



## **AUTHORIZATION FOR ANNUAL GENERAL PROGRAM FEE FOR GIRL MEMBERS**

### **Disclaimer**

This advance information is provided as a preliminary resource to be used with Delegate training sessions. Please note that final wording of the rationales for the respective National Board positions on each proposal and the order in which the proposals will appear during the National Council business meetings will be as published in the *Workbook* and distributed to councils in August, 2011.



**AUTHORIZATION FOR ANNUAL GENERAL PROGRAM FEE FOR GIRL MEMBERS**

**Statement of Proposal:**

To amend the *Blue Book of Basic Documents* policy entitled “Girl Scout Council Authority and Responsibility” by striking and inserting as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendments to Policy	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>Girl Scout Council Authority and Responsibility</p> <p>Within the terms of its charter, a Girl Scout council shall have the authority and responsibility to: provide and safeguard the Girl Scout program, build an organization to serve its membership, secure and direct personnel, extend membership opportunities to all girls within its jurisdiction, finance its work, and develop its community and public relationships; <i>however, a Girl Scout council shall</i></p>	<p>Girl Scout Council Authority and Responsibility</p> <p>Within the terms of its charter, a Girl Scout council shall have the authority and responsibility to: provide and safeguard the Girl Scout program, build an organization to serve its membership, secure and direct personnel, extend membership opportunities to all girls within its jurisdiction, finance its work, and develop its community and public relationships. [<del>;</del> <i>however, a</i>] <i>A Girl Scout council shall not have the authority to establish any form of local council</i></p>	<p>Girl Scout Council Authority and Responsibility</p> <p>Within the terms of its charter, a Girl Scout council shall have the authority and responsibility to: provide and safeguard the Girl Scout program, build an organization to serve its membership, secure and direct personnel, extend membership opportunities to all girls within its jurisdiction, finance its work, and develop its community and public relationships. <i>A Girl Scout council shall not have the authority to establish any form of local council membership dues; however, Girl Scout</i></p>



<p><i>not have the authority to establish any form of local council membership dues, nor shall a Girl Scout council use membership dues collected from girls and adults registering with GSUSA through the council as a source of investment income. The local council shall be accountable to the National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the United States of America for proper exercise of this authority.</i></p>	<p><i>membership dues.</i> [<del>nor shall a Girl Scout council</del>]  <u>however, Girl Scout councils may charge an annual general program fee for girl members, not to exceed the amount charged by GSUSA for annual membership dues. A Girl Scout council shall not</u> use membership dues collected from girls and adults registering with GSUSA through the council as a source of investment income. The local council shall be accountable to the National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the United States of America for proper exercise of this authority.</p>	<p>councils may charge an annual general program fee for girl members, not to exceed the amount charged by GSUSA for annual membership dues. A Girl Scout council shall not use membership dues collected from girls and adults registering with GSUSA through the council as a source of investment income. The local council shall be accountable to the National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the United States of America for proper exercise of this authority.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Proviso: If adopted, this will be effective beginning FY2013**

[Words in bracket] = words to be struck  
Underlined words = words to be inserted

**Submitted by:**

National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the USA and Girl Scout Council of Central and Southern New Jersey\*\*



### **Recommendation of the National Board:**

The National Board recommends **adoption** of the proposal.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

The cost of organizing and delivering Girl Scouting is increasing. While all program is based on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, the methodologies of program delivery and related costs differ from council to council. This proposal, giving councils the flexibility of charging a general program fee, will help councils meet the wide-ranging needs of girls and offset the increasing cost of providing a full spectrum of program opportunities for girls.

This proposal amends the *Blue Book* policy entitled "Council Authority and Responsibility." It provides councils, for the first time, with the option of assessing a general program fee to help cover costs related to the administration of Girl Scout program for girls. This is a general program fee, not to be confused with event-related program fees that councils may charge for specific event-related programs such as various camp, series, event, or travel programs.

The general program fee can be determined by the council but cannot exceed the cost of the full-year, annual Girl Scouts of the USA membership dues in effect in the Girl Scout year that the fee is charged. If a council chooses to charge a general program fee, it must be consistently charged to all girl members at the time of registration. Additionally, councils charging a general program fee must provide financial aid so that general program fee is not a deterrent to girl enrollment. Councils can charge general program fees beginning in October 2012.

Councils are not required to charge a general program fee. If they do, the fee must be consistently charged to all girl members at the time of registration. General program fees could differ from council to council. Councils need to be prepared to handle questions should fees differ across jurisdictional lines.

Any general program fee charged by the council would not be considered part of the council's fund-raising efforts or family solicitation campaigns and as such would not be tax deductible. Just as councils seek donations to cover GSUSA membership dues for low-income families, external donations could be sought to subsidize general program fees, creating an opportunity to generate philanthropic support to offset costs.



### **Footnotes**

Footnotes will be added to the *Blue Book of Basic Documents* to define the general program fees, maintain clarity regarding the difference between Girl Scouts of the USA membership dues and general program fees, and to explain that general program fees are to be applied uniformly to all girls at the time of registration.

### **Reference:**

*Blue Book of Basic Documents 2009 Edition, Updated June 2010, p 18*

\*\*This joint proposal replaces the proposal previously submitted by Girl Scout Council of Central and Southern New Jersey entitled, "Council Registration Fee."