NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release October 21, 2024

CONTACT:

Hamilton Strategies, <u>Media@HamiltonStrategies.com</u>, Beth Bogucki, 610.584.1096 ext. 105, or Jeff Tolson, ext. 108

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 IS HALLOWEEN

Casual experimenting in occult practice 'opens a girl to a sinister path of bondage over her soul,' says AHG founder Patti Garibay

'It's up to parents to equip their daughters with the tools to navigate this Halloween season and beyond, ensuring their hearts remain rooted in the truth of Scripture'

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Families all across America are busy buying candy and creating costumes to celebrate Halloween, but few consider Halloween's <u>dark history and occult affiliations</u>. Unfortunately, <u>a record number of women</u> have a growing interest in witchcraft and the occult. These disturbing reports come as the nation <u>denies its Christian foundations</u> and turns away from organized religion.

Young girls are easily fascinated by witchcraft and the occult, but *American Heritage Girls* (*AHG*, www.americanheritagegirls.org), one of the nation's premier scout-type organizations for girls ages five to 18, is prepared to equip parents with the tools needed to guide girls away from the spiritual dangers of witchcraft and toward the freedom found in Christ. For nearly 30 years, *AHG* has been helping families build women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country.

"What launches adolescents to dabble with sorcery, dark magic and the occult? It can be as innocent as curiosity," said AHG Founder and Executive Director Patti Garibay. "From Ouija boards and tarot cards to crystals, your girl might be blindly opening a dangerous door. The Bible doesn't negate witchcraft as fake—in fact, it recognizes the power behind such things and harshly warns against practicing. What's at the heart of this? Anytime a girl looks to something other than God for guidance, deliverance or blessing, it's idolatry. In addition to breaking the First Commandment, it opens a girl to a sinister path of bondage over her soul."

Garibay discusses the dangerous allure of the occult on AHG's podcast, Raising Godly Girls (RGG), with Amy Davison of Mama Bear Apologetics. Davison shares her personal experience as a former "almost witch" in her teenage years, revealing the allure and dangers of these practices. Throughout the conversation, Davison unpacks the cultural normalization of witchcraft, its connection to the feminist movement, and how practices like crystals and astrology are being presented as empowering and harmless. She offers practical, Biblical wisdom on how to counter these messages, help girls understand the truth of God's Word, and protect them from the subtle but dangerous influences of the occult. Together, Garibay and Davison discuss why witchcraft seems appealing to many young girls and how parents can discern between harmless Halloween festivities and spiritually harmful influences.

"It's up to parents to equip their daughters with the tools to navigate this Halloween season and beyond, ensuring their hearts remain rooted in the truth of Scripture," said Garibay.

Tune in to this week's <u>Raising Godly Girls (RGG)</u> podcast and "Raising Godly Girls" one-minute <u>radio</u> <u>feature</u> to help parents and loved ones guide their girls away from the spiritual dangers of witchcraft and to God's Word.

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 parents. 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.

AHG offers various resources under <u>"Raising Godly Girls,"</u> including a <u>weekly podcast</u>, one-minute radio features, a blog, and guides for parents. All "Raising Godly Girls" platforms and materials offer guidance and biblically based advice on various topics affecting girls today, such as bullying, identity, anxiety, and body image issues. "Raising Godly Girls" provides parents, educators, and faith community leaders with tools, resources, and Scripture-based advice to help raise girls after God's own heart.

AHG's new podcast, <u>"Raising Godly Girls,"</u> features fresh episodes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Subscribe and follow on any major podcast platform or visit <u>raisinggodlygirls.com</u>. Additionally, the <u>"Raising Godly Girls Minute" with Patti Garibay</u> airs on 1000+ Christian radio stations across the country.

###

To schedule interviews with *Patti Garibay, founder and executive director of American Heritage Girls,* contact Media@HamiltonStrategies.com, Beth Bogucki, 610.584.1096 ext. 105, or Jeff Tolson, ext. 108.

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