



DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 2017

Reverend and dear Monsignors and Fathers, Religious Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, and Lay Faithful,

Greetings in the Lord! The Diocese of Lincoln encourages parishes to support faith-based organizations for our youth. I am pleased to offer support for American Heritage Girls (AHG) as a Christian organization serving young women in a manner that encourages them to follow Jesus Christ.

Founded in 1995 in Cincinnati, Ohio, AHG has over 40,000 members across the globe. AHG's mission is to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. Girls ages 5-18, participate in badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities and outdoor experiences.

For several years, I have served as the Episcopal Moderator for the National Catholic Committee of the AHG. I am grateful to Father Matthew Zimmer, director of Scouting for the Diocese of Lincoln, for assisting me in this role. As we all know it is important to have a strong, faith-based organization for girls. In this capacity, I have had many first-hand opportunities to strengthen the Catholic dimension of their program.

In light of my role as Episcopal Moderator, I am inviting the parishes and schools of the Lincoln Diocese to consider establishing AHG troops. This is not a requirement, but rather an alternative that merits serious consideration. Several Catholics in the city of Lincoln have formed a board to assist in directing the formation of troops within the city. Over time, they hope to be able to assist our parishes and schools outside of Lincoln in becoming involved with AHG.

If you wish to learn more about American Heritage Girls, I encourage you to visit their website at: americanheritagegirls.org. With my blessing and prayerful good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln