



Please use the following statement to respond to questions you may receive as a result of Internet postings based largely on misinformation and rumor. Official Girl Scout positions are outlined in a nationally published document titled "What We Stand For."

Girl Scouts' Official Positions on Faith-Based and Social Issues:

- The Girl Scout Movement is a secular, values-based organization founded on democratic principles, including freedom of religion. We do not attempt to dictate the form or style of a member's worship. We believe faith is a private matter for girls and their families to address.
- The Girl Scout national organization does not have any national collaboration or relationship with Planned Parenthood, nor do we provide any financial support to this organization. We believe health and sexuality are private matters for girls and their families. *(Please note that as a local council, Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana also does not have a partnership with Planned Parenthood.)*
- The Girl Scout organization, including local councils, does NOT take a position on abortion or birth control. Our membership is a cross-section of America with regard to opinions on religious and social issues and practices. We believe these matters are best decided by girls and their families.

The organization has a rewarding relationship with many faith-based organizations, including the Catholic Church. Ongoing conversations at a national and local level ensure that there is support for Girl Scouting from leaders in the religious community who understand our mission, our resources and our program for girls.

As an organization we celebrate each girl's commitment to her own religion, and support her and her family as she embraces that by earning some of the religious recognitions available for girls. In fact, the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* contains a faith-based award called "My Promise, My Faith" that encourages girls to keep their connections between their faith community and the important values outlined in the lines of the Girl Scout Law.

We assure you that as an organization we are standing tall for our true convictions and continuing to move forward with our mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

Please share these responses as appropriate so that others understand our official positions.