



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**Girl Scouts--Arizona Cactus-Pine Council Troop Leaders and**  
**Catholic Institution (Parish, School etc.)**

This memorandum of understanding provides an agreement between the Troop Leader(s) of Girl Scouts- Arizona Cactus-Pine Council Troop # \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the Catholic institution associated with this troop, 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 the 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 Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting 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 and activities. Moreover, the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting 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, confident Catholic women who take great pride in their faith.

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

**Leader(s) of Troop \_\_\_\_\_ of the Girl Scouts--Arizona Cactus-Pine Council agrees to:**

- Respect the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and the policies, objectives, aims and practices of the diocese and individual parishes, schools and other Catholic institutions;

- Assist in meeting those objectives through GS programming for girls ages 5-17 and through support of Catholic religious recognitions programs and activities;
- Communicate regularly through and support the designated liaison of the Catholic institution;
- Screen and approve additional Girl Scout leaders for Troop \_\_\_\_\_ and other volunteers in accord with Girl Scout policies and procedures *and* the policies and procedures of the diocese and \_\_\_\_\_, the Catholic institution with which the Girl Scout troop listed above is associated; with final approval by said institution;
- Ensure that at least two adult volunteers are present at each meeting in which girls are present and acknowledge that the health and safety of girls is of utmost importance.
- Maintain compliance with Catholic teaching and diocesan policy, especially pertaining to diocesan Safe Environment policies, in all troop operations;
- Promote and provide support for the achievement of religious recognition awards;
- Provide proof of general liability insurance to cover the volunteers currently registered with Girl Scouts of the USA as needed; (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.)
- Participate in good faith in resolving any and all grievances, whether initiated by the Girl Scouts, the diocese, or the host parish, school or other Catholic institution;
- Establish regular, clear, and ongoing communication with parish, school or institution leadership;
- Recognize and honor the principle that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders.
- Additionally, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Parish/School/Catholic institution at \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to:**

- Approve the adult leadership selections of the Girl Scout program operating in association with this institution, in accord with the policies and procedures of the diocese and this institution and 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 (“school organizer”) who will oversee all Girl Scout operations within the parish/school/organization 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 and service team to meet on a regular basis with time and place reserved if at all possible;
- Ensure that its adult Girl Scout leaders and volunteers are in compliance with the diocesan Safe Environment 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 alignment with Catholic teachings and diocesan policies and procedures and the mission of the Girl Scouts of Arizona-Cactus Pine Council.

This memorandum of understanding will be in effect for one year, renewable annually, but may be terminated by any one of the above parties at any time.

**Parish Pastor or Designee**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus Pine Council Leader(s), Troop # \_\_\_\_\_**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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| <p><b>Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting</b></p> <p>Date copy received _____</p> <p>Chair signature _____</p> <p>Effective date _____</p> <p>Renewal date _____</p> |
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