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

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## American Heritage Girls thanks God for inspiring nearly 30 years of faith, service and fun

Garibay: 'We are extremely grateful that the Lord continues to allow us to prosper in our mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country'

**CINCINNATI, Ohio** — As Americans prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and family, *American Heritage Girls (AHG, www.americanheritagegirls.org)*, one of the world's largest Christian, scout-type organizations, is taking a moment to remember the challenges that inspired the celebration of Thanksgiving and praise God for His many incredible accomplishments through *AHG* over the years.

"When we think back on the generations of American Christians who came before us, we remember the challenges that inspired their celebration of Thanksgiving: perilous ocean voyages; a long-fought revolution; the horrors of slavery; a civil war dividing our country; and times of great suffering, deprivation, poverty, racial conflict, widespread illness, and war," said Patti Garibay, founder and executive director of American Heritage Girls. "Yet the human heart manages through it all to turn toward God and give thanks for His blessings. The fact that we are capable of thankfulness and have a relationship with God in order to express it, are in themselves gifts from God."

"We are so thankful for the amazing young women with whom we have the privilege to work, the wonderful volunteers and staff members that make AHG possible, and the continued ability to help raise godly girls all across America," said Patti. "Most of all, we are extremely grateful that the Lord continues to allow us to prosper in our mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country."

For nearly 30 years, **AHG** has been dedicated to providing authentic, positive, and values-driven outdoor activities and other character and leadership development opportunities for girls across the nation. This well-organized program also honors girls' specific and measurable accomplishments, for which the participants take enormous pride in — and use as stepping-stones each year as they further enhance their skills, sense of service, and much more.

**AHG's** 2023-2024 Program Year Theme, "WOVEN," encouraging girls to see how God strung each part of a girl's life together, knitting her personality, character, skills, and gifting to form whom He has created her to be. To promote the theme, **AHG** provides Troops with guides, devotionals, and patch programs designed to encourage girls to see how God is WOVEN into every aspect of their lives. Thousands of girls across the nation are involved in their communities and making a meaningful impact, all to better understand how God has WOVEN their lives for His glory.

This year, *AHG* is especially thankful for over 60,000 girls and adult members in all 50 states and the exponential growth they have seen just in the last year. Additionally, *AHG* Troops regularly perform service of all types within their communities year-round. In the *AHG* Program Year ending May 30, 2023, girls performed 590,720 service hours nationwide, which, with <u>volunteerism on the decline</u>, shows how *AHG* is encouraging girls to give back to their communities.

"Girls of all ages are out serving their communities and making a difference in the lives of those they interact with," Garibay said. "We are so thankful for the many opportunities we have to grow as Christian leaders and see how God is WOVEN in our lives."

Garibay continued, "Whether you're the parent of a brand-new kindergartner or a teenage girl navigating the ever-changing world of high school, American Heritage Girls is excited by the opportunity to come alongside parents and guardians to raise godly girls. Our world desperately requires a generation of women who know who they are and whose they are in Christ. The AHG Program is at the forefront of this urgent need, teaching girls the incredible God-given worth that lies within them, and we are so thankful for God's provision as we strive to continue our journey in raising godly girls."

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 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 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 *Patti Garibay, founder and executive director of American Heritage Girls*, contact <a href="Media@HamiltonStrategies.com">Media@HamiltonStrategies.com</a>, Beth Bogucki, 610.584.1096 ext. 105, or Robin Sprague, ext. 103.

To inquire about airing the <u>"Raising Godly Girls Minute"</u> with Patti Garibay, contact Michael Hamilton, 610.584.1096, ext. 101.