

**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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**APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY**

**Unlike other scouting organizations, *American Heritage Girls* is responsible and reverent toward God's wonderful Earth**

*'It is vital that we teach girls how to be good stewards of His gift of nature for the benefit of our health, safety, and enjoyment, and for future generations'*

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Earth Day was [founded in 1970](#) as a day to acknowledge and educate Americans about the importance of preserving the planet. In the face of such devastation to the Earth's delicate ecosystem, many companies and organizations are being heavily scrutinized for their blasé attitude towards maintaining and protecting the planet. Recently, the [Girl Scouts of America came under fire](#) for the use of palm oil in their famous cookies. Palm oil farming is one of the [leading contributors](#) of the deforestation of some of the world's most biodiverse forests, destroying the habitat of many endangered species.

Environmental stewardship is an integral value for *American Heritage Girls* (AHG, [www.americanheritagegirls.org](http://www.americanheritagegirls.org)), one of the world's largest Christian scout-type organizations. AHG is proud to encourage girls to get out in nature and actively work to protect God's creation.

*"In [Genesis](#), God commanded His children to maintain the earth He so wonderfully created," said AHG Founder and Executive Director. "It is vital that we teach girls how to be good stewards of His gift of nature for the benefit of our health, safety, and enjoyment, and for future generations. God gave us everything we would need to thrive on this planet — it's up to us to maintain it!"*

In order to teach girls the value of protecting the Earth, AHG offers several required Badges, including the Caring for Creation Badge and the Sustainable Living Badge. Both Badges not only guide girls through powerful lessons about the beauty and majesty of the Earth, but also challenge them to bring these lessons directly into their communities to make a meaningful difference.

*"Polluting the planet that the next generation will inherit directly contradicts what an American Heritage Girl recites in the AHG Creed and is expected to embody," Garibay said. "An AHG Girl is called to be compassionate, resourceful, responsible, and reverent towards God's wonderful Earth. Environmental stewardship is a hallmark of a well-rounded, godly girl of integrity."*

*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](mailto: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.