NEWS RELEASE

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OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

AHG teaches girls compassion for all stages of life through The Respect Life Patch program

'We have always believed that each and every life is valuable in God's eyes, and we do our utmost to teach girls about their inherent worth'

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Every life — no matter the age, ability, or stage — has value. That has been a founding ideal for *American Heritage Girls* (*AHG*, <u>www.americanheritagegirls.org</u>) since it's inception nearly 30 years ago. The premier faith-based, scout-type leadership development program in the country, *AHG* has instilled traditional, bible-based values in girls ages five through 18 all across the nation — and is continuing to rapidly grow.

"American Heritage Girls has been determined to help families raise godly girls for decades," said AHG Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay. "We have always believed that each and every life is valuable in God's eyes, and we do our utmost to teach girls about their inherent worth. Every single person has been created in God's image with a particular purpose. To reinforce our commitment to honoring the sanctity of human life, AHG is proud to offer The Respect Life Patch and Pin."

The Respect Life Patch recognizes a girl's participation in an event that brings attention to respecting life or participation in a service project whose mission demonstrates a desire to respect life. After any level of participation in an event or service project, girls may proudly wear their Respect Life patch on the back of their vest or sash.

American Heritage Girls' Christian focus and respect for biblical values are major reasons it has experienced such explosive growth, with a 76% increase in the number of new troops started during the first quarter of 2023-24 Program Year compared to 2022.

"Not only does AHG hold to a biblical worldview that respects life, but those beliefs are put to action," said Garibay. "The Respect Life patch reinforces American Heritage Girls' commitment to honoring life from conception to natural death. Advocating for life is to recognize the dignity of all humankind. For example, when we teach girls the importance of standing up for the unborn, it's also vital that we teach them to care for the mothers as well. Participating in service opportunities allows girls to demonstrate a desire to respect life. Serving ministries and organizations that provide physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health can spread Christ's love across generations. Approaching life issues with love and consideration for all demonstrates for girls how to be compassionate Christian women."

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 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. 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 a new 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 "*Raising Godly Girls Minute*" with *Patti Garibay* airs on 1000+ 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.