



DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Office of the Bishop

October 22, 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father,

It has come to my attention and that of Bishop Kelly, that an excellent formation program for girls is thriving in several parishes in our Diocese. Bishop Kelly and I agree that this program, American Heritage Girls, is intentionally Christian from the national level down to the local troop while encouraging members of Catholic troops to learn, practice and be unapologetically Catholic.

We applaud the mission of AHG to build young women of integrity through Service to God, Family, Community, and Country. The commitment to form young women to first incorporate God into their lives, along with service, is crucial in the 21st century, particularly, when there has been an obvious cultural shift in the status of religion in the Public Square. AHG's willingness to serve the Parish and form their members in our Catholic faith is key to its young member's spiritual formation.

AHG offers badge programs, service projects, girl leadership opportunities, and outdoor events, as well as Catholic religious recognition opportunities to its members. Christ's messages are woven into every aspect of the AHG Program. Catholic Troop leaders, including an adult and girl Troop Shepherd, instruct, model and support members in the faith of their Charter Organization, in our case, the faith of the Catholic Church.

While the American Heritage Girls are a separate, independent organization, the AHG Troops in the Diocese adhere to Diocesan Financial and Safe Environment policies and follow instruction from the local pastor or a designated staff person concerning these policies.

The American Heritage Girl program has our unequivocal support to operate and to expand in the Diocese of Dallas. We have further accepted this program as an official Diocesan Ministry/Apostolate of the Dallas Diocese.

Any communication on behalf of AHG and the relationship with the Diocese shall flow through Jason Deuterman, the Director of Youth and Young Adults for the Diocese.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edward J. Burns
Bishop of Dallas

Most Reverend Greg Kelly
Auxiliary Bishop of Dallas