

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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American Heritage Girls and the Diocese of Columbus reaffirm strong ministry relationship with new Memorandum of Understanding

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CINCINNATI, Ohio — The Diocese of Columbus and *American Heritage Girls (AHG, www.americanheritagegirls.org)*, the nation’s premier Christ-centered scout-type organization for girls ages five to 18, have maintained a long-standing partnership to support the development of girls, their families and their communities. *AHG* and the Columbus diocese have reaffirmed their partnership with a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recognizing the inherent value of raising up strong women of Christ, grounded in biblical truth and equipped to make a lasting difference in their community.

“It is the mission of American Heritage Girls to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country, and we are proud to partner with like-minded organizations and charters to make that happen,” said AHG Executive Director Rachael Culpepper. “These young girls are the future of our nation — it is vital that we equip them with the skills and tools necessary to make a meaningful change for Christ in today’s culture. We have worked with the Diocese of Columbus for years, and they have proven to be supportive, encouraging co-laborers in this mission with us.”

Dr. Marlon De La Torre, Senior Director, Office of Evangelization and Catechesis at the Diocese of Columbus, shared, “From the very beginning of civilization, our Father in heaven made us in his image and likeness to be in communion with Him. This gift of life is further amplified within the development of the family and the specific role of parents as the primary educators of their children within the family of God. Because the family serves as the primary nucleus of the faith for our children, on behalf of Bishop Earl K. Fernandes I am pleased to express my gratitude for the relationship established between the Diocese of Columbus and *American Heritage Girls* to promote the important role of the family, to ‘build women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country.’”

Through this MOU, the Diocese of Columbus and *American Heritage Girls* will work together within the guidelines of the policies and regulations of each organization to establish and nurture *AHG* Troops within the diocese so that girls may be provided with life skills, leadership development opportunities, service programs and character-building opportunities. In response, *American Heritage Girls* will continue to serve 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.

“By intimately aligning ourselves with local dioceses, AHG becomes even more plugged into local Christian communities,” continued Culpepper. “Our hope is that the girls within the Diocese of Columbus learn more about their faith, make strong connections within the Church and foster long-lasting friendships through American Heritage Girls.”

Tune in each week to *American Heritage Girls’ [Raising Godly Girls \(RGG\) podcast](#)* and *“Raising Godly Girls”* one-minute [radio feature](#) to equip, affirm and strengthen parents and loved ones on the journey to build young girls into women of integrity.

About American Heritage Girls: Marking the organization’s 30th anniversary this year, [American Heritage Girls](#) was founded in 1995 by a group of parents who wanted a faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters. At *AHG*, girls ages five to 18 meet together as a unified group and then break out into Levels. This gives *AHG* girls the important social experience of interacting with friends and Godly mentors. Girl Members also learn leadership skills within a group setting. *AHG* Troops are located in [local communities](#) across the nation. If one does not exist in a given area, families are encouraged to start an *AHG* Troop. An *American Heritage Girls* Troop Development Coach is available to provide resources and support. To hear more about the purpose, mission and vision of *AHG* from *Founder and Executive Director Emeritus Patti Garibay*, [click here](#).

Today, there are 70,000 members and 1,300 [Troops](#) in all 50 states, with girls being served in six countries around the globe. Girls can join a Troop at any time; if a Troop is not available nearby, they can become a [Trailblazer](#) and enjoy the *AHG* program alongside their parents. [Charter Organizations](#) include a variety of Christian denominations, Christian schools and Catholic outreach. 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 [“Raising Godly Girls,”](#) including a [weekly podcast](#) featuring fresh episodes every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, [“Raising Godly Girls Minute” with Patti Garibay](#) one-minute radio feature airing on 1000+ Christian radio stations nationwide, a blog, and e-books 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.

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To schedule interviews with *Rachael Culpepper, executive director of American Heritage Girls*, contact Hamilton Strategies, Media@HamiltonStrategies.com, Beth Bogucki, 610.584.1096 ext. 105, Dawn Foglein, ext. 100, or Jeff Tolson, ext. 108.

To inquire about airing the [“Raising Godly Girls Minute” with Patti Garibay](#), contact [Michael Hamilton, 610.584.1096, ext. 101.](#)