# Delegates

As a service unit delegate, you help shape and drive the governance of Girl Scouts River Valleys. You are a voting member at the Annual Meeting and you serve as the primary communication between your local Girl Scout members, community networks, and River Valleys’ Board of Directors. Alternate delegates are not voting members but take the primary delegate’s position should they resign.

## Your Year at a Glance

### Upon Registration: Get Elected

If a service unit would like to have a volunteer hold the delegate role, the service unit *****must***** hold an election—even if only to reelect a volunteer from the year prior. How elections take place is up to each service unit.

To make your election results official, the elected delegate/alternate must complete the [Delegate Submission Form](https://volunteers.girlscoutsrv.org/reference/forms/delegate-submission-form/%22%20%5Co%20%22Complete%20Delegate%20Submission%20Form).

### September–January: Listen to Your Peers

To effectively represent the concerns and satisfactions of your whole service unit, you can attend different types of meetings within your service unit and talk to your peers.

### September–January: Prepare for Your Vote

In mid-December, you will receive a voting packet which outlines the annual meeting agenda, proposed changes to the bylaws, and much more. In addition to reading your voting packet, you may want to familiarize yourself with the parliamentary procedure with our article, [Understanding Parliamentary Procedures](https://volunteers.girlscoutsrv.org/reference/articles/parliamentary-procedure/%22%20%5Co%20%22Read%20Understanding%20Parliamentary%20Procedures).

### January: Vote at the Annual Meeting

The 2018 annual meeting will be held late-January/early-February—check back for details!

# Electing Service Unit Delegates and Delegate Alternates

Electing delegates and alternates for your service unit ensures that the voice of your service unit gets heard at the Annual Meeting. This article for service unit managers, and other involved volunteers, outlines tips for electing the right representative for your service unit.

## Delegate Requirements

All delegates must be:

* At least 14 years of age by the date the delegate term begins on October 1
* A current, registered Girl Scout River Valleys member

**Qualities of a Good Candidate**

Delegates have a big job—representing the entire service unit! Choosing candidates that will be successful in this role is easy if you look for the following qualities:

* Have a passion to make the world a better place for girls
* Have ideas to share on how River Valleys would be more effective in serving girls and volunteers
* Want to ensure River Valleys is serving and being a voice for all the girls and volunteers in our communities
* Facilitate the constructive exchange of ideas and viewpoints
* Have an interest in engaging in the strategic, long-term goals of River Valleys on a governance level
* Support decisions made at member meetings and report information back to the delegate region constructively and positively
* Possess mature judgment, flexibility, and enthusiasm
* Practice welcoming and inclusive behavior toward people of all ages, races, religions, cultures, abilities, sexual orientation, gender, educational, and economic backgrounds
* Follow all GSUSA and River Valleys policies, standards, and procedures
* Speak and act in a manner consistent with the Girl Scout mission, Promise, and Law
* Demonstrate effective communication skills
* Respect the democratic process