



Frequently Asked Questions –GS Councils

Convention

What are the dates?

There are activities for various audiences from **Tuesday, 10/3/17 – Sunday, 10/8/17**

- Cultural Resources Conference (previously named the History Conference): Tuesday, 10/3/17- Wednesday, 10/4/17
- Board Chair/CEO Retreat: Tuesday, 10/3/17 – Wednesday, 10/4/17
- National Council Session: Wednesday, 10/4/17 – Friday, 10/6/17
- Philanthropy Conference: Wednesday, 10/4/17 – Friday, 10/6/17
- Hall of Experiences: Friday, 10/6/17 – Saturday, 10/7/17 (preview party for delegates, CEO's and Board Chairs) 10/5/17)
- Opening Ceremony for G.I.R.L. 2017, G.I.R.L. plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and Closing Ceremony for girls in grades 6-12 as well as adults 18 and over: Friday, 10/6/17 – Sunday, 10/8/17

Can anyone attend?

- Yes, G.I.R.L. 2017 was designed to bring together every go-getter, innovator, risk-taker, and leader who cares about girls and their leadership potential. This event welcomes Girl Scouts, girls of all ages, parents, families, care-givers, and influencers.

When will the agenda be determined for NCS?

- The National Board approved the agenda at their January 2017 Board meeting.



Registration

When does registration open?

The registration portal is open.

Do registrants register through their council?

Only elected delegates must register through their council representative. All other registrants may go directly through the registration portal located on the [G.I.R.L. 2017 website](#).

How much does registration cost?

The registration fees are:

\$425	Delegates (Adults & Girls)
\$345	Adult Visitor
\$295	Girl Visitor (Grades 6-12) Weekend Pass
\$345	<i>Adult Chaperones for girls 6-12 grade weekend pass</i>
\$150	Girl Visitor (Grades 2-5) Weekend Pass
\$150	<i>Adult Chaperones for girls grade 2-5 weekend pass</i>
\$10/\$20	Hall of Experiences: Girl/Adult 1 day pass

What is included in the registration price?

Check (✓) marks next to the activities indicates what is included in the registration.

Activities:	Delegates	Adults	Girls (Grades 6-12)	Girls (Grades 2-5)
National Council Session	✓	<i>Included but optional</i>	<i>Included but optional</i>	<i>Included but optional</i>
All of GIRL 2017	✓	✓±	✓±	<i>Opening & Closing only</i>
Museum sleepover	X	X	X	✓
Delegate Breakfasts	✓	X	X	X
Delegate Luncheon	✓	X	X	X
Delegate Reception	✓	X	X	X
Girl Breakfasts	X	X	✓	X
Girl Luncheon	X	X	✓	X
Girl Welcome Reception	X	X	✓	X
Museum Camp-In Dinner/Breakfast	X	X	X	✓
Hall of Experiences	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hall of Experiences Preview Party	✓	X	X	X
Celebration Party	✓	✓	✓	X

Notes:

±Includes opening, closing, plenary but participation in breakout sessions appropriate for adults and adult/girl mix that replaces both GS University fee based and GSLI previous models.



Prices listed do not include hotel accommodations. Refer to the section below for housing.

Housing & Transportation

How do I reserve hotel rooms?

The hotel portal micro-site is open. GSUSA has contracted with hotels in Columbus and negotiated rates and services. By booking within the block of rooms reserved for Girl Scouts you help keep costs down for all participants.

New for councils this year is the option to have your own council's hotel micro-site. We've partnered with a housing company that provides services to the large political conventions and much like in that instance where state delegates have their own hotel registration micro-sites, the company will do that for Girl Scouts. Councils can send participants the direct link to their council microsite or participants may identify their council on the main hotel portal and be directed to the council micro-site. Councils can choose to display only the hotels they designate for their councils, display other council only events happening in Columbus like delegate dinners, post banner ads from local sponsors or their own council messages. Council convention representatives will learn all about using the micro-site. It is not mandatory to have a microsite, it is an enhancement to build presence for your council and local sponsors.

What are the hotel prices?

The room rates run from \$131 to \$232 per room per night, plus tax, which is currently 17.00 percent per night for local, sales and occupancy taxes. Understanding that everyone is looking for the best value, we have reserved many rooms that are suites and can easily accommodate 3 – 4 people.

Is there a designated airline provider?

Delta is pleased to offer discount airfare for your event travel. Use meeting code **NMPT6** to purchase tickets with the lower rate. Visit www.delta.com/meeting or call Delta Meeting Network Reservations at 800-328-1111.

How easy is it to get from the airport to downtown?

It's super easy and inexpensive to get from the airport to downtown. For \$2.75 each way COTA AirConnect provides direct bus service between John Glenn International airport and downtown hotels and the Greater Columbus Convention Center. There are also taxi-cabs, Uber and shuttle service. The airport is approximately 7.5 miles and 15 minutes away.

Are there arrangements for motor coaches and buses?

Knowing that about half of the US population lives within a day's drive of Columbus we've made arrangements for reserved bus parking at most of the hotels. If you know that your council is planning a bus trip, please have your council convention



representative bring that to our attention and we can be sure you are matched with a hotel that can accommodate the bus.

Will I be able to explore Columbus Ohio and the surrounding area?

The Greater Columbus Convention Center is conveniently located in downtown Columbus, Ohio near many restaurants and shops. Check out what Columbus has to offer at www.experiencecolumbus.com. In addition, tours to attractions and destination in and around the Columbus area will be available. Watch for details on the G.I.R.L.2017 webpage in February 2017.

National Council Session

How is the number of delegates per council determined?

As communicated in the February 23, 2016 [memo](#) to council Board Chairs and CEOs, for the 2017 National Council, the delegate formula will be adjusted to keep the National Council close to the optimal size of 1,500 delegates. This is the same formula that was used for the 2011 and 2014 National Council. Each council will be entitled to elect:

Two (2) delegates:

One (1) additional delegate for up to 2,000 girls;

One (1) additional delegate for every 2,000 girls thereafter.

When will councils know their official delegate count?

All councils have been notified.

Sponsorship

What is the minimum level sponsorship?

Sponsorship begins at \$25,000 up to our premier sponsor at \$500,000.

How does revenue share work?

We recognize that not all councils have access to sponsors donating at the highest levels. So rather than creating a gradated system based on the amount of the sponsorship, we feel that a flat percentage for any size sponsorship brought in by councils will help make the revenue share more equitable and accessible for all councils, and simpler to implement. We recommend a 20 percent council share for all convention sponsorships brought in by councils, according to the following guidelines:

- Revenue share applies to NEW convention sponsors only.
- The council will actively partner/participate in the discovery call, proposal process, presentation/ask, and stewardship of the sponsor.
- Approach all donations/sponsorships from an enterprise-/Movement-wide view.
 - When a council has an existing relationship with a corporate sponsor and is approaching them for convention sponsorship, lead with the understanding that



convention sponsorship would be in addition to, not instead of, a council gift. For example, if a corporation is already giving \$40,000 on an annual basis to a council and they'd like a national opportunity, the initial approach should be to continue funding the council at their current level, then on top of that contribute to convention. Keep in mind, of course, that the choice is ultimately the donor's.

- The donor will be recognized for the total amount of their gifts. For example, if a corporation contributes \$40,000 to a council and then \$60,000 for convention sponsorship, they will be publicly acknowledged for the total gift of \$100,000.
- If we reach our convention sponsorship goal of \$1.3 million in gross revenue, we are considering the following bonus/incentive for councils that brought sponsors in: any amount above the \$1.3 million goal would get allocated to councils that brought in sponsorship, with distribution based on a percentage of the sponsorship dollars each council brought in.

How much is an Exhibitor Booth?

A booth ranges between \$2,500 and \$8,800 depending on its size (see below).

Booth Options	\$/sq/ft	Prior to 12.31.16	After 12.31.16
Preview Party only October 5, 2017	\$19/21	\$1,900.00	\$2,100.00
Thurs – Sat October 5–7, 2017	Includes Preview Party		
10'x10'	\$25/27	\$2,500	\$2,700
10'x20'	\$24/26	\$4,800	\$5,200
10'x30'	\$23/25	\$6,900	\$7,500
10'x40'	\$22/24	\$8,800	\$9,600
20' x 20'	\$22/24	\$8,800	\$9,600
Over 400 sq. ft.	\$21/ 23	\$21/ sq. ft.	\$23/ sq. ft.
Corner (per corner)	\$150	\$150	\$150

Is there a revenue share for booth space as well?

Yes there is. However, the potential exhibitor needs to indicate your council name and council contact in the referral field on the online registration form. Once that is done we then have the information necessary and the council will be allocated a \$200 referral fee, payable after the convention.

Program and Learning



When will the agenda be determined for G.I.R.L. 2017?

Currently, we have an overview of the day to day activities. A final detailed itinerary will be made available in the coming months so stay tuned.

In addition to the Hall of Experiences, the opening ceremony will kick off G.I.R.L. 2017 on Friday, October 6, 2017 for all attendees. Beginning on Saturday, October 7, 2017 there will be separate Go-Getter, Innovator, and Risk-Taker themed plenary sessions that are followed by breakout sessions specific to those areas. Additionally, we will host a fun and engaging adult party for attendees 18 and over that night and a corresponding one for girls in grades 6th-12th. To wrap up this exciting convening, we will host a Leader plenary session and our official closing ceremony on Sunday, October 7, 2017.

What happened to GSLI (Girl Scout Leadership Institute)? Will it be offered in 2017?

GSLI was a conference that during the past 3 conventions ran pre – convention, overlapping convention and then at the same time as convention, was limited to Girl Scouts who were 14 – 18 years old and had a limit of maximum 10 girls per council. We took the best attributes, girl planning and girl exclusive experiences, and applied those elements to the inclusive G.I.R.L. 2017 format.

G.I.R.L. 2017 is for all girls, whether you are a Girl Scout or not. We listened to what girls said on the past convention evaluations. The result - the girl activities are focused on the weekend to ease travel and participation. We also did away with a limit of 10 girls per council and the minimum age requirement of 14 yrs old to attend. There are three options so all girls can participate; price varies depending on which option is chosen. Please view the registration section for detailed information.

Who can we expect to see at G.I.R.L. 2017?

All speakers, moderators, and performers are still being determined. Please feel free to check our G.I.R.L. 2017 website for the latest information on who will be joining us during the largest convening of women and girls ever.

I know someone who would be an awesome speaker/influencer/moderator/performer at G.I.R.L. 2017. Who should I send their information to?

Please send any suggestions or recommendations for speaker, influencers, moderators, and performers to [Erika Sosa](#).

Volunteering

Who can volunteer at G.I.R.L. 2017?

We welcome anyone 18 and over that is interested in volunteering.



How do I sign up to volunteer for G.I.R.L.?

We are exclusively using the InitLive system to schedule volunteer opportunities. The following are links to volunteer:

General Convention Volunteer Team - <https://app.initlive.com:443/JE/l1oq0rchx8ntv0>

Hall of Experiences - <https://app.initlive.com:443/JE/scuj6u61e71k2i>

We will be adding additional exciting opportunities over the next few months. Please check our [web site](#) frequently for the most updated information!

What are some potential volunteer roles?

Pre-Convention Prep Support

Hospitality Rooms Hosts

Directional Assistants

Hall of Experiences- Program

Assistance Hall of Experiences- Retail

Support

Can I have my troop girls with me during my volunteer shift?

No, volunteers should not bring minors to supervise during their assigned volunteer shifts.

I have created a profile in the Initlive system, what should I expect next?

Once you have created a profile in the Initlive system, you will be assigned a role. You will be contacted in mid to late May with specific shift times to choose.



What type of training will I receive for my volunteer role?

Volunteers will receive online training this summer and on-site training at G.I.R.L. 2017, we will make sure you are set!

Do you have to be a registered Girl Scout member to volunteer?

No, you do not have to be a current member to volunteer, but we would certainly like you to become one after you experience the power of a G.I.R.L.! Register today at www.gsoh.org/join.

What perks do you receive as a volunteer?

All volunteers who sign up for the minimum of one four hour shift will receive the following:

- A pass to the Hall of Experiences
- A G.I.R.L. 2017 volunteer t-shirt

How many shifts can I sign up for?

You are welcome to sign up for as many shifts as you like.

Do I receive a registration discount by volunteering?

No, volunteers do not receive discounted admission to G.I.R.L. for volunteering.

Please send additional questions regarding the volunteer experience to [Amanda Sigmon](#) or [Lizbeth Kohler](#).

