

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Council

Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg

This memorandum of understanding constitutes an agreement between the **Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg** (hereafter, “the Diocese”) and Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Council (hereafter, “the Council”) for the purpose of confirming a framework for the cooperative relationship detailed below.

Girl Scouting is proud of its long-standing 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 Scouting 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 Diocese acknowledges decades of mutual support and close cooperation with Girl Scouting. Girl Scout troops have been a consistent presence in a great many of our 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 Catholic Committee on Scouting, the Diocese 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 its long and fruitful history, the Diocese, through its Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, and the Council agree to the following:

### **The Council Agrees To:**

- Respect the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, and the practices, policies, aims and objectives of the Diocese and its parishes and schools;
- Assist in meeting those objectives through its programming for girls ages 5-17 and through support of religious awards;
- Provide year – round support to the Girl Scout troops/groups and leaders/volunteers located in Catholic institutions (i.e. parishes, schools);

- Maintain regular, ongoing communication with the Diocese, normally through the Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire;
- Maintain a current listing of all Girl Scout organizations located at each parish/school, and provide same to the Diocese;
- Communicate regularly, work closely with, and support the parishes' or schools' designated liaison;
- Provide policies, procedures, and assistance to ensure the selection of quality Girl Scout leaders and other volunteers;
- Screen and approve Girl Scout leaders and volunteers in accord with Girl Scout policies and procedures;
- Ensure and herein certify to the Diocese that all Girl Scout leaders and volunteers, at both the Council level and the local levels, comply with PA Child Protective Services Law (CPSL), to include conducting the required background checks and training for adult leaders;
- Operate its Girl Scout troops/organizations, and its leaders and volunteers that are located in Catholic institutions in compliance with Catholic teaching and Diocesan policy;
- [Girl Scout Leaders and volunteers](#) are expected to conduct themselves in accord with Catholic Moral teaching and to avoid any embarrassment or scandal to the Diocese, Parish, or Catholic School;
- Promote and provide support for the achievement of religious awards;
- Annually provide general liability and automobile certificate of insurance of not less than \$1,000,000 covering all Girl Scouting activities within the Diocese, including volunteers. (Note: Auto coverage is provided with respect to claims arising from official Girl Scout activities, and is in effect when claims exceed the vehicle's insured limits.) This certificate of insurance shall also name the Diocese as an additional insured;
- Agrees to defend, protect, indemnify and hold harmless the Diocese and its parishes and schools against and from all claims arising from the negligence or fault of the Council or any of its agents, officers, leaders, volunteers, helpers or associates;
- Provide the training and support necessary for volunteers to effectively carry out the Girl Scout program;
- Provide and adhere to due process described in the Girl Scout grievance procedures, in cooperation with representatives of the parish or school and the Diocese;
- Participate in good faith in resolving any and all grievances whether initiated by the Girl Scouts through their grievance procedures, the Diocese, the parish or school;
- Recognize and honor the principle that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders.

**The Diocese Agrees To:**

- Through its Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, maintain regular, ongoing communication with the Council;
- Provide ongoing support for religious awards programs through its Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire;

- Provide guidance to the Council and individual Girl Scout troops/groups operating in Catholic settings (parishes, schools, etc.) in matters related to Catholic teaching and /or Diocesan policy;
- Participate in good faith in resolving grievances having to do with Church teaching and/or Diocesan policy;
- In conjunction with the Council and the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, 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 Diocese of Harrisburg and the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Council.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be in effect for a period of three (3) years, renewable, and may be terminated by either party at any time, with 30 days written notice.