

# **Girl Scouts Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho (GSEWNI) Board Engagement**

GSEWNI consistently seeks to identify qualified men and women to join the Board of Directors who have achieved and continuously demonstrate strong leadership skills. Our goal is a Board with diverse backgrounds, ages, experiences, and talents to bring a wide range of expertise to our geographically vast council. Joining the Board of Directors and your committed interest in Girl Scouts will allow you to:

- Develop strategic plans and direction that impacts 8,000 plus girls
- Participate in a leadership support network of 2,500 adult volunteers
- Ensure stewardship of resources by approving budgets and providing financial oversight
- Gain firsthand knowledge of the corporate governance process
- Experience the unique communities and cultures of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho through meetings and events
- Achieve personal and professional growth while using your skills for the development of others

## **Board Member Roles:**

- Advance the causes of Girl Scouts through networking and advocacy
- Oversee and evaluate compliance with federal, state, and local requirements
- Implement policies that build donor confidence and support
- Commit to getting to know other Board Members

## **Board member Requirements:**

### Participation:

- Consistent attendance at regular board meetings, 4 total;
- Attend the Annual Meeting (spring) and delegate meetings (fall);
- Be an active member of at least one committee (most committees meet monthly);
- Participate in Girl Scout functions and events in a manner appropriate for a board member;
- Adhere to the GSEWNI Bylaws and Policies;
- Review and come prepared for discussion and actions proposed for each meeting;
- Maintain Girl Scouts membership.

### Financial Contribution:

- Pledge a “personally significant gift” to Annual Operations (donors and grantees ask or require GSEWNI to show 100% board giving to be eligible for funding). At a

minimum it is suggested that a board member provide program for one girl each year

- Contribute to campaigns and other fund raising events;
- Annual Girl Scouts Membership Fee of \$12 or a lifetime membership fee of \$300;
- Participate in Philanthropic networking;
- Travel/lodging/food costs for Board meetings.

\*Board meeting attendance in person is most beneficial; however, teleconference facilities are also provided.

## **FAQ**

**Q.** How do I become a Board Member?

**A.** Complete the Board Member Nomination form located on the website <http://www.gsewni.org/boardroster.cfm>. If you are selected as a candidate you will be directed to complete the Board Member Application (also found on the website). The Board Development Committee will review your application and contact you for an interview. The next step is a candidate interview. For out of cycle nominations, candidates will be submitted to the Board Chair for consideration for appointment to the board. Otherwise, candidates are submitted to the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

**Q.** How do I nominate someone?

**A.** Complete the Board Member Nomination form located on the website.

**Q.** Can I nominate myself?

**A.** Yes. As noted above, complete and submit the Board Member Nomination form.

**Q.** Can I be an operational volunteer and a Board Member at the same time?

**A.** No, as indicated in the GSEWNI Policies - Section XI, Policy 15.

**Q.** What areas of expertise is the Board looking to represent the council?

**A.** GSEWNI would benefit from those with senior leadership experience in areas such as:

- Professional Services;
- Property and Casualty Insurance;
- Emergency Planning/Health/Safety/Risk Management;
- Higher Education
- Residential or commercial building;
- Estate Planning, Investments, or Banking;
- Property Management;
- Human Resources;

- Public Relations;
- Fundraising;
- Finance & Accounting;
- Marketing and Sales;
- Non-profit and Private Sector Governance;
- Corporate Leadership (CEO/CFO/CIO, etc.).

**Q.** How often are the Board meetings scheduled?

**A.** GSEWNI's fiscal year begins October 1 and ends September 30. Board meetings usually take place during the months of September, November, April (Annual Meeting), February, and June. We also ask that our Board Members attend our delegate meetings which usually take place in October and November.

**Q.** Where are the board meetings held?

**A.** We strive to hold board meetings throughout the 30 counties within our council; this enables Board Members to become familiar with diverse communities. Currently, these meetings are either on Saturdays or weekday evenings and usually include lunch/dinner, a tour, and "community connections" - presentations from community members. On an annual basis, board members will be canvassed and a meeting schedule developed for optimum participation.

**Q.** What is the time commitment?

**A.** Attend regularly scheduled Board Meetings, Board committee meetings, delegate meetings, and other task force meetings. Time must be allocated for travel to the meetings.

For more information about our Board of Directors and our council please contact:

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