



Date: May 4, 2020  
To: Council Board Chairs and CEOs  
From: Office of the National Board  
Subject: *Blue Book of Basic Documents*, April 2020 Edition

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

As previously shared by email (and as shared again along with this memo), on April 21, 2020, the National Board authorized a one-time virtual session for our 55th National Council Session (NCS) in October 2020 and authorized notice of the meeting to be given by electronic method. The revised Blue Book reflects these actions.

The health and safety of all members of the Girl Scout Movement was at the forefront of this decision. COVID-19 has created an unprecedented global public health crisis. As GSUSA monitored public health experts' recommendations and forecasts over the past several months, it became clear that we cannot ensure the health and safety of participants at an in-person National Council Session in October 2020. There are also no widely accepted models that predict when it may be safe to again hold such events, nor can anyone predict when restrictions on travel will be lifted across all the geographies that we serve.

Pursuant to Article X, Section 6 of the Constitution, in the event of an emergency that makes it impossible, as we're now experiencing, for the National Council to meet, the National Board (the board) is automatically conferred with all powers of the National Council other than the power to conduct elections. With this conferred power, the board determined that it would not act on the proposals currently pending before the National Council. Rather, it exercised this power to authorize a virtual NCS this year, in order to facilitate the democratic process and allow the work of the Movement to continue, while also preserving first and foremost the health and safety of all participants. The board wants to honor the significant business that was brought to the National Council, including four proposals initiated by councils, two proposals co-created by councils and the board, and the election of the new board and National Board Development Committee. We also want our thousand-plus delegates to have the opportunity to continue to engage throughout the next six months and at NCS to drive this business and our democratic process forward. This decision allows us to honor the intent to bring the Movement together to address the important business that will shape Girl Scouts' future.

Regardless of the meeting format, what remains a constant is the Girl Scout democratic process. We are strengthening the delegate engagement plan to help prepare our councils and our National Delegates for a virtual experience. We will be leveraging councils' learnings, as more than half have already held or decided to hold their annual meetings virtually this year. We

will also continue to seek and listen to input from you, our council leaders, as well as delegates, as we make this shift in meeting format.

The change to the *Blue Book of Basic Documents* is set forth below:

The following footnote was added on page nine, Constitution, Article V, Sessions of the National Council:

\* The following Section 6 of Article V is effective April 21, 2020 and expires upon conclusion of the 55th National Council Session: “6. The National Board may authorize any session of the National Council to take place in whole or in part by means of remote communication by any means of communications technology determined by the National Board and pursuant to which the members of the National Council have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members of the National Council, pose questions, and make comments. Attendance through such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting for quorum and voting purposes, including without limitation under Article V, Sections 4 and 5; Article XII, Section 11; and Article XVII. The National Board may further authorize notice of such meeting to be given by electronic method notwithstanding Article V, Sections 1 and 3.”

A footnote on page 25 of the Blue Book regarding a lifetime membership promotion for April 2019 has also been removed.

While the English-language version is available today, the Spanish-language version will be posted in the coming weeks at [girlscouts.org](https://www.girlscouts.org). The *Blue Book of Basic Documents* will also be made available on the [Girl Scout Delegate Official Website](#). We encourage you to send the updated versions to your boards, staff, and delegates.

Please contact the [National Board Office Team](#) with any questions.