

Remarks from Girl Delegates about attending the National Convention

Bree Currier, Portland

Attending the Girl Scout National Convention and Girl Scout National Council Session is my most memorable experience in Girl Scouting. Over 1800 people gathered in the convention hall to vote on policies and elect the National Board. Rarely have I ever seen that many Girls Scouts gathered in one place. The opening ceremony was extremely inspirational as the Girl Scout, WAGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Scouts) and the American flags were all carried in and raised. The good-bye speech from the chair of the National Board of Directors, Patricia Diaz Dennis, was a very emotional and moving. Between these two amazing events the Girl Scouts got down to business. Over two days we managed to get a lot done. We debated and amended 5 proposals and elected the National Board. The council session was a great learning experience because I was able to witness and participate in parliamentary procedure. I will always remember the 2008 convention due to the friends I made and the experiences I had during the week I spent in Indianapolis.

Ariel Ekblaw, New Fairfield

When I purchased my Cadette handbook five years ago and perused the early pages, I discovered the opportunity to serve as a delegate to the National Convention. Invigorated with the potential for greater freedom and responsibility as a Cadette, I resolved to pursue this goal, and recently enjoyed the success of its fulfillment.

The 51st National Convention in Indiana surpassed my high expectations, and I am honored to have been chosen to represent girls throughout Connecticut. I embraced this responsibility, prepared diligently for my role at the convention, and genuinely enjoyed taking part in the parliamentary process. Without doubt, speaking on behalf of our delegation on the convention floor (Microphone 2) constituted the most rewarding moment—proving that girls can contribute their voice and insight to controversial politics. I also had the pleasure of meeting retiring National Board Chair, Patricia Diaz-Dennis, at the conclusion of my duties as a voting member.

The Girl Scout Leadership Institute introduced us to a world of ‘living healthy, leading healthy,’ as we gathered advice from professionally successful women. SuChin Pak, MTV news correspondent and the new “Uniquely-Me” spokes-woman, inspired me, next proceeding to capture the imagination of our entire group. I value every minute spent with my eleven fellow girl-delegates, and could not have imagined a kinder, more amusing, or devoted lot of friends to spend the week with. Though each arriving with different interests, we coalesced around common goals. Meeting girl scouts from around our country and the world, late night pow-wows and our resolution to “make our own fun” wherever we went, made this trip forever memorable. Our wonderful chaperones, Jane and Debbie, could not have physically worked any harder to ensure our exceptional experience. All of us appreciate their devotion, and thank them profusely. I loved spending time with all you guys, and joining together to impact the future of Girl Scouting!

Megan Fitzgerald, Montville

Words cannot describe all the fun and rewarding experiences I was able to share with Jane, Debbie, and all of the girls on my trip to the 51st Girl Scout Convention in Indianapolis. I loved meeting girls from all over CT and getting to spend time with them. To tell you the truth, the convention experience was a lot more fun than I thought it would be. I loved walking around downtown Indianapolis and seeing the Batman Movie in Imax. Even though some of the events we attended weren't the best, I still enjoyed "making our own fun". I think this enhanced the learning and bonding experience. The convention made me appreciate being a girl scout a lot more and many of the girls in my troop are extremely jealous that they missed out on this experience. I would definitely recommend signing up for this to younger Girl Scouts and I can't wait until our reunion.

Marcelle Gosteli, Guilford

During the Scout Convention, I was impressed with the city of Indianapolis; by The Body Exhibit, Bat Man in Imax, the leadership institute, the many workshops, the voting body, and all of the valuable information I learned on travelling without parents. Yes, this was all amazing but what impressed me the most was the girls I met. Twelve girls coming together as complete strangers in the beginning of the week, and leaving as good friends seven days later. We bonded and in the short span of about two hours we were all talking like we've known each other for years. I still talk to my fellow delegates and I am sure we have friendships that will last a life time. Its rare that you find a group of girls who don't find the need to back stab and trash talk. The twelve of us came together and will stay together.

Amber Kountz, Hamden

I would describe my experience as a Girl National Delegate as "Slendililquent." At the leadership institute I learned about defending other people against bullies, keeping your body in shape and making a great first impression. Thanks to a little determination and luck I was able to meet MTV correspondent Suchin Pak and reality television stars Angela and Vanessa Simmons. All three celebrities were in attendance at the convention. I got to see a lot of Indianapolis during the week, exhibits, the restaurants and even an I-Max movie theater. I was also able to make new friends from other states and countries, but the most important purpose of the trip was to represent Connecticut at the 51st Girl Scouts National Convention. As I voted on important issues, I learned about parliamentary procedures and how to fulfill my obligations. The trip made me more independent and taught me how to become a leader.

Kate Larkin, Niantic

My trip to Indianapolis as a Girl Scout Delegate from Connecticut was an honour and an experience I will not fail to forget. Not only did I meet an exciting, wonderful group of girls, creating lasting friendships, but I also discovered parts of myself that could only be revealed in that environment. Representing an entire council was electrifying – the responsibility and importance of voting gave girls power to voice their opinions. Girls from around the country congregated for a unifying cause despite the obvious geographical, social and economic diversity. Strong girls and passionate, kind leaders let me understand how much an organization such as Girl Scouts can do to bring people together. Girl Scouts allowed me to

become part of a world wide community in which I feel a large connection to, and I am thankful for the opportunity.

Laura Linder, Clinton

What was my favorite part of the trip to Indianapolis? I cant choose. There was never a dull moment. We ended up saying "we make our own fun" so many times, I'm pretty sure I can recite it in my sleep.

Green in the color of envy,

Red is the color of anger.

For some one who is colorblind, this is difficult to understand, but even some one who is blind could tell that there was neither of those present at the convention among us delegates from Connecticut.

I am so proud of how the 14 of us bonded.

Bam for life.

Leann Micencik, Shelton

I LOVE BEING A GIRL SCOUT!

I just returned from the Girl Scout National Convention in Indianapolis and I can honestly say that it was one of my best Girl Scouting experiences. I attended with 11 other girls from CT. WE EACH HAD A VOICE! We voted on important proposals that affect the entire Movement of Girl Scouts. The girls were able to attend the Girl Scout Leadership Institute, formerly called Girl Congress. The theme was "Live Healthy, Lead Healthy". We attended various workshops (conflict resolution, bullying, stress management, physical health...) as well as attending the National Council sessions. Girl Scouts from all around the country shared their opinions and debated the proposals. We voted along side of the adults and had a "say" in the future of GSUSA.

Jessie Morato, Waterbury

What I liked about this trip:

This trip was an amazing experience, I think, for all of us. Our first two days we spent wondering around Indianapolis. It is a beautiful city. Walking around, we found the Bodies exhibit which we all, or almost all, wanted to see. Amber, my then roommate learned that the bodies were once alive and went into complete shock, we got a good laugh over that. That same day we got to see The Dark Night movie, in IMAX. It was agreed to be one of the best movies and one of our favorite things that we did. The two days after that was the Girls Leadership Institute. The most exciting session was an interview with Su Chin Pak (a favorite celebrity of our group), and the executives of several Ethnic magazines. During the actual convention we all learned about the chaos of the democratic process. Which showed me, that even the smallest of matters are important. Allison, a girl from our group had her 15th birthday in Indiana, the same day as Juliet Gordon Low's birthday as well as Halloween, so we had a small party. We did so much in a short week but, by far, I believe that being with the girls in my group and getting to know each other was the best experience. We were all so different from each other and are all in different cliques at school, but we all connected both with each other and with our wonderful chaperones. Thank you for nominating me to represent Connecticut, and to have this amazing experience.

Allison Santi, Suffield

I have to be honest, when I first came to Indianapolis; I thought that it was going to be all work and no play for the entire week. Boy was I wrong! The Girl Scout Leadership Institute that we attended was fun and informed us on how to love ourselves and love others. Friday and Saturday the CT delegates all gathered in that large convention hall to vote on various issues concerning our Girl Scout community. The two meetings were very informational and gave me a much better understanding of the delegation process which, I might add, I had learned about in Civics class a few weeks prior to our trip. The rest of the week we spent time getting to know each other, walking around the downtown area, looking at the BODIES exhibit, and even seeing Batman: The Dark Knight in IMAX. This will definitely be a memorable trip and I recommend Girl Scouts to go if they get the rare opportunity of representing their state in one of the largest GS gatherings ever!

Amanda Valaitis, Guilford

At first my thoughts on traveling to a Girl Scout convention in Indianapolis were dull to be completely honest. I did some research and found next to nothing to do there when my fellow girl scouts of Connecticut and I were not actually at the convention. I soon found out once I arrived that I was very wrong. Indianapolis was a wonderful little city, where my day was filled with the Bodies exhibit I so very much had wanted to see, a great mall, and an IMAX theater, where I got to see one of my all time favorite movies; Batman The Dark Night. Next to that, I made tons of new friends and had great conversations and girl time with my group. The actual convention blew me away as well, with the controversy and debate over these critical topics. I really got into it! I really felt connected and important on this trip, and really had an amazingly great time.