

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

WAGGGS is composed of 145 member organizations that promote mutual understanding and cross-cultural opportunities for girls around the world. GSUSA is one of the 145 member organizations. Each member organization creates its own programs and pursues advocacy efforts based on the needs and issues affecting girls in its country. GSUSA does not always take the same positions or endorse the same programs as WAGGGS. GSUSA's relationship with WAGGGS is akin to the United States' relationship with the United Nations. The United States may not agree with every position the United Nations takes, but it values having a seat at the table.

- **Does Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) have a financial relationship with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)?**

Girl Scout and Girl Guide organizations are members of WAGGGS. Each member organization, including GSUSA, pays dues. WAGGGS operates in much the same way as the United Nations—each member organization pays dues based on the size of its membership and the per capita income of the country in which the organization resides.

- **Are Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) girl membership dues used to pay the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) quota?**

Membership dues from girls and from adults are not used to pay the WAGGGS quota. All dues collected from GSUSA members are used to pay for services that directly affect the development and delivery of Girl Scouting to girls in the United States and girls who are involved in USA Girl Scouts Overseas, our program that brings Girl Scouting to American families who live and work abroad.

Planned Parenthood

- **Is Girl Scouts pro-abortion?**

No. Girl Scouts takes no position on abortion or birth control. We believe these subjects are best addressed by girls and their parents.

- **Does Girl Scouting have a relationship with Planned Parenthood?**

No. There is no relationship—past, present, or planned—between Planned Parenthood and Girl Scouts of the USA.

- **What is the Girl Scout position regarding human sexuality, birth control, and abortion?**

Girl Scouts does not take a position or develop materials on these issues. We feel our role is to help girls develop self-confidence and good decision-making skills that will help them make wise choices in all areas of their lives. Parents or guardians make all decisions regarding program participation that may be of a sensitive nature. Consistent with that belief, Girl Scouts of the USA directs councils, including volunteer leaders, to get written parental permission for any locally planned program that could be considered sensitive. Girl Scouts respects the moral teachings and theology of our religious partners. We support the right of pastors and other religious leaders to verify that troops in their institutions comply with religious teachings.

Transgender Youth

- **What is Girl Scouts' position on serving transgender youth?**

Girl Scouts is proud to be the premiere leadership organization for girls in the country. Placement of transgender youth is handled on a case-by-case basis, with the welfare and best interests of the child and the members of the troop/group in question a top priority. That said, if the child is recognized by the family and school/community as a girl and lives culturally as a girl, then Girl Scouts is an organization that can serve her in a setting that is both emotionally and physically safe.

Political Agenda

- **Does the Girl Scouts have a left-leaning agenda or a political agenda?**

The Girl Scout agenda is to provide girls with the courage, confidence, and character they need to make this world a better place. The strength of the Girl Scout Movement is that it is a grassroots volunteer organization run mostly by parents in each community. The local volunteers—many in churches, synagogues, and mosques across the country—control what programming the girls receive. Parents—many of whom serve as troop volunteers—are actively engaged in those activities and well aware of what their girls are doing. Girl Scouts has always been and will always be an inclusive organization. When our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, assembled the first 18 Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia, the group included not just girls from that Southern town's prominent families, but also girls recruited from the orphan asylum and the local synagogue. We're the preeminent leadership organization for girls. From our perspective, all are welcome.

888.350.5090 | gswo.org
customercare@gswo.org



In Partnership With:

