

Building Girls of Courage, Confidence, and Character...

Girl Scout Truths

- 1) **Girl Scouts of the USA does NOT have a relationship with Planned Parenthood, nor does it plan to create one. Girl Scouts Louisiana East has included a Non-Collaborative Statement on its website since 2008, on its legacy Southeast Louisiana council website since 2004.**

Girl Scouts Louisiana East wishes to assure parents, volunteers, community partners, and all the friends of Girl Scouting, that Girl Scouts Louisiana East does not, nor will it, collaborate with Planned Parenthood because we believe issues related to human sexuality and reproductive health are best left to families to discuss with their daughters.

- 2) **Girl Scouts has been very clear that we are not pro-abortion. Girl Scouts takes no position on abortion or birth control. We believe these subjects are best addressed by girls and their parents, which is consistent with Girl Scouts of the USA's letter of understanding with the Catholic Church.**

Girl Scouts has neither a "pro-life" badge nor a "pro-choice" badge. A Catholic Girl Scout who wishes to explore her pro-life views can do so by discovering how her faith interprets the Girl Scout Law to support those views when she earns her My Promise, My Faith pin (or the NFCYM pins). Our request is that girls who choose to pursue this topic, do so with their parents' involvement. These discussions should take place within a girl's family, including her faith family.

- 3) **Girl Scouts of the USA is committed to strengthening its relationship with faith communities and honoring the religious principles in our program resource material.**

Girl Scouts' partnership with the Catholic Church (1914) is nearly as old as the Girl Scouts. As you most likely know, many of our girls participate in Girl Scout



A Girl Scout Brownie receives her recognition at the Catholic Committee on Scouting awards ceremony at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Baton Rouge.

programs conducted within their Catholic Churches and advocate for their faith on a regular basis. For over 100 years we have reached millions of girls in Catholic schools and churches, changing lives in so many ways. Today's girls face very difficult challenges in our society, and we believe strongly that they will need guidance from values-based organizations like the Catholic Church and Girl Scouts.

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) has made available for download statements on their website, which are also linked to the council's website, which gives background as well as information regarding issues that the NFCYM has investigated.

For over 100 years, Girl Scouts has aimed to stay true to the values set by our founder Juliette Gordon Low. It was her belief that all girls, regardless of their background, should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.



Girl Scouts is an inclusive organization and does not discriminate on any basis, including race, color, ethnicity, creed, religious affiliation, national origin, sexual orientation, physical ability, socio-economic status or ability.



girl scouts louisiana east

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Who Make the World a Better Place.

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- 4) **The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is comprised of 145 Member Organizations which promote mutual understanding and cross-cultural opportunities for girls around the world. Girl Scouts of the USA is one of the 145 Member Organizations.**

Each Member Organization creates its own program and pursues advocacy efforts based on the needs and issues affecting girls in their individual countries. GSUSA does not always take the same positions or endorse the same programs as WAGGGS. GSUSA's relationship with WAGGGS is akin to the US' relationship with the United Nations. The United States may not agree with every position the UN takes, but values having a seat at the table.

Every WAGGGS Member Organization, including Girl Scouts of the USA, pays dues, but these dues are not part of the GSUSA membership dues that girls and adults pay to be a part of GSUSA. All dues collected from Girl Scout members are used to pay for services that directly impact the development and delivery of Girl Scouting to girls in the USA and girls who are involved in USA Girl Scouts Overseas, our program that brings Girl Scouting to American families who live and work abroad.

Individual girls are not members of WAGGGS. Girl Scouts of the USA is a member organization of WAGGGS. Girls may wear the WAGGGS pin (also known as the World Trefoil pin) to represent their connection to the worldwide sisterhood of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding, but it is not a requirement. For a girl to be in uniform, the only requirement is that she wears her Girl Scout pin.

- 5) **All the revenue from Cookie Program activities (after paying the baker) stays with the local Girl Scout council and troops. Cookie proceeds fund troop activities with the remainder helping the council to maintain properties, train and recruit volunteers, and support council initiatives.**

None of the money earned from the Girl Scout cookie sale is given to any other group. This does not preclude girls from spending their money locally on program-related activities or to purchase materials for a Take Action project benefiting the community.



girl scouts
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Who Make the World a Better Place.