NEWS RELEASE

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American Heritage Girls supplements homeschooling with unique Christ-focused programming

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CINCINNATI, Ohio — There are approximately <u>3.7 million homeschool students</u> in America — and that number is rising. Homeschooling saw a 30% increase in 2021-2022 while public school enrollment fell by more than 1.2 million students within the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to <u>a recent study</u>. Homeschooling, while growing in popularity in the secular education circles, has always been a favored form of education for Christians.

For Christian families with girls, *American Heritage Girls (AHG, <u>www.americanheritagegirls.org</u>) is the natural companion to any <u>homeschooling</u> syllabus. <i>American Heritage Girls* is a Christ-centered character and leadership development program for girls 5 to 18 years of age. *AHG* is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. With a focus on camaraderie, adventure, and fun, *AHG* helps teach girls valuable lessons, all while focusing of building a meaningful relationship with Christ.

"American Heritage Girls provides a Christ-centered and balanced program that progresses with the girl increasing in challenge and skill as she grows in maturity and knowledge," said AHG Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay. "The Program consists of six key components known as the AHG Program Emphases. A girl who completes the AHG Program will be a Christ-following servant leader who is honoring, relational, anchored in Christ, and competent: a woman of integrity. Many homeschool families use AHG's rigorous Badge program as the basis for their curriculum — even for their boys too!"

AHG's <u>Trailblazer Program</u> is an excellent way for girls who are unable to access a Troop to utilize *AHG's* unique programming. Girls are able to work one-on-one with their mentor (parent, guardian, minister, or teacher) to provide endless opportunities for them to grow into a woman of integrity while enjoying faith, service, and fun. Since all Trailblazer family situations are unique, the *AHG* Program allows for minor adaptations to fulfill the *AHG* Mission, making the Trailblazer program an invaluable accompaniment to homeschooling.

"For families who choose to homeschool their girls, the AHG program is an excellent resource to help round out any homeschool syllabus and opens up a whole new world of friendship, opportunity, and fun," said Garibay. "AHG girls are provided with invaluable resources that help them better understand and experience God's wonderful creation around them. AHG is also an excellent way for girls to build relationships and foster lifelong friendships. For girls looking for a community of fellow believers, as well as for parents looking to supplement their homeschooling curriculum, AHG is the solution!" One homeschooling mom said, "My daughter was in **AHG** from Pioneer through Patriot levels. Even in middle school and high school, we found lots of overlap in what we were already doing in homeschooling. Moms, read your daughter's handbook! There are lots of requirements that you will find you might be already doing with homeschooling or can tweak just a little bit to satisfy badge requirements. Lots of great ideas for field trips, practical 'adulting' skills and learning in general. I love how many of the badges helped prepare my daughter for college and life. So happy we were a part of **AHG**!"

Another mom said, "My girl earned SO many badges through schoolwork! It's a huge motivator for her. She leveled up this year, and we're looking forward to doing it again. We have been very impressed with the variety and quality of **AHG** badges."

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 <u>a single Troop</u> 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 <u>local</u> <u>communities</u> across the nation. To hear more about the purpose, mission, and vision of *AHG* from *Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay*, <u>click here</u>.

AHG's "Raising Godly Girls" radio feature and <u>Raising Godly Girls blog</u> 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 <u>*"Raising Godly Girls Minute" with Patti Garibay* airs on 1000+ Christian radio stations across the country.</u>

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

To inquire about airing the "<u>Raising Godly Girls Minute</u>" with Patti Garibay, <u>contact Michael Hamilton</u>, <u>610,584,1096, ext. 101.</u>