

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

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***American Heritage Girls* proudly celebrates reaching a milestone with pinnacle Stars & Stripes Award**

Prestigious AHG award now includes 1000 recipients and requires 100 hours of community service, as well as project management, communication skills, and organization

CINCINNATI, Ohio — *American Heritage Girls* (AHG, www.americanheritagegirls.org), the premier faith-based, scout-type leadership development program in America, is proud to announce its 1,000th **Stars & Stripes Award** recipient, the highest recognition available to a participant in *American Heritage Girls*. The award teaches girls perseverance, self-respect, and a strong sense of satisfaction. The **Stars & Stripes Award** candidates complete a substantial service project, which they plan, lead, and implement. Girls have the opportunity to exercise servant leadership, project management, communication skills, time management, and organization — all while blessing their communities in outstanding ways.

AHG Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay commented, “The Stars & Stripes Award is not for the faint of heart! By the close of the journey, girls will have demonstrated their leadership ability to identify a cause or need for which they have passion, managed a large project, recruited volunteers, publicized the need for fundraising, documented their journey, participated in a Board of Review, and reflected on the impact of AHG on their life and the growth of their spiritual walk during those years.”

The numbers associated with *AHG*'s Stars & Stripes Award in a recent year are impressive:

- 36: states represented by award recipients
- 147: benefiting organizations served
- 255: average service hours per project
- 37,473: total service hours performed

“When I founded AHG with a small group of families determined to make a change in the lives of our daughters, it never occurred to me that we would reach 1000 Stars & Stripes Award recipients! The girls who achieved this award have proven they have the drive, determination, and skills needed to go out into the world and be leaders who will change the culture for Christ,” Garibay said.

One such girl is Kenna, a recent **Stars & Stripes Award** recipient and lifetime *AHG* supporter. After hearing the stories her older sisters had about their *AHG* Troop, Kenna knew as a little girl that she needed to get involved. After earning hundreds of badges, awards, and certifications, Kenna's *AHG* career culminated in her **Stars & Stripes Award**. Kenna's project benefitted an organization called Aid for Women, a pregnancy and young mother care center. With a heart for the “Pro-Life Ministry,” as she refers to the movement, Kenna

deeply desired to help in practical ways through her **Stars & Stripes Award** project process. Her project could have come to a screeching halt in the summer of 2020 with pandemic-related difficulties, but she saw God's sovereign faithfulness in every area of keeping the project on track, including raising \$5,000 in seventeen days for project supplies.

One AHG member and Stars & Stripes Award recipient shared her thoughts about the award: "It means so much to me. What matters are the steps you take to get the award: perseverance, hard work, dedication, community impact, ability to have peer leadership, and the list could go on. I know I put in the time, hard work, and dedication to complete something worthwhile."

Said another AHG member and Stars & Stripes Award recipient, "American Heritage Girls has made an incredible impact on my life. It has made me into a woman of God as well as a leader, a public speaker, and an ambassador for Christ."

American Heritage Girls was founded in 1995 when **Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay** became concerned with the direction the Girl Scouts of America was headed. **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. 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. 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](#).