



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Council and Archdiocese of Louisville

This memorandum of understanding constitutes an agreement between the Archdiocese of Louisville (hereinafter, "the Archdiocese"), and the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana (hereinafter, "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 the inception of Girl Scouts in 1917. As noted in its Constitution, the motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual in nature. 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 nonformal, 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 Louisville acknowledges decades of mutual support and close cooperation with Girl Scouting. Girl Scout troops have been a consistent presence in many of our parishes and schools, 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 program. Moreover, having formed an Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, the Archdiocese will benefit from the convening of extraordinary 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 faith.

Based on this long and fruitful history, the Archdiocese of Louisville, through its Office of Youth and Young Adults, and the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana 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 Archdiocese and its parishes and schools.

Provide opportunity for girls participating in Girl Scouting through parishes and schools to be involved in the Catholic religious awards program.

Provide year-round support to the Girl Scout troops/groups and volunteers located in Catholic parishes and schools.

Maintain regular and ongoing communication with the Archdiocese of Louisville, normally through the Office of Youth and Young Adults.

Communicate regularly and work closely with and support the parish's or school's designated liaison.

Select and/or screen Girl Scout leaders and other volunteers according to the principles and policies of the Council and the policies and procedures of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Operate its troops and volunteers that are located in Catholic institutions in compliance with Catholic teaching and Archdiocesan policy, with due attention to both the requirements of youth protection training of the Girls Scouts and the Safe Environment Training of the Archdiocese.

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).

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 Volunteer HR practice, in cooperation with representatives of the parish or school and the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Participate in good faith in resolving any and all volunteer HR issues, whether initiated by the Girl Scouts through their process, the Archdiocese, or the parish or school.

Recognize and honor the principle that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders.

**The Archdiocese agrees to:**

Through its Office of Youth and Young Adults, maintain regular and ongoing communication with the Council. Invite up to four Catholic Girl Scout adults from our Archdiocese to serve as representatives on the Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Provide ongoing support for religious awards programs related to Girl Scouting, through the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults.

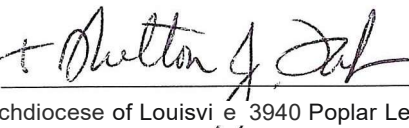
Provide guidance to the Council and individual Girl Scout troops operating in Catholic parishes and schools in matters related to Catholic teaching and/or Archdiocesan policy.

Participate in good faith in resolving grievances having to do with Church teaching and/or Archdiocesan policy.


In collaboration with the Council, 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.

Ensure its pastors or principals that host Girl Scout troops have an identified official liaison to oversee all Girl Scout operations within the parish or school in order to foster effective communication among local leadership, and to ensure adult Girl Scout leaders and volunteers are in compliance with archdiocesan policies and have received the necessary Girl Scout and church ministr; training in accord with their role(s).

This Memorandum of Understanding will guide the ongoing relationship of cooperation between the Archdiocese of Louisville and the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Council. Said shall be in effect for a period of five years, renewable, and may be terminated by either party at any time.

Signed:  Title: Archbishop  
Archdiocese of Louisville 3940 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40213

Date: 12/22/23

Signed:  Title: CEO  
Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, 2115 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206

Date: 12/13/23