



Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2798

SUGGESTION FOR 2020 NATIONAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPIC

Name of Girl Scout Council

(This proposal has been submitted to the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Board of Directors)

City

Louisville

State

Kentucky

TITLE OF DISCUSSION TOPIC

Discussion of National Property Strategy

STATEMENT OF TOPIC, QUESTION, OR ISSUE

A Movement-wide Property Strategy deserves the attention of the National Council as a discussion topic. Discussion might include but not be limited to the following:

- Advantages and disadvantages of council ownership of properties to support the Outdoor and STEM Program Pillars, the outdoor skills badges and Journey, STEM badges and Journeys, environmental sciences badges and Journeys, and outdoor adventure programs
- Advantages and disadvantages of council ownership of properties to house Girl Scout council offices
- The viability of various alternatives to owning properties and ways to partner with other property owners (both public and private) to provide a girls-only program location needed for Girl Scout outdoor and STEM programming
- Ways to leverage property access and/or ownership to support Outdoor and STEM programs into local fund development efforts
- Ways to pursue turning outdoor properties into public lands and/or lands purchased by non-profits but available for Girl Scout use for those councils forced to sell camp properties due to financial considerations
- The advisability of a national registry of Girl Scout properties to aid traveling troops who may wish to use council properties while traveling
- The types of support needed from GSUSA for councils to offer exciting outdoor and adventure programming at council-owned or managed properties and in other locations not owned or managed by Girl Scout entities
- Whether GSUSA should pursue owning or otherwise having significant access to one or more national outdoor and/or STEM properties as part of a national effort to better attract and retain older girls in Girl Scouting

REASONS

Within the past few years, GSUSA has announced that STEM and Outdoors are now two of the four program pillars of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and important in the development of girls to be go-getters, innovators, risk-takers, and leaders (G.I.R.L.) This follows recent development of Outdoor and STEM Journeys and badges since the Outdoor Program discussion at the 2014 National Council Session identified outdoor programming as essential to our national brand. However, offering excellent

outdoor and STEM programming in a girl-only environment requires property and other financial resources which are expensive to develop and maintain. As a result, financial pressures have forced some Girl Scout councils to sell properties, a process which is always controversial at best and which has caused significant divisions and discord between council memberships and their boards of directors. A national strategic discussion regarding how best to approach property ownership, the purposes of property ownership, alternatives to property ownership, and the support needed for providing outdoor and STEM programs is needed to guide the development of a National Property Strategy to support the recent program initiatives in STEM and Outdoors.

This strategic discussion should be preceded with providing National Council members data and information on the “current state” of any National Property Strategy and any advice or direction given by GSUSA to councils regarding property ownership and use. This information about the current state needs to include a brief historical perspective on changes in the last 10 years as well as current national resources (personnel, funding, services to councils, etc.) dedicated to properties. Such data and information should be provided to National Council members well in advance of the 2020 National Council Session to inform the discussion.

Signature and Printed Name of chair, or secretary, council board of directors

Date of council board meeting

On or before August 31, 2019, email to: BoardOffice@girlscouts.org

Or mail form to: Office of the National Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798.

Submission Deadline: August 31, 2019

If additional space is needed, please attach a separate page.