

## a girl's perspective – leadership is being a voice for others

In school, students learn about representative democracy. For Girl Scout Candice Teskey, she did more than read about it: she was the voice for more than 45,000 Girl Scouts. In October, Candice was elected to serve as part of a 33-member delegation that represented Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys at the 2008 National Council Session/51st Convention of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Candice took her role as a National Council Delegate very seriously. She knew, as a delegate, she would shape the Movement for future Girl Scouts. Candice was one of 10 girl members from River Valleys who debated proposals, shared ideas, and voiced opinions with thousands of other Girl Scouts throughout the United States. In the end, her voice was heard and she cast her vote, ushering in a new era for the Girl Scout Movement.

“Serving as a National Council Delegate was a great experience,” said Candice. “I was honored to be given the opportunity to speak for all Girl Scouts of River Valleys.”

A senior in high school, Candice has been involved in Girl Scouts since first grade. She remained a Girl Scout for 11 years because of the many opportunities that Girl Scouts offered to build skills, connect with others, and make the world a better place.

“Girl Scouts taught me how to get along with people,” Candice said. “I learned what it means to work as a group.” Candice believes that Girl Scouts has helped her build leadership skills that will help her succeed in life.

Leadership skills such as public speaking and influencing people Candice learned first hand from participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity. A top cookie seller three years in a row, Candice discovered that she was a natural at selling cookies. “I learned that people will buy cookies if you make eye contact,” she said. “[Through repeated practice] I learned how to approach people, talk with them, and sell them cookies.”

As Candice prepares for the next phase of her life in college, she reflects back on her Girl Scout years. “Girl Scouts has been an important part of my life,” she said. “Because of Girl Scouts I feel very self-assured and confident. I feel equipped to take on the world.”



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- Girl Scout Candice Teskey  
*(pictured above)*

