

2016—2021

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the



Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

and the

Archdiocese of Cincinnati



This Memorandum of Understanding constitutes an agreement between the **Archdiocese of Cincinnati** (hereafter, "the Archdiocese"), and the **Girl Scouts of Western Ohio**, for the purpose of confirming a framework for the cooperative relationship detailed below.

Girl Scouting is proud of its longstanding and mutually supportive relationship with the Catholic Church, which dates back to 1914. As noted in its constitutional documents, the motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. Through Girl Scouting, young women are encouraged to become stronger members of their respective faith communities:

We, the members of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (are) united by a belief in God... (*Preamble, Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America*)

Grounded in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Girl Scouting is a non-formal, experiential, and cooperative education program that promotes girls' personal growth and leadership development. (*Constitution, Article III, Girl Scouts of the United States of America*)

On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law. (*The Girl Scout Promise*)

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati acknowledges decades of mutual support and close cooperation with Girl Scouting. Girl Scout troops have been a consistent presence in a great many parishes and schools for generations, working in close cooperation with Catholic pastors, principals and other Church leaders to nurture the healthy development of young women and building faith through the Catholic religious awards programs. Moreover, in its Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Committee on Religious Recognitions, (ACCCORR, formerly Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts) the Archdiocese has benefited from decades of extraordinary volunteer service by Catholic women and men who have found in the Girl Scout program a means to help Catholic girls develop into capable and confident Catholic women who take great pride in their Marian Medal and other religious awards.

Based on this long and fruitful history, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati through its Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio agree to the following:

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio agrees to:

1. Respect the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, and the practices, policies, aims and objectives of the Archdiocese and its parishes and schools;
2. Assist in meeting those objectives through its programming for girls aged 5-17 and through support of religious awards;
3. Provide year-round support to the Girl Scout troops/groups and volunteers located in Catholic institutions (e.g., parishes, schools);
4. Maintain regular, ongoing communications with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, normally through the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry;
5. Communicate regularly and work closely with and support the parish's or school's designated liaisons;
6. Provide policies, procedures and assistance to ensure the selection of quality Girl Scout leaders and other volunteers;
7. Screen and approve Girl Scout leaders and volunteers in accord with Girl Scout policies and procedures and the policies and procedures of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the parish or school in which the Girl Scout troop is located;
8. Operate its troops and volunteers that are located in Catholic institutions in compliance with Catholic teaching and Archdiocesan policy, with due attention to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Decree on Child Protection;
9. Promote and provide support for the achievement of religious awards;
10. Provide general liability insurance for volunteers currently registered with Girl Scouts of the USA; (Note: Coverage is provided with respect to claims arising out of an official Girl Scout activity, and is in effect when claims exceed the volunteer's insurance regarding losses arising from the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle or watercraft.)
11. Provide the training and support necessary for volunteers to effectively carry out the Girl Scout program;
12. Provide and adhere to due process described in the Girl Scout grievance procedures, in cooperation with representatives of the parish or school and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati;
13. Participate in good faith in resolving any and all grievances, whether initiated by the Girl Scouts through their grievance procedures, the Archdiocese, or the parish or school;
14. Establish regular, clear and ongoing communications with parish or school leadership; and
15. Recognize and honor the principle that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders.

Archdiocese of Cincinnati agrees to:

1. Through its Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, maintain regular and ongoing communications with the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio;
2. Provide ongoing support for religious awards programs through its Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Religious Recognitions and Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry;
3. Provide guidance to the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio and individual Girl Scout troops/groups operating in Catholic settings (parishes, schools, etc.) in matters related to Catholic teaching and/or Archdiocesan policy;
4. Participate in good faith in resolving grievances having to do with Church teaching and/or Archdiocesan policy; and
5. In conjunction with the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio and the Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Religious Recognitions, establish standards of quality for Girl Scout troops and volunteers, including but not limited to special provisions for orientation and training for Girl Scout leaders operating in Catholic settings.

This Memorandum of Understanding will guide the ongoing relationship of cooperation between the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. A separate Memorandum of Understanding in accord with this one shall be established between Archdiocesan parishes and schools with Girl Scout troops, the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be in effect for five years, renewable, and may be terminated by either party at any time.

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

Signed: 

Title: Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

Date: 2/29/16

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Signed: 

Title: Archbishop of Cincinnati

Date: Feb. 29, 2016



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