



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Girl Scouts win national essay contest

(ST. PAUL, MINN.) Two young women from Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys (River Valleys) have recently been selected by Girl Scouts of the USA as winners of the Girl Scout Global Citizen Contest. Minna Zhou of Woodbury was selected to win a seven day tour of London and Paris. In addition, Holly Lynn Ugamma Ekwochi of South St. Paul was selected to win a four-day trip to DC this summer. Their essays demonstrated how their Girl Scouting experiences broadened their horizons, increased their cultural sensitivity, and inspired them to take action.

“We are so proud of Minna and Holly Lynn for so beautifully expressing how the Girl Scout experience has made them more culturally aware and inspired them to help make the world a better place,” said Linda Keene, River Valleys Chief Executive Officer.

Girls were asked to describe a Girl Scout experience that has inspired them to become global citizens who understand and appreciate cultural differences. This writing contest was separated into two age groups. Twelve of the 12 - 14-year-olds won a four-day all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC and six 15 - 17-year-old winners were awarded with a seven day adventure to Paris and London. Nearly 150 girls entered and the 18 winners are set to travel this summer.

Girl Scouts of the USA partnered with EF Educational Tours, the world’s largest private educational organization to offer the second annual Girl Scout Global Citizens Essay Contest.

To learn more about how all girls can join Girl Scouts and help to make the world a better place, contact the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys at 651-227-8835, 800-845-0787 or visit www.girlscoutsrv.org.

(more)

About Girl Scout Global Citizen Essay Contest

This contest has two goals: to challenge girls 12-17 to consider their roles in the world through writing and to allow them to put their words into practice. The top 18 winners will receive a free trip to Europe or Washington, D.C., with EF Tours and Smithsonian Student Travel. Girls, ages 15-17, were asked to reflect on a Girl Scout experience and describe how that experience inspired them to live as a Global Citizen. A Global Citizen is defined as a person who understands and appreciates cultural differences, and strives to instill this value in others. For the winners, the educational tour will not simply be a reward for a job well done. It will be a vehicle for developing ambassadors of global thinking and will provide them with an opportunity to have an impact on their troop members and community at large. Contest deadline was March 31.

About Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys

In partnership with nearly 18,000 adult volunteers, the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys helps 49,000 girls each year—in all or portions of 49 counties in southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin—to discover new abilities, connect with new friends, and take action to improve their communities. Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent leadership development organization for girls, building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

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