



Archbishop Robert J. Carlson’s letter regarding the Girl Scouts has gained a large amount of media attention and generated a lot of conversation. Below are some simple talking points that can help you understand what is at the heart of the issue.

Evaluating our programs

Archbishop Carlson is asking parishes to evaluate the **mission effectiveness** of troops that meet on parish property. In creating the Catholic Committee for Girls Formation, Archbishop is continuing to invest in young women as a vital part of our church. This committee will create new programs and promote current programs (Marian award, Rosary Series, etc...) to help minister to girls and build young women of virtue. This committee will offer programs for all girls, regardless of any organizational affiliation.

It is important to keep in mind our duty as the Church in regards to our youth formation. In the process of evaluating, it may be helpful to identify clear goals for what you hope to achieve in your youth program offerings. With these goals in mind, you can implement programs that help form our young women as leaders with the heart and mind of the Church. Archbishop’s letter represents a great opportunity to assess all youth outreach in our parishes.

Archbishop continues to acknowledge the many great leaders and troops that are active in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He feels that it is important that these issues are known broadly so that they can be addressed on the parish level.

Pastors may determine if they want to continue offering Girl Scouts or substitute a different program that better meets the needs of a Catholic parish. There is no mandate for any parish to “cut-ties” with Girl Scouts.

Ongoing concerns

Archbishop Carlson continues to be concerned with values present within Girl Scouts and their partners that are in conflict with our Catholic values. These concerns are related to:

1. Ties to abortion advocacy through WAGGGS

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri has said that local girls are not members of WAGGGS, the international parent organization of Girl Scouts. Current Girl Scout materials and WAGGGS’ own website consistently indicate otherwise. WAGGGS claims to represent more than “10 million girl

members”; when WAGGGS advocates for abortion rights, certainly they don’t speak on our behalf.

Girl Scouts and the World

Girl Scouts of the USA is a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), which was formed in 1928. Daisies can receive the World Trefoil Pin, which symbolizes that they are members of WAGGGS. The pin is often given to girls on World Thinking Day. Its placement—above the Girl Scout membership pin—helps Daisies understand that WAGGGS is larger than Girl Scouts of the USA.

Girl Scout Daisy Handbook p. 24

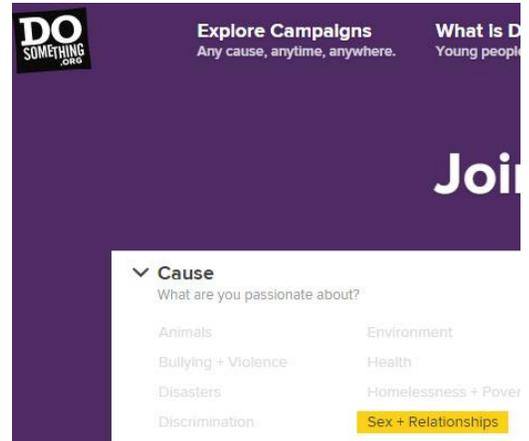
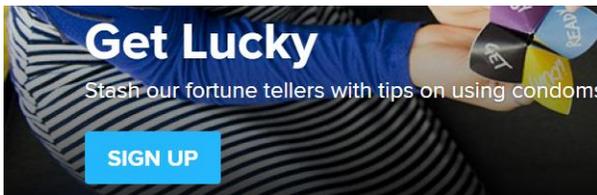


Girl Scout *Your Voice Your World* Manual, p. 40



2. Education related to sexuality, birth control and abortion

Girl Scouts states that it “does not take a position or develop materials on these issues”. Unfortunately, too often Girl Scouts has taken actions that contradict this statement. Manuals and online resources link to websites such as *dosomething.org*, which feature activism ideas related to all of these topics; previous partnerships with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, *stayteen.org* and more are also problematic.



Screenshots from www.dosomething.org Referenced p. 30, *Your Voice, Your World*

3. Inclusion and promotion of Transgender and Homosexual Issues

Girl Scouts continues to take unacceptable stances on issues involving the welcoming of transgender children into troops and promotion of Same-Sex Marriage. They continue to highlight in social media and online, values that are in direct conflict with Catholic teaching.

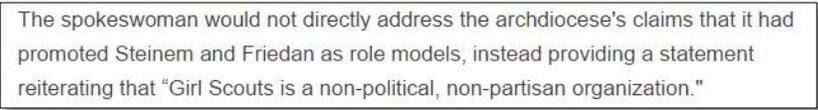


Screenshot from Instagram celebrating the Supreme Court decision on Same-Sex Marriage

4. Promotion of questionable role models & organizations in curriculum.

Girl Scouts continues to honor activists like *Gloria Steinem*, *Betty Friedan*, and more, whose careers are built upon the promotion of abortion. Girl Scouts does not deny that these women are honored in their manuals.

Girl Scouts has continued to partner with groups that make *abortion advocacy* a core part of their message, such as *Amnesty International*, *OxFam*, *Population Council* and more. As Girl Scouts continues to promote activism, they consistently find themselves in questionable partnerships.



Screenshot from Huffington Post 2/23/2016

Discussions between the Archdiocese of St. Louis and Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri have been ongoing for several years. The Archdiocese will continue to share concerns regarding the program with Girl Scouts while we seek resolution to these issues.

The points listed above represent a sample of the concerns of the Archdiocese of St. Louis regarding Girl Scouts. For further information, please visit archstl.org/scouting