

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

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JANUARY 16 IS NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY
***American Heritage Girls* celebrates religious freedom
as premier Christian scout-type organization**

‘Our world desperately requires a generation of women who know who they are and whose they are in Christ,’ says Patti Garibay

CINCINNATI, Ohio — January 16 is [National Religious Freedom Day](#), marking over 230 years since the signing of Virginia’s Statute for Religious Freedom. The statute would eventually become a foundational principle in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which preserves an individual’s right to belief and to choose and exercise faith without government interference.

Religious freedom is especially important to *American Heritage Girls*, (*AHG*, www.americanheritagegirls.org) one of the largest Christian, scout-type organizations in the world. Dedicated to raising godly girls across America and around the world, *AHG* is building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. *AHG* girls participate in badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities, and outdoor experiences, all with an emphasis on Christian values and family involvement.

“American Heritage Girls is proud to be a Christ-centered organization for girls ages five to 18,” stated AHG Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay. “We firmly believe in the inerrancy of Scripture and will never deviate from our Christian roots.”

[Founded 28 years ago after the Girl Scouts of America started to amend their religious beliefs](#), *American Heritage Girls* offers Christian families a safe, age-appropriate program that is designed to challenge and inspire girls around the world.

Garibay commented, “It was always the vision of AHG to provide a Christian character-development and leadership organization that would contribute to the betterment of each girl’s community while strengthening her walk with Christ. What started as a far-off dream has continued to grow with the help and support of a nationwide network of parents who share the goal of building women of integrity.

“Our world desperately requires a generation of women who know who they are and whose they are in Christ. American Heritage Girls is at the forefront of this urgent need, teaching girls the incredible God-given worth that lies within them.”

When the Girl Scouts started modifying their religious background, *Garibay*, along with a group of concerned parents, wanted a faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters, and *American*

Heritage Girls was born. Today, there are [Troops](#) in all 50 states and girls being served in 15 countries around the globe. Girls can join a Troop at any time; if a Troop is not available nearby, they can become a [Trailblazer](#) and enjoy the *AHG* program alongside their parent. A variety of Christian denominations are also represented as [Charter Organizations](#) for Troops. Thousands of volunteer members across the country are helping girls grow in their faith, cultivate a heart for service, enjoy the great outdoors, and have more fun than they can imagine.

At *AHG*, girls ages five to 18 meet together as [a single Troop](#) at the same time and then break out into Units by Levels. This gives *AHG* girls the important social experience of interacting with friends and godly mentors of various ages; members also learn leadership skills within a group setting. *AHG* Troops are located in [local communities](#) across the nation. If none exists in a given area, families can bring the *AHG* Program to their own area. An *American Heritage Girls* Troop Development Coach is available to provide resources to potential Charter Organizations and other families to form [a new Troop](#). To hear more about the purpose, mission, and vision of *AHG* from *Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay*, [click here](#).

AHG's "Raising Godly Girls" radio feature and [Raising Godly Girls blog](#) shares guidance and biblically based advice on many key topics affecting girls today — from bullying and identity to anxiety and body image issues. It gives parents, educators, and faith community leaders a set of tools, resources, and Scripture-based advice to assist in raising girls after God's own heart. The ["Raising Godly Girls Minute" with Patti Garibay](#) airs on 1000+ Christian radio stations across the country.

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To schedule interviews with spokespersons from *American Heritage Girls*, contact Media@HamiltonStrategies.com, Beth Harrison, 610.584.1096 ext. 105, or Deborah Hamilton, ext. 102.

To inquire about airing the ["Raising Godly Girls Minute" with Patti Garibay](#), contact [Michael Hamilton, 610.584.1096, ext. 101](#).