

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

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American Heritage Girls: Keys for Adults to Child Safety Training

How AHG Protects and Keeps Girl Members Safe with Mandatory Training for All Adult Member Volunteers

CINCINNATI, Ohio — According to the [American Society for the Positive Care of Children](#), 7.9 million children per year fall victim to child abuse and only 3.4 million receive prevention and post-response services in the United States.

For the *American Heritage Girls* (AHG, www.AmericanHeritageGirls.org), protecting girls and keeping them safe from harm is a critical priority that requires mandatory training for all AHG volunteer adult leaders through the *AHG KEYS to Child Safety Training program*.

“The American Heritage Girls KEYS to Child Safety Training program furnishes our leaders with the necessary tools to identify and deal with serious situations in AHG Troops,” stated Patti Garibay, founder and executive director of AHG. “It is our responsibility to be properly trained and equipped to provide girls with a safe environment. Adult volunteers are the gatekeepers and play the most important safety role by holding the sacred KEYS to the hearts and minds of the children of God.

“This is a mandatory program for all adult volunteers interacting with the girls. All adult members must complete the training program when they register with AHG. The AHG KEYS to Child Safety Training certification is valid for two years from the date of completion, and a current certification must be maintained at all times for participation.”

Included in the *AHG KEYS to Child Safety Training* program are steps for an adult staff or volunteer member to take if it is suspected that a girl member has been emotionally, physically or sexually abused or neglected. These steps are then followed:

- **Keep** yourself and the child calm
- **Encourage** and affirm the child
- **Youth** are to be protected
- **Summarize** and report to authorities

In conjunction with the mandatory *AHG KEYS to Child Safety Training* offered by *AHG*, the organization will be this year's premier sponsor at the [Evangelical Council for Abuse Prevention](#) national conference on June 17, 2021 in Nashville.

American Heritage Girls was founded by a group of parents wanting a faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters in 1995. *American Heritage Girls* across the nation and the globe participate in badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities, and outdoor experiences, all with an emphasis on Christian values and family involvement.

In addition to the biblically based parenting advice shared in the [Raising Godly Girls blog](#) and radio features that are heard on 770 Christian radio stations, *American Heritage Girls* provides a community experience in a Troop setting. Girls benefit from Christ-centered friendships and mentors to assist them in becoming Godly girls.

Today there are Troops in all 50 states and in 15 countries around the world through the [Trailblazer Program](#). A variety of Christian denominations are also represented as [Charter Organizations](#) for Troops. There are thousands of volunteer members across the country helping girls to grow in their faith, cultivate a heart for service, enjoy the great outdoors, and have more fun than they can imagine.

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To schedule interviews with *Patti Garibay, founder and executive director of American Heritage Girls (AHG, www.americanheritagegirls.org)*, contact Media@HamiltonStrategies.com, Marjorie Pratt, 610.584.1096, ext. 107, or Deborah Hamilton, ext. 102.