

June 17, 2008

Dear National Delegate,

Congratulations on your election to represent Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys. All Delegates should plan to attend the National Council Session/51st Convention in Indianapolis from October 30-November 2. Girl Delegates have the opportunity to attend the National Girl Scout Leadership Institute on October 29-30. If Girl Delegates decide to attend the Leadership Institute, they should arrive in Indianapolis by the evening of October 28; the Leadership Institute begins at 9:00 a.m. on October 29, 2008. When we get the hotel arrangements from GSUSA (due on July 8), we will provide you with additional information on travel, arrival times, etc.

For now—we will appreciate your reply to Jane Stacy (jane.stacy@girlscoutsrv.org) on two pieces of information by Monday, June 30, 2008.

- 1) **If you are a national delegate—do you want a single or double hotel room?** We will do our best to accommodate requests for single rooms, but note that we book all rooms through GSUSA and so will have a limited number of rooms for our delegation.
- 2) **If you are an alternate delegate—do you plan to attend as an official visitor?** We will reserve hotel rooms for visitors on a first come first served basis, but will not reimburse you. All members are eligible to participate as visitors, so it is important to let Jane know as soon as possible if you will need a hotel room.

Meanwhile, here is some additional information to help your planning:

What is the national Council Session?

The National Council Session is held every 3 years and is a time when more than 10,000 Girl Scout delegates, alternates, and visitors gather to conduct the business of the national organization and to celebrate Girl Scouting. The main meeting will run from October 30 to November 2. In addition, a National Girl Scout Leadership Institute will be held for girls in grades 6-12 on October 29-30, 2008.

What topics will we discuss at the National Council Session?

GSUSA has provided the Early Alert, which summarizes 6 proposals “for discussion and engagement” at the National Council Session and the list of GSUSA National Board Nominees.

Attached are documents relevant to the National Council Session:

- Early Alert
 - Proposal 1
 - Proposal 2
 - Proposal 3
 - Proposal 4
 - Proposal 5
 - Proposal 6
- GSUSA National Board Nominees (2008-2011)

Pre-meetings

All National Delegates are encouraged to participate in training session to be scheduled late-summer or early-fall. There will also be “town-hall” meetings scheduled throughout the jurisdiction in order for River Valley council delegates to share thoughts and comments on GSUSA’s proposals.

GSUSA conference calls to discuss submitted Proposals have been scheduled. National Delegates are encouraged to participate in one of these calls. Please let Jane (jane.stacy@girlscoutsrv.org) by Friday, July 11, 2008, which conference call you can attend.

- Wednesday, July 30 at 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 24, at 3:30 p.m.

If you are unable to attend either of these conference calls directly, the calls will be taped and delegates can listen to the recorded discussion the day following each conference call.

Expenses for National Delegates (not Alternates or Visitors)

The Girl Scouts of River Valleys will cover the following expenses for National Delegates:

- Registration fee
- Roundtrip airfare to and from Indianapolis
- Hotel accommodations, for 3 nights (or 5 nights for girls attending the Leadership Institute)
- Per diem allowance to cover meals and miscellaneous expenses (4 days for convention and 5 days for Leadership Institute)

The following expenses are the responsibility of the National Delegate

- Transportation to and from the airport. We are looking into transportation options (i.e. carpooling, shuttles, etc) for delegates who live outside the metro.
- GSUSA special events
- Pre and post convention tours
- Personal souvenirs

Airfare

Girl Scouts of River Valleys will cover the cost of a roundtrip airline ticket for delegates and chaperones. Airline ticket prices change on a daily basis, so we encourage you to book your flight at your earliest convenience. As you consider making your flight arrangements, we want to let you know that additional information from GSUSA regarding hotel will be sent to councils on July 8; this information may influence your decision regarding departure dates and times. However, if you are prepared to make your flight arrangements now, feel free to do so with our travel agent, Carrousel Travel.

In order to make it easier for our delegates, River Valleys has contracted with Carrousel Travel in Minneapolis to assist you with making your airline reservations. To book your flight, please call Brenda Bader at Carrousel Travel, (612) 866-2503 or (800) 800-6508. You may also email her at Brenda@carrouseltravel.com. The airfare will be paid by and directly billed to the Girl Scouts River Valleys for delegates and chaperones.

Alternate Delegates and Visitors can use Carrousel Travel to book their flights. You will be required to provide a credit card number for payment at the time of the booking.

Hotel

Hotel assignments are made by GSUSA. River Valleys will book rooms at our assigned hotel. Hotel information is due from GSUSA on July 8, 2008. We will contact delegates and visitors when this information becomes available.

Alternate Delegates/Visitors

Alternate Delegates are welcome to attend the session as official Visitors at their own expense. Alternate Delegates appointed to fill the vacancy of an official Delegate will be reimbursed for the expenses (as outlined for National Delegates), therefore, save your receipts. Alternate Delegates and Visitors are considered a part of our delegation and will be invited to all open sessions. Contact Jane Stacy (jane.stacy@girlscoutsrv.org) no later than July 1, 2008, if you wish to be added to the GSUSA Official Visitor list.

Registration Fees for Visitors

\$175 per official girl visitor before 7/15/08
\$245 per official adult visitor before 7/15/08
\$195 per official girl visitor after 7/15/08
\$275 per official adult visitor after 7/15/08

Registration Fee

Registration fee for both National Delegates and Official Visitors covers convention publications, convention credentials, shuttle bus transportation, admission to meetings of the National Council and to the Hall of Exhibits and admission to convention.

Cancellations

If your plans change, GSUSA will refund the registration fee, minus a \$60 cancellation charge if written notice is received at the following address by August 15, 2008:

GSUSA
Attn: Membership Credentials
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2798

River Valleys Contact Person for Questions Regarding National Council Session

Jane Stacy, Communications Project Specialist
jane.stacy@girlscoutsrv.org
(763) 971-4055



Phyllis Willerscheidt, Board President



Linda B. Keene, CEO