



Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Girl Scouts Challenges *All Girls* to Make a Positive Difference in Their Communities

(St. Paul, Minn.) The Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley challenges *all girls* in grades 9-12 to make difference. No Girl Scout experience needed! They are invited to participate in *Challenge and Change*, an innovative program, administered by the Girl Scouts, through which girls learn how to design and lead projects that create positive change in their community. Interested girls can explore their strengths and interests; learn more about their community; and begin to identify and understand some community challenges at a leadership retreat on July 22 – 25 at Camp Rolling Ridges, Hudson, Wisc. To register, visit www.girlscoutscv.org/for_girls/programs.htm.

Challenge and Change is a national teen leadership program of Girl Scouts of the USA that was piloted in 2006 in 16 states and 22 communities. This year, 14 councils take part in 13 states, including the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley. “This is an exciting and new program for our council,” said Missi Knapp Arens, senior program manager with the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley. She added that, “*Challenge and Change* gives girls real-world experiences from which they can build leadership, problem solving, and social entrepreneurship skills.”

Starting with the retreat, girls are inspired to discover effective leadership; connect with local community experts; and take action by designing and implementing a socially oriented, entrepreneurial project that builds on these local assets to strengthen their community. Upon completion of the retreat, girls return to their communities to implement their community changes. They recruit a community action team and find a supportive adult who is willing to serve as Community Champion, to help turn their good idea into a sustainable, long-term community project.

Challenge and Change aligns with the Girl Scout Leadership Development Program, where girls discover their personal best, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place. For more information about *Challenge and Chance* and other Girl Scout programs, call 651-227-8835 or 800-845-0787, or visit www.girlscoutscv.org.

(more)

About the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley

In partnership with 7,100 adult volunteers, the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley helps nearly 18,000 girls grow strong in 11 counties of eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization for girls, building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

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