

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

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MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**Founded when Girl Scouts abandoned their faith in God,
American Heritage Girls' humble beginnings led to
thousands of Troops nationwide**

*Serving girls ages five to 18, AHG has grown to become one of
the largest Christ-centered scout-type organizations in the world*

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Nearly 30 years ago, one mom on a mission to protect her daughter took a stand against the largest scout-type organization for girls in the country. When the Girl Scouts of America took God out of their pledge, *American Heritage Girls* (AHG, www.americanheritagegirls.org) *founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay* knew that she had to do something. Today, what began as a gathering of concerned parents around a small kitchen table in Ohio years ago has grown into *American Heritage Girls*, the premier faith-based, scout-type leadership development program in the U.S. for girls ages five to 18.

“American Heritage Girls was born out of my desire to provide a safe, age-appropriate Christian scouting alternative for girls,” said Garibay. “The traditional values of the Girl Scouts was waning and I knew that if I wanted to see change for the sake of girls everywhere, I needed to do something. Thus, AHG was born!”

Garibay writes about her dramatic, God-led journey in her book, [“Why Curse the Darkness When You Can Light a Candle?”](#) In engaging prose, *Garibay* shares her experiences as a young wife and mother, including the struggles she endured and the joy she felt at finally seeing the providential hand of God help her and others create *AHG*.

“No one knew what was in store, but we took a leap of faith and God has certainly blessed American Heritage Girls. We have thousands of Troops across the country that are full of strong, confident, thoughtful, godly girls poised to take on the world,” Garibay said.

Today, *AHG* has been active and innovative on so many fronts, offering programs that honor and celebrate some of America's greatest women in history through various level awards, hands-on badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities, outdoor adventures, virtual connections, and so much more. All throughout, *AHG* has emphasized Christian values and family participation as it promotes a healthy sense of community and connection for girls. Its parenting resource platform, [“Raising Godly Girls,”](#) also taps into *AHG's* rich history of working with thousands of girls and their families nationwide by sharing guidance and biblically based advice on key issues girls face in today's culture.

“I am so grateful that the Lord empowered myself and that small band of concerned parents to forge ahead and create a scouting program that would honor Him while raising up godly girls of character,” commented Garibay. “My prayer now is that the Lord would continue to use AHG to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country by helping girls to grow in their faith, cultivate a heart for service, enjoy the great outdoors, and have more fun than they can imagine!”

Today, there are ***American Heritage Girls 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](#).