units, are at least 14 years of age, and serve a 1 - year term
  - Ex Officio delegates are members of the Board of Directors and members of the Board Development Committee
- For more information, refer to Article III of the GSMISTS Bylaws.



# Service Unit Delegates

- Represent the girls and adults in their area at the Annual Meeting
- Stay informed about challenges and needs in the Council by attending governance meetings, delegate forums, reading governance updates provided after each board meeting, and completing surveys.
- Able to calmly discuss the pros and cons of issues with an open mind and listen to others who have different views.
- Give input on upcoming Policy Decisions.
- Report back to members in your Service Unit.





## You Are A Representative

Not only do you represent members of your Service Unit, but you have also been elected because you can think for yourself and give input on challenges facing GSMISTS and help create a vision for the future.



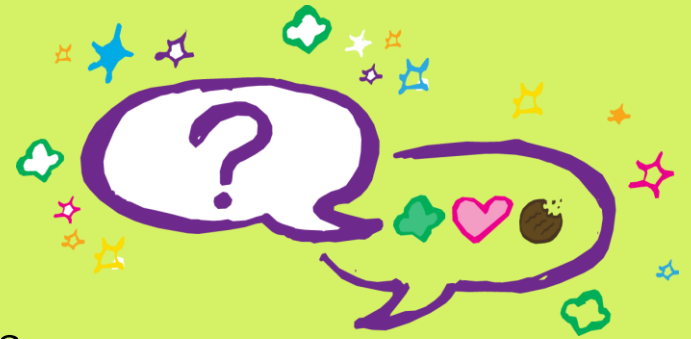


Each Delegate is a “voice” for girls and adults in all Service Units.

# Is it difficult to be a delegate?

## Stay Informed

- Attend Service Unit meetings and events
- Listen to volunteers, older girls, and parents
- Attend special council meetings for delegates
- Have an open mind and participate in discussions listening to all



# Is it difficult to be a delegate?

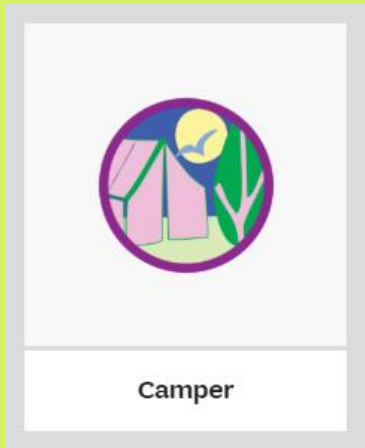
## Participate in discussion...

- What are the pros and cons of the topic?
- How can you phrase your statements so that others gain from your viewpoint?



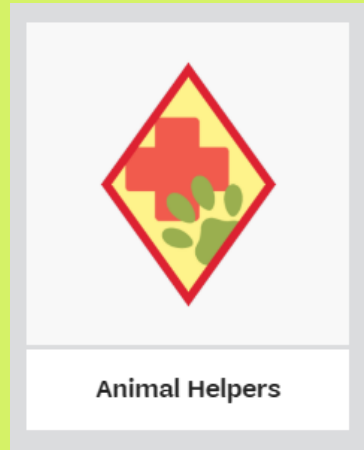
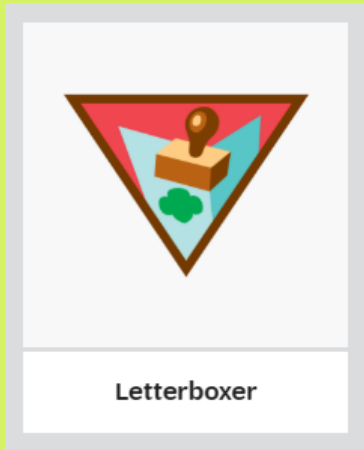
# Parliamentary Procedure

- At the Girl Scout Annual Meeting, business is conducted using Parliamentary Procedure.
- This discussion system is used in many City Council meetings, school boards, clubs and faith communities.
- It's a discussion system that ensures fairness to all, protects the rights of members, and strives to make the best use of delegates' time.



## Parliamentary Procedure cont.

- In fact, your Girl Scout troop probably uses a simple version of parliamentary procedure when they vote on which badges, programs, or high awards to work towards.



# Parliamentary Procedure cont.

- If you want to know more about Parliamentary Procedure, you can consult the book; Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
- There is also more information in your Delegate Manual which can be found at [www.gsmists.org](http://www.gsmists.org) Governance page.

# Democracy – It's a basic part of Girl Scouting

## So, what do Delegates vote on?

- Elect the Board of Directors
- Elect the Board Development Committee
- Elect National Council Delegates, every 3 years
- Changes to Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation when needed



# Participate in Policy Influencing

The board asking delegates for information





# How to prepare for the Annual Meeting?

- Your delegate manual has more information.
- The Annual Meeting packet will be sent to delegates 30 days before the meeting. Read and review the packet prior to the meeting.
- **IMPORTANT-** if you discover that you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please inform your Service Unit Director and Jessica Bowman so that an alternate can serve in your place.

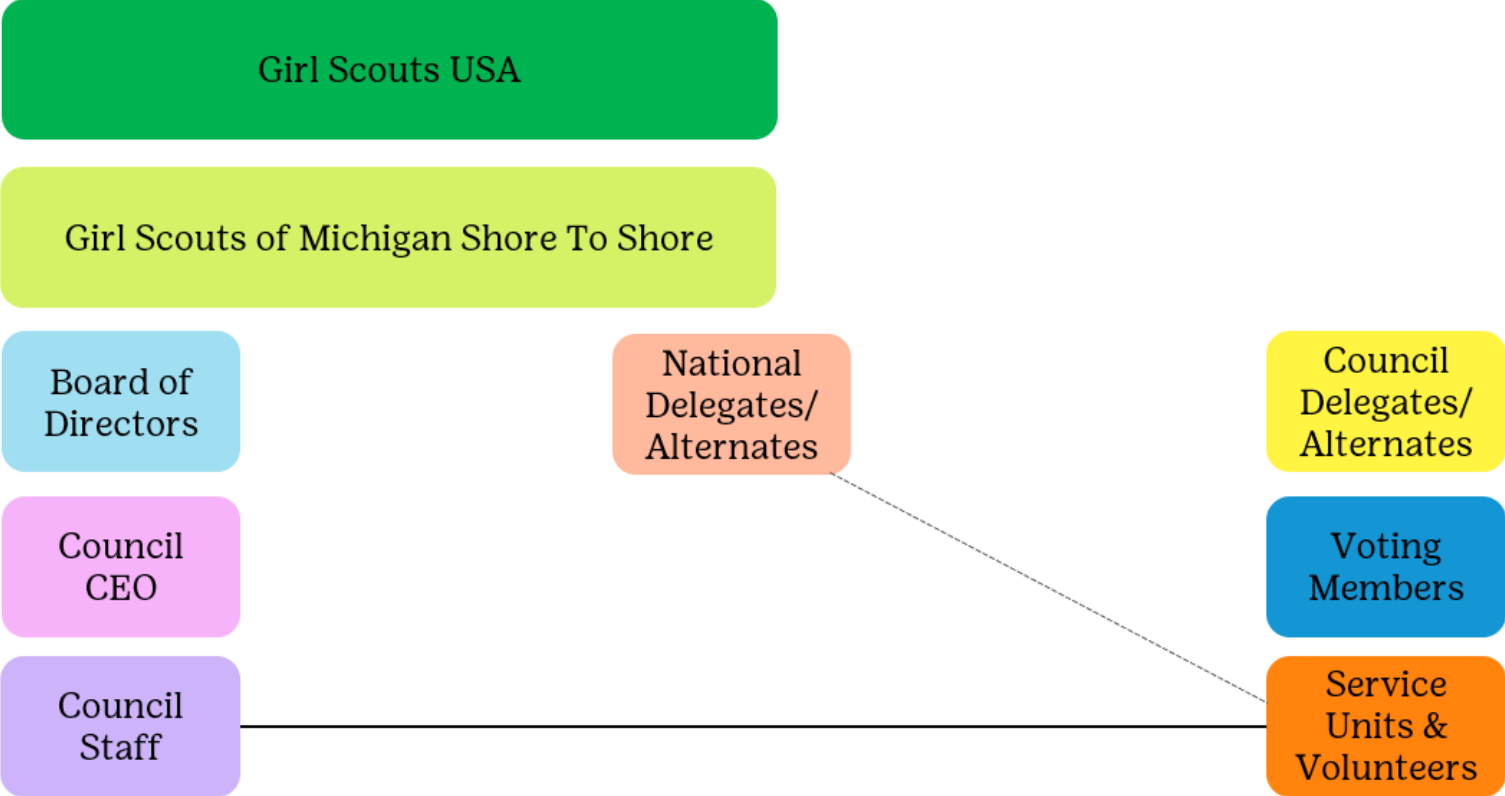


# What do Delegates do after the Annual Meeting?

You will need to report back to the members in your Service Unit.



# Operations and Policy



## Communication about Governance in your SU

- Work with the SUD and staff liaison to hold at least three Service Unit Governance discussions at your SU meetings each year.
- One meeting to nominate and elect delegates to represent the girls in your area. This meeting is usually held in October or early November.
- One meeting to report back to the members of your SU after the Fall Kick-off Meeting.
- One to recap the Annual Meeting.

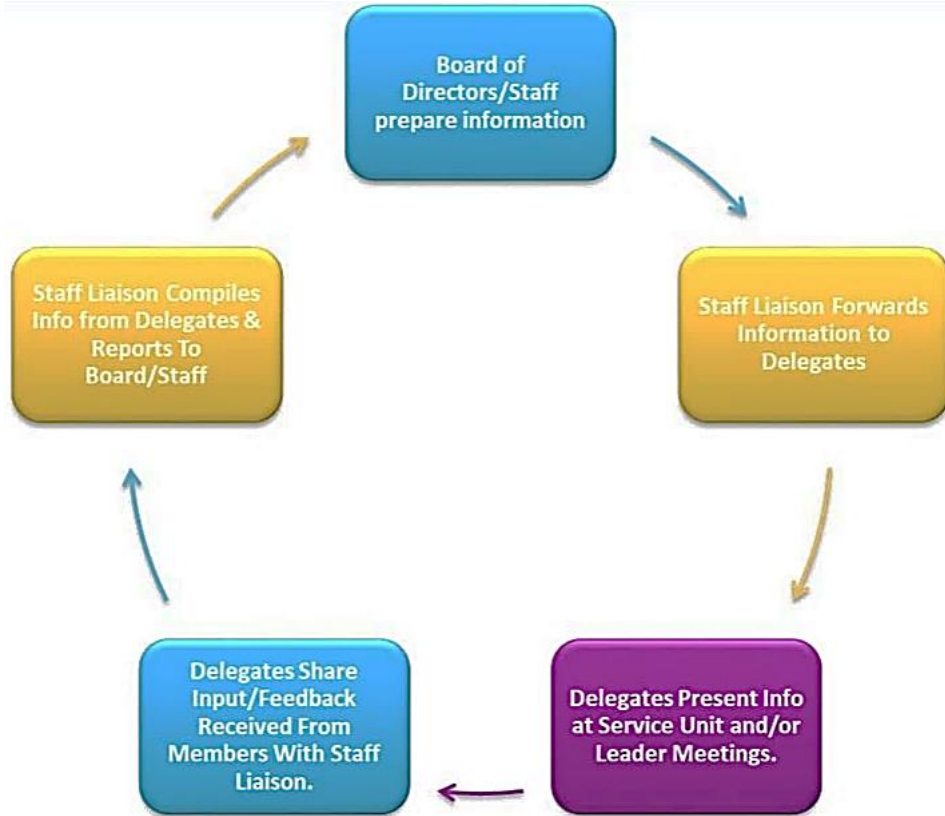


# Communication from the Board to Delegates

- After each board meeting:
  - Council Delegate Update
  - Share this information as appropriate with your Service Unit
- Fall Council Connect meetings and/or webinars



# Circle of Communication



# What is our goal?

Each delegate and alternate that represents GSMISTS at a national or council level is a “voice” for girls and adults in all service units.





## Need more information?

Check out resources on the website  
[www.gsmists.org](http://www.gsmists.org) > Our Council > BOD &  
Governance



# Save The Date

**2023 GSMISTS  
Annual Meeting**

April 22, 2023

10:00 am

Camp Anna Behrens

**2023 GSMISTS  
Girl Recognition  
Ceremony**

May 7, 2023

2:00 pm

Camp Anna Behrens

**2023 National Council  
Session by GSUSA**

July 18 – 20, 2023

Orlando, Florida





 **gsmists**

Thank You