



Town Hall & Membership Dues FAQs

What is a membership fee?

Currently, when a girl joins Girl Scouts of Silver Sage, they pay a \$25 **membership fee** + \$15 **council service fee** (\$40 total). This **membership fee**, called “**membership dues**,” goes entirely to GSUSA and is used to fund technology infrastructure, data security, program development, and enhancements that support councils and benefit our girls. The **council service fee** stays local to fund mission delivery such as programs, camp properties, and volunteers-support staff. Adult members only pay the \$25 **membership fee**. The Special 57th National Council Session was convened on October 19th to vote on increasing **membership fees**. **Council service fees** are decided at the local Council level.

What will membership fees be next year?

- Annual dues for girl members will be \$65 (\$45 **membership fee** + \$20 **council service fee**) for Membership Year 2026 (Oct. 1st, 2025 – Sept. 30th, 2026) and \$65 (\$65 **membership fee**) in Membership Year 2027 (Oct. 1st, 2026 – Sept. 30th, 2027), and
- Annual dues for adult members will be \$30 (\$30 **membership fee**), beginning in Membership Year 2026.

How many packages of cookies will a girl need to sell to renew their membership with program credits?

At the 300-349 packages level, girls will be able to auto-renew their membership through the cookie program, using the first \$65 of their program credits (\$75 of program credits are earned at 300 pkgs, meaning girls can earn their \$65 membership + \$10 in program credits).

What was the outcome of the Special 57th National Council Session?

On Saturday, October 19th Girl Scouts of the USA’s National Council, made up of over 900 girl and adult members from across the country, gathered virtually for a first-ever special National Council Session and voted to invest in Girl Scouting.

In the months leading up to the special session, delegates engaged deeply with the Girl Scout democratic process. They learned about two membership dues proposals put forth by the National Board as well as actions that the board took to provide financial assistance to councils and families. Through educational webinars, delegates gave feedback, asked questions, and practiced parliamentary procedure.

On October 19, delegates put their preparation into action. They engaged in respectful and impassioned debate and ultimately voted to increase annual membership dues for both girl and adult members. They decided:

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- that annual dues for girl members will be \$45* (**see page 2 for Council-specific membership fee information**) for Membership Year 2026 and \$65 effective Membership Year 2027, and
- that annual dues for adult members will be \$30, beginning with Membership Year 2026.

National Council Sessions represent the best of our dynamic democratic process—one that is for Girl Scouts, by Girl Scouts. We applaud our National Council for passing these proposals and investing in girls, their potential, and the promise of Girl Scouting. Our girls expect and deserve to be invested in.

Will Silver Sage continue a council service fee in 2026?

Yes, after careful deliberation, the decision was made to continue a council service fee for our Council in the 2026 membership year (October 1st, 2025 – September 30th, 2026). The council service fee will be \$20 in membership year 2026, meaning the girl membership fee will be a total of \$65 (\$45 **membership dues** + \$20 **council service fee**). There will not be a council service fee in membership year 2027, ensuring girl membership fees will remain at \$65 in membership year 2027. Adult members will only pay the \$30 membership fee.

Why did Silver Sage decide to continue a council service fee?

Many factors went into this decision-making process. The primary reason for continuing the council service fee in membership year 2026 is because our Council relies on the funds to support mission delivery locally in our Council. A loss in this financial support would have impacted our ability to deliver the programs and resources you expect and deserve.

Second, as a result of the national delegation's vote during the 57th National Council Special Session, GSUSA membership dues will increase to \$65 in membership year 2027. We will not have a Council Service Fee in 2027, ensuring membership dues do not change two years in a row, remaining consistent, predictable and stable year-to-year at \$65 for girls and \$30 for adults. We heard from many of you that this clarity and stability was important, to ensure girls, families, and Troops can plan and budget for their Girl Scout year.

Lastly, the Council Service Fee ensures we have funds available for financial assistance so that any girl can join Girl Scouts, no matter her financial situation. We remain steadfastly committed to this support and ask that you join us in ensuring each girl and family in your Troop knows there is a place for them in Girl Scouts.

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Why did Silver Sage decide to discontinue the council service fee in membership year 2027 (Oct. 1st, 2026 – Sept. 30th, 2027)?

When the national membership dues increase to \$65 in MY27, Councils will receive 25% of the \$65 fee as financial support for five years. These funds will stay local and support mission delivery, offsetting the need for a council service fee.

Special 57th National Council Session, Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Member Feedback

In preparation for the National Council Session, Girl Scouts of Silver Sage sent a survey to all members to share ideas, feedback and concerns for our National Council Delegates to incorporate as they considered their responses to the proposals. These responses were summarized and carefully reviewed to help Delegates determine the best options for our shared future. The survey was open from September 25th through October 10th. There were ninety-eight responses to the survey. Below are the top recurring questions and ideas shared by members through the survey and information about relevant National Council Session outcomes.

Member Survey Feedback	Relevant NCS Outcome	Additional Context
\$85 is too high.	The National Delegate body passed an increase of girl membership dues to \$65.	The National Board proposed an increase in membership dues to \$85 for girls and \$45 for adults. Through a fill-in-the-blank process, National Delegates proposed multiple options ranging from \$30 to \$120 for girl membership dues. The proposal for \$65 membership dues (with the proviso that it is phased in, at \$45 in MY26) passed with a majority of the vote (79% in favor).
I can understand the need for an increase, but that's too much too fast.	The National Delegate body passed a proposal to phase in the new \$65 girl membership dues at \$45 in MY26 before it goes into effect at \$65 in MY27.	The discussion in debate for and against the phased in approach was weighing making the investment now or phasing it in slowly so that Councils and members have time to plan for the change. The greatest concern was that no one is left behind. The provision to the proposal, to phase in the increase passed with a majority of the vote.
I want to know specifically what the membership dues will fund.	The National Board proposed the increase in membership dues for two key reasons. One, GSUSA has been operating at a financial deficit and that is not sustainable. Membership dues are the primary funding	GSUSA has recently built a new 3-year movement strategy. Membership dues will provide the necessary financial resources to make investments that support Movement strategy. Some examples of future investments proposed by GSUSA include innovating, expanding, and rebranding the older girl experience,

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	source for GSUSA and dues increase was necessary to ensure GSUSA was financially sound into the future. And two, to invest in initiatives that that expand and improve the Girl Scout experience in alignment with Movement strategy.	building K-5 Girl Scout Experience Boxes to support volunteers and a consistent Girl Scout experience, elevating the Gold Award, and implement nationally visibly community engagement events. More information will be available as GSUSA begins to prioritize which investments will have the greatest impact.
Volunteers shouldn't have to pay membership dues.	The National Delegate body passed a proposal to increase adult membership dues to \$30.	The National Board proposed a smaller increase in adult membership dues (\$45) than girl membership dues (\$85). This was to recognize the value and investment of time and contributions adult volunteers bring to the Movement while still providing additional funds for initiatives needed to execute our Movement strategy and better engage and retain members. Through a fill-in-the-blank process, National Delegates proposed multiple options ranging from \$30 to \$45 for adult membership dues. The proposal for \$30 membership dues passed with a majority of the vote (75% in favor).
An increase in dues would be too expensive for large families with multiple adults and girls.	In response to Delegate feedback, GSUSA is looking into monthly payment options for families.	This was a concern brought forward to and well received by GSUSA during the Delegate education webinars as well as during the debate for and against the proposals presented.
Girls and volunteers don't benefit from GSUSA technology.	In MY26, at the \$45 dues level, GSUSA will be able to stabilize operations at the current level of services. In MY26, at the \$65 dues level, GSUSA will be able to invest in initiatives that make technology easier to use, with more integration between platforms.	Technology costs, whether we like it or not, are increasing. New laws related to things like data privacy, for example, require costly updates to our technology suites. Council staff utilize the shared technology platforms to support every aspect of our work, including but limited to our membership database, digital cookie, gsEvents, accounting software, email platforms, and so much more. They are integrated into each and every one of our processes that are necessary to support you, our members, with great customer service and ease of administrative experience. As a council, we

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		could not afford these platforms without a nationally negotiated contract. Additionally, if GSUSA shared more of these costs with Councils, that would result in less funds available to support mission delivery and ultimately our ability to serve girls.
How will we benefit from the increase locally?	When the national membership dues increase to \$65 in MY27, Councils will receive 25% of the \$65 fee as financial support for five years. These funds will stay local and support mission delivery, offsetting the need for a council service fee.	Membership dues fund most of the national organization's services which, in turn, support all councils, girls, and volunteers. GSUSA is developing new programming, global travel opportunities, stronger volunteer resources and tools, improved technology, national marketing, the list goes on. Many of these initiatives will directly impact girls and volunteers and all will indirectly impact us locally through increased support and resources that will allow local Councils to serve members more efficiently and fully. One specific example of an initiative supported by the dues increase is a Girl Scout Experience Box for new Brownie Troops and volunteers.
I am concerned families will choose other programs that are less expensive or that my Troop will have to disband because girls and adults don't renew.	GSUSA conducted a comparison with other similar organizations that showed most peer organizations raised their national dues since 2019, and some considerably: Scouting America (formerly BSA) to \$85, American Heritage Girls to \$60, and Frontier Girls to \$35.	These new membership dues bring the cost of Girl Scout membership more in line with similar organizations and, compared to many activities, Girl Scouts remains less expensive. Girl Scouting offers year-round, girl-centered, fun, skill-building experiences. Our programs evolve with a girl as she grows, and each moment is a possibility to create a lifelong, positive impact. Few, if any, other youth activities offer this value. Girl Scouts of Silver Sage remains committed to ensuring Girl Scouts is accessible to every girl – regardless of personal or family circumstances or ability to pay. Each year financial assistance is available for memberships, camps, and programs. These funds are to ensure that every girl can be a Girl Scout.

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