



Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2798

SUGGESTION FOR 2014 NATIONAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPIC

Name of Girl Scout Council

City

State

TITLE OF DISCUSSION TOPIC

The importance of Outdoor Programming in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience

STATEMENT OF TOPIC, QUESTION, OR ISSUE

Better support of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience within the Camp Pathway is needed. What additional program materials emphasizing outdoor skills, activities, and leadership experiences can GSUSA develop for the official Girl Scout Program Portfolio to support the Camp Pathway?

REASONS

Outdoor program, skills, and activities have been a significant part of Girl Scout program since the days of our founder, Juliette Low. In a world that is increasingly "plugged in," studies are showing that our nation's children are suffering a variety of problems linked to less time outdoors in natural settings. These issues include "nature deficit disorder" and others, such as obesity, which are the result of less active lifestyles. The current Girl Scout Program Portfolio is often criticized by girls and volunteers as "too much like school." The 15 outcomes of the GSLE can be met through programs conducted in outdoor settings such as Girl Scout camps and would be attractive to many girls, but councils who wish to continue their outdoor programs are finding it difficult to link their camp pathway offerings to significant pieces of the current Girl Scout Program Portfolio, specifically the Journeys. Discussions are needed on how GSUSA can develop additional program materials, perhaps even an Outdoor Journey, to better support the camp pathway.

Name of chair, or secretary, council board of directors

Date of council board meeting

On or before October 18, 2013, email to: NCagenda@girlscouts.org
Or mail form to: Office of the National Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798.

Submission Deadline: October 18, 2013

If additional space is needed, please attach a separate page.