



January 23, 2012

Dear Girl Scout Friend,

Recently, there has been a variety of online articles, email chains and blogs making the rounds that express opinions critical of the Girl Scouts. I'd like to address some common themes, and hopefully set the record straight.

### **Planned Parenthood**

Neither Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland (GSKH) nor Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) takes a position on abortion or birth control. Neither our GSKH nor GSUSA has a relationship with Planned Parenthood, and neither plans to establish a relationship.

### **Cookie Proceeds**

Each box of cookies costs \$3.50, and the proceeds are broken down this way (no part of cookie proceeds goes to outside organizations):

- **\$1.84** per box goes to support council programs and services (girl programs, volunteer services and training, financial assistance, facility operations and maintenance, resources)
- **36¢** goes to girls in the form of Cookie Credits, recognitions and special incentives
- **35¢** goes to troops for programs, activities and supplies
- **2¢** goes to postage, toll-free cookie hotline, other sales expenses
- **92¢** goes to the cookie baker to cover cookies purchased, troop materials, standard and special print forms, promotional materials

### **Religious Inclusiveness**

The Constitution of the GSUSA is very specific on this point:

- The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. The ways in which members identify and fulfill their spiritual beliefs are *personal* and *private*.
- The Girl Scout Movement is open to *all* girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law and meet membership requirements.

We have recently introduced a Journeys-based initiative called *My Promise, My Faith*, which encourages girls in a troop or other Girl Scout group to work on bringing faith beliefs forward and exercising them in their communities.

**Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character,  
who make the world a better place.**

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## Female Leadership

In some of what's been written, there's an undertone of disapproval that we're so focused on girls' taking leadership roles in the first place. Here's the way we look at it. Women today make up 51.3% of the U.S. population. And yet they only make up:

- 17% of the U.S. House of representatives
- 16% of the Senate
- 16% of U.S. governors
- 15.4% of Fortune 500 corporate officers
- 6.7% of Fortune 500 top earners
- 2% of Fortune 500 CEOs
- 17% of all directors of Fortune 100 corporations

That's an imbalance. As the nation's leading organization for girls—one whose core vision is being the premier leadership experience for girls in the United States—we're trying to do something about that imbalance.

We're proud of what we're doing, and we think our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, would be proud too. Juliette advocated for women to be leaders not just in the home but in business, science, and the arts. That was in 1912. She wanted to change her world—and she did.

I appreciate your interest in Girl Scouting, and am glad that you too are concerned about the well-being of our girls, and their involvement in an organization that teaches the values which have made our country great. If you have additional questions, or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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