

American Heritage Girls Troop wins distinguished Archbishop's Trophy

Houston, Texas – The 2012 Archbishop's Trophy was presented to a Catholic parish with an American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop. Prince of Peace (POP) Catholic Community was awarded the highest honor from the Galveston/Houston Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting this spring.

This is the first time in the history of the Galveston/Houston Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting that a Catholic parish with an AHG Troop earned the coveted award. POP chartered AHG Troop TX2928 in 2010. This is the first AHG troop sponsored by a Catholic parish in the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Each year on Girl Scout Recognition Sunday, the Trophy is presented to one parish whose scouting Troop made outstanding contributions of service to the church, community, and home while making continued progress in their own spiritual development. The parish makes a vital contribution toward the achievement of this trophy by offering opportunities for the youth members in a troop to enrich their spiritual life and by informing and helping scout members acquire one or more of the religious recognitions sponsored by the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting. AHG Troop TX2928 excelled in these requirements according to parish leaders and the committee.

The AHG Troop participated in numerous service projects totaling more than 610 hours to the community. Service projects included but not limited to care packages for soldiers in the Middle East, Wreath across America, assistance to a women crisis shelter, a homeless shelter, adopting two large families for the parish Adopt-A-Family Christmas project and Scouting for Food with their brother Cub Scouts.

AHG Troop TX2928 joined the scouting family at POP which includes Boy Scout Troop 928, Cub Scout Pack 1928, and Venture Crew 928.



AHG TX2928 has more than 50 girls (presently K-10th grade) and draws members from at least four other Catholic parishes and protestant congregations. Currently there are nine AHG troops in the greater Houston area.



The girls learned about the religious recognitions available through National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), PRAY (protestant religious awards), AHG, and NCCS (BSA) in an activity called the "Love God" workshop. Girls worked on religious recognitions through these organizations including "I Live My Faith," "Family of God," the NCCS Rosary Series patches, and the St. Joachim/St. Anne patch through the San Antonio Archdiocesan youth ministry program. The older girls will begin their work on the Marian Medal program and the NFCYM Women of Faith patches.

AHG continues to grow at a rapid pace in Texas and across the nation. AHG is a Christ-centered scouting program which provides leadership opportunities and character development for girls Kindergarten through 18 years of age. AHG Troops meet together to grow in their faith, serve in their community, practice leadership, experience teamwork and build friendships. Over 240 badges and outdoor activities are enjoyed within age appropriate groups.

Nationally, AHG has experienced 30 – 50 percent growth each year. Founded in 1995 in Cincinnati, Ohio, AHG has grown from ten Troops and 100 members to more than 19,000 members spanning 45 states and four countries. The Trailblazer Program operates in several European countries and Japan and in areas without established Troops.



In 2009, AHG was presented a Memorandum of Mutual Support by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). This Memorandum is historic in nature as it is the first presented to an all-girls' organization in the one hundred year history of the BSA.

Service continues to be the strength of AHG. More than 200,000 service hours were provided to communities around the world during the past program year. The prestigious Stars & Stripes Award is the highest recognition in AHG. The award incorporates 100 service hours, badge work, religious award recognition and leadership requirements. The Stars and Stripes is equivalent to the Eagle Scout Award earned by BSA.

AHG TX2928 and POP Catholic Community look forward to another year of growing in their faith, serving in the community and having fun!

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