



## **NFCYM and GSUSA: A Cooperative Partnership**

The Board of Directors of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) affirms its commitment to a cooperative partnership with Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA) and to intentional and proactive strategies that support Girl Scouting as an effective dimension of our pastoral ministry with the young Catholic Church. We want what is best for the estimated 500,000 young people and women involved in Catholic Girl Scouting.

Our Principles for Cooperative Partnerships are implemented through the following guidelines:

- NFCYM and GSUSA mutually determine the length and breadth of the cooperative relationship.
- NFCYM and GSUSA commit to an ongoing review of relationships at the local and national levels.
- Regular meetings between NFCYM and GSUSA national leadership will be held to continue the discussion about current issues and to review progress.
- NFCYM fosters lines of communication and accountability between GSUSA leadership and parish, school, and diocesan leadership at the local and national levels. NFCYM encourages diocesan pastoral leaders to establish regular communication with GSUSA council leadership and a feedback process for addressing concerns.
- Dioceses have the responsibility to both determine which youth-serving organizations contribute to their mission and to develop oversight structures; e.g. a Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, to foster cooperative relationships.
- Local issues should be handled at the local level (subsidiarity). If issues cannot be handled locally, NFCYM will confer with GSUSA national leadership.
- A resource review process which includes the NFCYM, the National Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts and Campfire, and others as appropriate will be implemented to review GSUSA print and web-based resources.
- The NFCYM will provide sample resources to strengthen communication and accountability that dioceses are encouraged to adapt to their local needs. Such resources will be developed in cooperation with other pastoral organizations and offices as appropriate.

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***Serving Those Who Serve The Young Catholic Church***

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**(Sample MOU for Cooperative Partnerships with GSUSA)**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Girl Scout Council of \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ Parish or School \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ Office of Youth Ministry**

This memorandum of understanding provides an agreement between the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_, Girl Scouts of \_\_\_\_\_ Council, and \_\_\_\_\_ Parish/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 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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;
- Assist in meeting those objectives through its programming for girls ages 5-17 and through support of religious awards;
- Provide year-round support to the Girl Scout troops/groups and volunteers located in Catholic parishes and schools;

- Maintain regular, ongoing communication with the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ through the Office of Youth Ministry;
- Communicate regularly and support the designated parish liaison;
- 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 diocese and the parish or school in which the Girl Scout troop is located;
- 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.
- Operate its troops and volunteers that are located in catholic institutions in compliance with Catholic teaching and diocesan policy, especially its Child Protection policies;
- Promote and provide support for the achievement of religious 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;
- Participate in good faith in resolving any and all grievances, whether initiated by the Girl Scouts, the diocese, or the host parish or school;
- Establish regular, clear, and ongoing communication with parish or school leadership;
- Recognize and honor the principle that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders.

**The Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to:**

- Provide ongoing support for religious awards programs through its Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting and the Office of Youth Ministry;
- Provide guidance and support to the Girl Scouts of \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**The Parish/School of \_\_\_\_\_ 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 and service team 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Council.

This memorandum of understanding will be in effect for three years, renewable, and may be terminated by any one of the above parties at any time.

**Parish Pastor or Designate**

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

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

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

**Girl Scout \_\_\_\_\_ Council**

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

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

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

**Office of Youth Ministry**

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

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

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