

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council Diocese of Lexington

This memorandum of understanding constitutes an agreement between the **Diocese of Lexington** (hereafter, "the Diocese"), and the **Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council** (hereafter, "the Council") for the purpose of confirming a framework for the 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. As noted in its constitutional documents, the motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. Through Girl Scouting, young women are encouraged to become stronger members of their respective faith communities:

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

The Diocese of Lexington acknowledges decades of mutual support and close cooperation with Girl Scouting. Girl Scout troops have been a consistent presence in a great many of our parishes and schools for generations, working in close cooperation with Catholic pastors, principals and other Church leaders to nurture the healthy development of young women, and building faith through the Catholic religious awards programs. Moreover, in its Catholic Committee on Scouting, the Diocese has benefited from decades of 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 Marian Medal and other religious awards.

Based on this long and fruitful history, the Diocese of Lexington through its Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and the Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council agree to the following:

The Council agrees to:

- Respect the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, and the practices, policies, aims and objectives of the Diocese and its parishes and schools;
- Assist in meeting those objectives through its programming for girls aged 5-17 and through support of religious awards;
- Provide year-round support to the Girl Scout troops/groups and volunteers located in Catholic institutions (e.g., parishes, schools);
- Maintain regular, ongoing communications with the Diocese of Lexington, normally through the Catholic Committee on Scouting.
- Communicate regularly and work closely with and support the parish's or school's designated 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 volunteers in accord with Girl Scout policies and

procedures and the policies and procedures of the Diocese of Lexington and the parish or school in which 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, with due attention to the Diocese of Lexington's Safe Environment Policy;
- Promote and provide support for the achievement of religious awards;
- Provide general liability insurance for 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 training and support necessary for volunteers to effectively 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 parish or school and the Diocese of Lexington;
- Participate in good faith in resolving any and all grievances, whether initiated by the Girl Scouts through their grievance procedures, the Diocese, or the parish or school;
- Establish regular, clear and ongoing communications with parish or school leadership;
- Recognize and honor the principle that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders.

The Diocese agrees to:

- Through its Catholic Committee on Scouting, maintain regular, ongoing communications with the Council.
- Provide ongoing support for religious awards programs through its Catholic Committee on Scouting and Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry;
- Provide guidance to the Council and individual Girl Scout troops/groups operating in Catholic settings (parishes, schools, etc.) in matters related to Catholic teaching and/or Diocesan policy;
- Participate in good faith in resolving grievances having to do with Church teaching and/or Diocesan policy;
- In conjunction with the Council and the Diocesan Catholic Committee on 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.

This Memorandum of Understanding will guide the ongoing relationship of cooperation between the Diocese of Lexington and the Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be in effect for a period of three years, renewable, and may be terminated by either party at any time.

Signed: Fr. Ronald W. Klamer Title: Bishop Date: 1/29/13
Diocese of Lexington, 1310 West Main St., Lexington KY 40508

Signed: John A. Howell Title: CEO Date: 1/29/13
Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council, 2277 Executive Dr, Lexington, KY 40505