NEWS RELEASE

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AHG provides Catholic programming to more than half of the dioceses nationwide

'We are honored to partner with Catholic dioceses across the country to bring our programming to girls looking for likeminded friends'

CINCINNATI, Ohio — *American Heritage Girls (AHG, <u>www.americanheritagegirls.org</u>) has been the premier faith-based, scout-type leadership development program for girls for nearly three decades, helping girls from ages five to 18 develop meaningful relationships with Christ while learning life skills, experiencing adventure, and having fun!*

With *AHG*'s emphasis on Christian values and family participation, it has become a thriving ministry for its Catholic members. *AHG*'s unique programming beautifully compliments the tenets and lessons of the Catholic Church, and more families of the faith are flocking to *AHG*. There are Catholic *AHG* Troops in over 50% of all U.S. Dioceses, and over 25% of the AHG Troops are Chartered by a Catholic parish or Catholic school. Catholic Troops and members are supported by the <u>AHG National Catholic Committee</u>.

"Faith is fundamental to us at AHG," said Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay. "AHG was founded on Christian values and family fun, and we are honored to come alongside Catholic dioceses across the country to bring our programming to girls while promoting and providing for the growth and spiritual development in fidelity to the magisterium of the Catholic Church through our National Catholic Committee.

AHG offers a robust <u>Catholic Faith Awards Program</u>, offering several Catholic-specific patch programs to foster deeper learning of faith traditions within the Catholic Church. Two examples of the Catholic patch program are the <u>St. Joseph Patch</u> and the <u>Eucharist Revival Patch</u>.

"Our Catholic Faith Awards Program tailors our offerings to best suit girls from a Catholic faith," said Garibay. "We aim to promote and provide for the growth and spiritual development of our Catholic members."

<u>The Bishop of Dallas, Most Reverend Edward J. Burns</u>, stated, "American Heritage Girls is intentionally Christian from the national level down to the local Troop while encouraging members of Catholic Troops to learn, practice, and be unapologetically Catholic. We applaud the mission of AHG to build young women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. The commitment to form young women to first incorporate God into their lives, along with service, is crucial in the 21st century, particularly when there has been an obvious cultural shift in the status of religion in the public square. AHG's willingness to serve the parish and form their members in our Catholic faith is key to its young member's spiritual formation. "With the help of resources such as **AHG**, we can help form our young girls into faithful women of God, committed to a life of faith, service and love," said Most Reverend George J. Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha.

<u>The Bishop of Birmingham, Most Reverend Robert Baker</u>, stated, "American Heritage Girls serves the local church as an excellent tool to engage girls, young women, and families in a manner that brings glory to Jesus Christ through service to God, family, country, and community."

To hear from Patti Garibay and the mission and vision of AHG, click here.

American Heritage Girls was founded in 1995 by a group of parents who wanted this faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters. At *AHG*, girls ages five to 18 meet together as <u>a single</u> 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 <u>local communities</u> 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 <u>a new</u> Troop. To hear more about the purpose, mission, and vision of *AHG* from *Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay*, click here.

Today, there are <u>Troops</u> 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 <u>Trailblazer</u> and enjoy the *AHG* program alongside their parent. A variety of Christian denominations are also represented as <u>Charter</u> <u>Organizations</u> 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.

The "*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</u> airs on 900+ Christian radio stations across the country.

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To schedule interviews with *Patti Garibay, founder and executive director of 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, contact Michael Hamilton, 610.584.1096, ext. 101.