



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Sara Danzinger  
Public Relations Manager  
651-379-4798  
sara.danzinger@girlscoutsrv.org

## **Sarah Sladek of Maple Grove elected to Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys' Board of Directors**

**(St. Paul, MN) Feb. 1, 2012**—Sarah Sladek of Maple Grove, Minn., was recently elected to the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys' Board of Directors during the council's annual meeting held January 21, 2012. The River Valleys' annual meeting sets the tone for Girl Scouts' business for the current year and a summary of business from the previous year.

As an elected member, Sladek represents the qualities of courage, confidence, character and community contribution that Girl Scouts strive to develop in girls. All Board of Directors members are volunteers and members of Girl Scouts of the USA.

Recommended by an independent Board Development Committee and elected by council delegates to a two-year term, Sladek's expertise, perspective and leadership skills complement the current Board of Directors members' talent, experience and geographic representation. Sladek is also influential in her workplace and community, has a solid understanding of board governance responsibilities and shares a passion for developing girl leaders.

In addition to her involvement in Girl Scouts, Sladek is founder and CEO of XYZ University, a management consulting firm specializing in Generations X, Y, and Z, helping organizations bridge generation and talent gaps. She is national speaker on this topic, and her expertise has been featured in media including NPR, Fast Company, and Star Tribune. The author of three books, she wrote her first book to address the generation gap in membership associations. Previously, Sladek was director of communications and media relations with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce and managing editor of Finance and Commerce. Dedicated throughout her career to volunteering, Sladek has served on the boards of the Freeborn County American Red Cross, Albert Lea Jaycees, Minnesota Women in Marketing and Communications, and National Association of Women Business Owners.

Sladek is a Girl Scout alumna and the mother of two daughters in Girl Scouts, a Junior and a Daisy. She is committed to finding ways to help organizations equip and engage younger generations for roles in civic and workplace leadership. She is especially passionate about empowering young women into leadership roles. She looks forward to contributing her expertise to the Girl Scouts River Valleys to help it grow to serve more young women and communities.

### **2012 Girl Scouts River Valleys' Centennial Events**

2012 marks the Centennial Anniversary of Girl Scouts. As part of the year-long celebration, River Valleys will host the Great Girl Gathering at Mall of America, on March 10–11, 2012. Free and open to

everyone, the event will be one of the largest celebrations hosted by a council in the country with more than 50,000 participants—girls, adult volunteers, alumnae and the public—from across the nation expected to attend.

A once-in-a-century Centennial Awards Gala honoring the distinguished honorees will be held Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the Minneapolis Convention Center and led by River Valleys' Centennial Champion and Carlson Chair, Marilyn Carlson Nelson. Funds raised at the gala will be specifically directed to a major new initiative that will increase access to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience for girls from low-income and ethnic minority communities. This program, Girl Scouts ConnectZ, is delivered at public schools and other community sites across our region.

To showcase our long-standing commitment to making the world a better place, River Valleys will also mobilize the Girl Scout community across our 49-county region for a Centennial Day of Service on October 13, 2012. The focus of the project, developed in connection with the Freshwater Society, will be improving water quality through community clean-ups, marking storm drains and education. The estimated value of this effort is approximately \$6 million.

To learn more about all the Centennial Events, visit [GSRV100.org](http://GSRV100.org).

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### **About Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys**

In partnership with 18,000 adults, Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys helps nearly 45,000 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. For more information, call 800-845-0787 or visit [GirlScoutsRV.org](http://GirlScoutsRV.org).

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