



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

archbishop@catholicaoc.org
513.263.6612

August 8, 2024

RE: Endorsement of American Heritage Girls

Dear Brothers in Holy Orders,

Greetings in Christ. I write to you today to convey my endorsement of the American Heritage Girls (AHG) and urge you to promote AHG in your parish(es) as the preferred scouting option for girls.

Scouting is fundamentally good – it builds virtue, discipline and community. It helps form responsible, well-rounded citizens. Scouting has a strong, multi-generational heritage in our country, one associated with positive values and memories. When done correctly, scouting can be an efficacious part of Catholic youth ministry, espousing a way of life congruent with the Gospel.

Unfortunately, in recent years, some scouting organizations have embraced and promoted an impoverished worldview regarding human life and sexuality. Through activities, badges and awards, these organizations have contributed to normalizing a gender ideology devoid of Christian virtue and contrary to the Catholic understanding of the human person made in the image and likeness of God.

One organization that has stayed true to its founding Christian principles is the American Heritage Girls, established right here in Cincinnati in 1996. The mission of AHG is, “Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country.” AHG is openly Christ-centered and dedicated to helping girls respond to God’s call to grow in purity, service, stewardship and integrity. Moreover, AHG expressly believes that every person is made in the image of God.

AHG has chartered troops in every U.S. state and in 15 countries. There are a handful of AHG troops currently chartered in parishes across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. I wholeheartedly endorse the American Heritage Girls and urge any parish looking for a scouting program that will form girls in faith and virtue to consider chartering a troop with AHG. For more information on how to do so, visit <https://americanheritagegirls.org/start-a-troop/charter-organizations/> or contact Ms. Julie Goodwin, AHG Catholic Relations Specialist, at goodwinj@ahgonline.org or 515.771.2025, ext. 158.

Please join me in praying for the renewal of our culture and country through the good news of Jesus Christ and the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

ljw

RADIATE CHRIST