girl scouts river valleys

ADVOCACY CHAMPIONS

Cheat-Sheet: Talking with your legistlators

Legislators are busy people with busy schedules, but luckily, they *love* hearing from their constituents! As a reminder, every person in Minnesota has both a State Representative and a State Senator, you are a constituent of both these legislators. When you have your legislator's attention, it's important to know what you want to say ahead of time, and keep it focused. Here are some tips for preparing for your meeting—including information about The Girl Scout Bill—so you'll be ready to share your message on the spot with courage, confidence, and character!

STEP 1

SET UP THE MEETING

Visit **gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/** or call the House Public Information Services Office at 651-296-2146 to find your state legislator.

SHARE YOUR GIRL SCOUT STORY

What's the impact you've seen Girl Scouts make? Were you a Girl Scout? What skills did you learned in Girl Scouts and how has the sisterhood of Girl Scouts helped shape and support you? This is the time to share your Girl Scout story! Be sure to practice what you want to say before your meeting. Writing it down can be helpful—you can use these prompts to get started:

- Because of Girl Scouts, I discovered...
- Girl Scouts has helped girls overcome obstacles by...
- My community has benefited from Girl Scouts through...

STEP 2

CONNECT YOUR GIRL SCOUT STORY TO WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT

Your Girl Scout story is amazing! We want all girls to have that experience, and we know you do too. Girl Scouts supports policies that foster leadership and educational opportunities for girls such as:

- Promoting **economic opportunities** for girls by increasing their involvement in STEM and strengthening their financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills.
- Encouraging girls to embrace a **healthy lifestyle** by increasing their access to outdoor activities, preventing bullying/relational aggression, and promoting healthy relationships.
- Fostering **global citizenship** and a global voice for girls.

WE HAVE A BILL!

Currently, we have a bill called "The Girl Scout Bill" in the Minnesota Legislature that is aimed at bringing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience* to *all* girls. It's known as HF 1171 in the House and SF 859 in the Senate. Learn all about its journey here: **gsrv.gs/gs-bill**

**Girl Scout Leadership Experience: A collection of engaging, challenging, and fun activities like earning badges, going on awesome trips, selling cookies, exploring science, getting outdoors, and doing community service projects.*

STEP 3

ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR TO SUPPORT THE GIRL SCOUT BILL

The Girl Scout Bill needs support from legislators to move forward. And your legislator needs to hear that you want them to support it! Keep the energy and enthusiasm high as you ask your legislator directly if they will support the bill. Let your excitement about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and your own Girl Scout story shine through, and highlight that you want Girl Scouts to be available to all girls.

STEP 4

SAY THANK YOU

At the end of your meeting, be sure to thank your legislator for their support, and leave them with a summary of your Girl Scout story in writing. You did it! Be proud of using your voice to advocate for what you believe in!

STEP 5

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH US!

Let us know how your meeting went and share your story (and photos!) at: **GirlScoutsRV.org/Advocate**.