

## **Addressing Falsehoods about Girl Scouts**

### **Why should I choose Girl Scouts over another mixed-gender scouting program?**

Girl Scouts continues to focus on providing the best girl leadership development experience in the world. Only Girl Scouts bring the data-backed and time-tested programming designed specifically to meet the unique needs and interests of girls. Most of a girl's life is coed. The single-gender environment offered by Girl Scouts creates an inclusive safe space in which girls are free to explore their potential and take the lead without the distractions or pressures that can be found in a coed environment.

### **What is Girl Scouts of the USA's position regarding human sexuality, birth control, and abortion?**

Neither Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) nor Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana (GSSI) takes a position or develops materials on these issues. We feel our role is to help girls develop self-confidence and good decision-making skills that will help them make wise choices in all areas of their lives. Parents or guardians make all decisions regarding program participation that may be of a sensitive nature. Consistent with that belief, GSUSA directs councils, including volunteer leaders, to get written parental permission for any program that could be considered sensitive.

### **Does GSUSA have a relationship with Planned Parenthood?**

No, neither GSUSA nor GSSI has a relationship or partnership with Planned Parenthood. It is important for everyone to know that nearly 100% of the proceeds from the sales of our Girl Scout Cookies stays in our local market, where it is used to fund programs for girls. As a nonprofit organization, GSSI uses the funds we raise for our own mission. We do not provide any funding to Planned Parenthood.

### **Does Girl Scouting support families of faith?**

Yes. Girl Scouting supports girls from all backgrounds and beliefs. While we are a secular organization that refrains from teaching religious or spiritual beliefs or practices, we believe that the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one, and we value our longstanding partnerships with religious organizations across many faiths that share the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. We encourage girls to develop connections to their own spiritual and religious beliefs by earning recognitions provided by their faith communities and by earning the new My Promise, My Faith pin, which helps a girl deepen the connection between the Girl Scout Law and her faith. We support the right of faith leaders to verify that program delivered to girls in their places of worship is consistent with their faith's teachings.

### **What is Girl Scouts' policy on girls donating money earned from cookie sales?**

To emphasize leadership during Girl Scout Cookie season, we encourage our girls to learn entrepreneurial skills while giving back to their communities. Net proceeds from Girl Scout Cookie sales are retained by the local council and troops and can be used to support impactful community projects. Troops decide collectively what to do with their proceeds—the money might go toward a troop trip, community service project, or causes the girls care about.

### **If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact:**

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