

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Girl Scout Council of Northern Indiana Michiana,
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish/St. Joseph School
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Secretariat for Catholic Education**

This memorandum of understanding provides an agreement between the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana Michiana Council, and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish/St. Joseph School for the purpose of confirming a framework for a 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. It is understood that a motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual (see below) and that through a relationship with Girl Scouts, each girl is encouraged to become a stronger member of her own religious community.

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 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 other people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law. *The Girl Scout Promise*

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend acknowledges the long history 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 Catholic religious awards programs. Moreover, in its Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting, the diocese has benefited from the 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 faith.

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the partners agree to the following:

Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana Michiana Council agrees to:

- Respect the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and the policies, objectives, aims and practices of the diocese and individual parishes and schools. In particular, the Girl Scout troop will prohibit any relationship with Planned Parenthood or any organization that is contrary to Church teaching.
- Assist in meeting those objectives through its programming for girls ages 5-17 and through support of religious awards;
- Respect the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and the primary role of parents as teachers within their own family particularly in the area of sexual and reproductive health/rights.

- Respect the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church by not referring scouts to morally objectionable website links, materials, programming, activities, and events that are contrary to Church teaching.
- Provide year-round support to the Girl Scout troops and volunteers located in Catholic parishes and schools;
- Maintain regular, ongoing communication with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend through the Secretary for Catholic Education;
- Establish regular, clear, and ongoing communication with parish or school leadership;
- Provide policies, procedures, and assistance to ensure the selection of quality Girl Scout leaders and other volunteers;
- Screen and approve Girl Scout leaders and other volunteers in accord with Girl Scout policies and procedures and the policies and procedures of the diocesan parish or school where the Girl Scout troop is located;
- Operate its troops and volunteers that are located in Catholic institutions in compliance with Catholic teaching and diocesan policy, especially its Child Protection policies;
- Ensure that at least two adult volunteers are present at each meeting in which girls are present and that the health and safety of girls is of utmost importance.
- Promote and provide support for the achievement of religious recognition awards;
- Provide general liability insurance to cover the 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 volunteer training and supports necessary to 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 diocese and the host parish or school, as appropriate;
- Participate in good faith in resolving any and all grievances, whether initiated by the Girl Scouts, the diocese, or the host parish or school;
- Maintain the word, "God", in the Girl Scout Promise when recited at Girl Scout troops/group sponsored by Catholic parishes and schools;
- Recognize and honor the principle that parents are the primary educators of their children. Parents are welcome at all Girl Scout activities and will be encouraged to help their child grow spiritually. If the parents will have regular contact with the girls, then they will go through the background screening for Girl Scouts and the diocese.
- Will not associate with WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) especially in the areas of programming and finances. Girl Scouts in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend may not wear a WAGGGS pin or patch.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend agrees to:

- Provide ongoing support for religious recognitions awards programs through its Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting and Secretariat for Catholic;
- Provide guidance and support to the Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana Michiana Council and individual Girl Scout troops/groups operating in Catholic facilities (parishes, schools, etc.) in matters related to Catholic teaching and/or diocesan policy;
- Participate in grievance proceedings related to matters of Catholic teaching and/or diocesan policy.

- In conjunction with the Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana Michiana Council and the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Girl 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.

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish/St. Joseph School agrees to:

- Approve the adult leadership selections of the Girl Scout program operating on the premise of the parish or school, in accord with the policies and procedures of the diocese and the host parish or school, in cooperation with the screening and approval of the Girl Scouts;
- Include Girl Scouting as part of its overall program for youth and families.
- Appoint an official liaison who will oversee all Girl Scout operations within the parish or school and who will become a registered member of Girl Scouts so as to obtain relevant information and communications, and meet regularly with a representative of Girl Scouts.
- Provide adequate facilities for the Girl Scout troops to meet on a regular basis with time and place reserved.
- Ensure that its adult Girl Scout leaders and volunteers are in compliance with the diocesan Child Protection policies, and any other applicable policies, and have received the necessary Girl Scout and church ministry training and preparation in accord with their roles;
- Oversee the Girl Scout program to ensure its quality and its alignment with Catholic teachings and diocesan policies and procedures and the mission of the Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana Michiana Council.

Secretary for Catholic Education

Signed: *Carl Luedel* Date: April 14, 2016

Title: Secretary for Catholic Education