

# Girl Scout Climate Program Partnership Guide

for Girl Scout Councils  
and AME Churches



This resource has been made possible  
by SOLV Energy.

# Table of Contents

## About the Partnership

The African Methodist Episcopal Church and Girl Scouts .....	3
Girl Scouts and Faith .....	4
Girl Scouts, the AME Church, and Climate Action .....	4

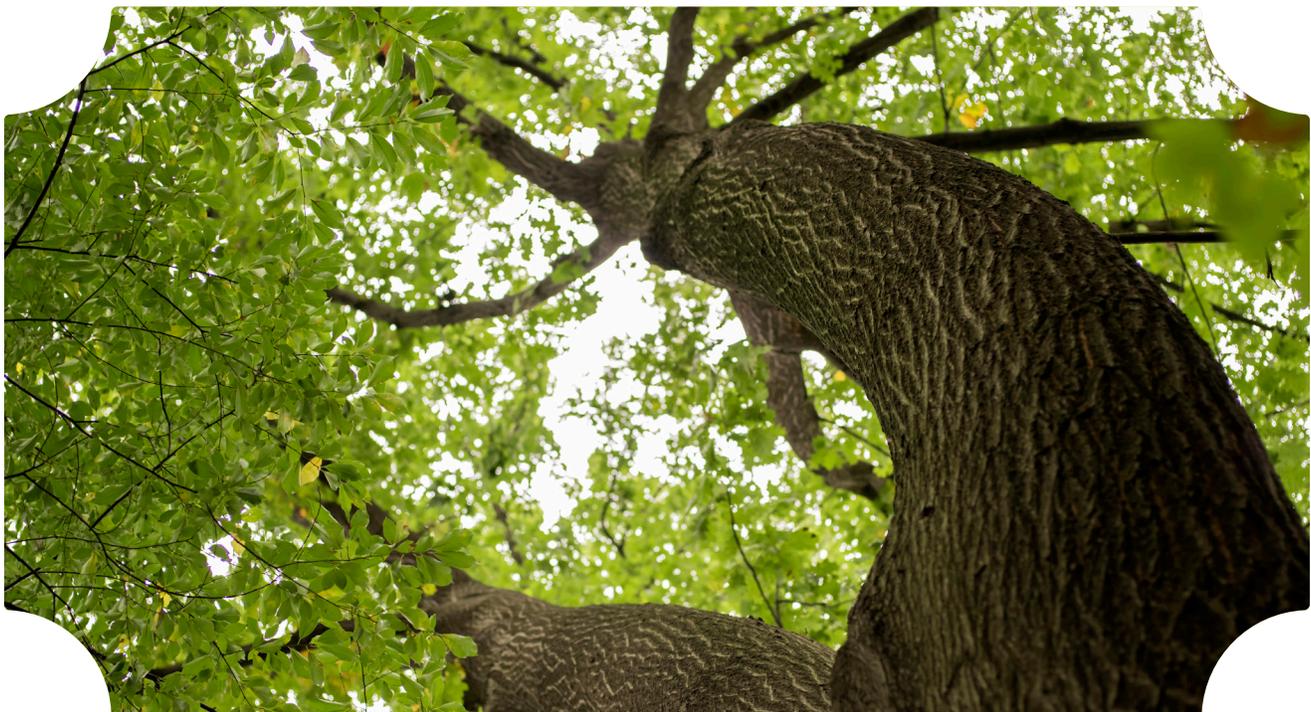
## Creating Collaborations

For Girl Scout Councils: Learning About and Identifying AME Churches .....	5
For AME Churches: Learning About and Identifying Girl Scout Councils .....	5
For Girl Scout Councils and AME Churches: Building Local Collaborations .....	6
For AME Churches: Sharing the Partnership and Event with Your Members .....	7

## Partnership Resources

The AME Church and Girl Scouts: Serving Girls Together (One-Pager) .....	8
Sample Climate Challenge Outreach Email (for Councils and AME to Share with Their Communities) .....	9
Climate Challenge Newsletter, Email, or Website Block (for AME Leaders to Share with Their Communities) .....	10

## [Social Posts and Images \(that Church Leaders Can Share\)](#)



# About the Partnership



## The African Methodist Episcopal Church and Girl Scouts

In 1938, the [African Methodist Episcopal](#) (AME) Church first endorsed Girl Scouting, which is included in The Doctrines and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Then, in 1993, the [Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts](#) (AAMES) was formed to encourage and support AME congregations and their youth ministries with the official organized movement for girls in the AME Church being the Girl Scouts.

### The AAMES:

- **Encourages** AME congregations to incorporate Girl Scouts into their Christian education programs for youth leadership and community outreach.
- **Fosters** religious growth through religious award programs, such as the God and Country award program and the AME Bishop's Award of Excellence.
- **Promotes** the desire to achieve higher education goals by offering scholarships to girls who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award.
- **Establishes** a clear link between the Christian principles taught in the Holy Bible and the morals and values promoted through Girl Scouts.
- **Provides** another means of recreational and social interaction and development for youth.

The initiatives AAMES has adopted for the 2018–22 Connectional Christian Education and Youth Congress include:

- How to Grow Scouting in Your Church
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM): Our Scouts, Our Church
- AME Scout Chaplains and Chaplain Aides/Adult and Youth Service Awards and Emblems
- Emergency Preparedness (in partnership with the AME Health Ministry)

## Girl Scouts and Faith

---

GSUSA encourages girls within the AME Church to grow in their beliefs by earning AME's religious recognitions, such as God and Family, God and Church, and God and Country. Through these awards, young people are provided with the opportunity to work with their pastor, understand the church's structures and objectives, and participate in service projects that give them a better understanding of the AME Church's mission.

Girl Scouts also offers the [My Promise, My Faith pin](#), which strengthens a girl's connection between the Girl Scout Law and her faith.

Although Girl Scouts is a secular organization, it has always encouraged girls to take spiritual journeys via their faith's religious recognitions, because Girl Scouts recognizes that religious instruction is at the center of many families and communities.

## Girl Scouts, the AME Church, and Climate Action

---

This initiative supports girls in learning about and taking action in support of AME's leadership for climate change and social justice. In addition, [AME's climate change resolution](#) and the goals of its Association of [African Methodist Episcopal Scouts](#) (AAMES) provide STEM learning opportunities.

Passed unanimously at the AME 50th General Conference in Philadelphia in July 2016, the [AME climate resolution](#) outlines the biblical basis for why the AME Church is addressing climate change

and how each of us can make a difference; it also supports AME's work and witness to love one another.

We hope this collaboration guide helps you connect with your local Girl Scout council or AME Church to host successful programs and events!

For additional information, feel free to contact [faith@girlscouts.org](mailto:faith@girlscouts.org).



# Creating Collaborations

## For Girl Scout Councils: Learning About and Identifying AME Churches

---

From the very beginning, Girl Scouts has been committed to partnerships with girls of all faiths. We want our councils to be able to engage with a variety of all faith-based groups. For councils to best connect and engage with faith communities, the [Faith-Based Partnerships gsConnect site](#) provides an overview for Girl Scout councils to see existing faith partnerships, the [Faith Partnerships Guide](#), Faith Engagement Resource Guidelines,

contacts, and miscellaneous information about interacting with faith-based organizations.

**To connect with a local AME church**, search your location on the [Find a Church](#) section of the official AME Church website. There is also space to search for pastors by name as well as alerts for upcoming events.

## For AME Churches: Learning About and Identifying Girl Scout Councils

---

At Girl Scouts, we believe in the power of every girl to change the world. We're the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success.

We introduce Girl Scouts of every age to STEM to help them see how they can actually improve the world—whether they're discovering how a car's engine runs, learning to manage finances, or caring for animals. We'd like girls to explore different aspects of STEM every year, so we've developed a unique "fun with purpose" K-12 curriculum to inspire them to embrace and celebrate scientific discovery in their lives.

By inspiring girls to discover more of what they really care about, they explore a wide variety of interests—everything from the arts to the outdoors to STEM—through skill-building badges

and leadership Journeys. Learn more about Girl Scouts [here](#).

**To connect with one of Girl Scouts' 111 councils**, use the [Girl Scout Council Finder](#).

If you're an AME church contacting your council for the first time (or the first time in a while) and you have not yet been provided a local contact, you can often find contact information on your local council's website. Although staff structures at each council may vary, we recommend that you connect with a member from one of the following council teams:

- STEM staff (e.g., STEM strategist, program director, or manager)
- Program staff (often referred to as the Girl Experience team)
- Volunteer support staff
- Staff who support community partnerships

## For Girl Scout Councils and AME Churches: Building Local Collaborations

---

When creating an AME and Girl Scout collaboration, we recommend first connecting in person, by phone, or virtually to get to know one another and discuss possibilities for collaboration.

**Consider using these steps to get started during your first meeting:**

- 1. Get to know one another.** Exchange names and contact information with everyone who should be included in and informed on this work as well as those who can be contacted as backups.
- 2. Connect on joint missions and objectives.** Discuss your hopes for the collaboration.
  - What are the basic goals of each party's climate and STEM program?
  - What local climate and STEM initiatives are you currently focused on?
  - How might each party benefit from this collaboration?
  - What opportunities might exist for cross-promotion?
  - When furthering the partnership with Girl Scouts, what resources will you need to help others feel comfortable with diving into the activities?
- 3. Choose your event.** For this program, you'll be collaborating on an event for either the Girl Scout Climate Challenge or the Girl Scout Tree Promise.

When choosing which event to partner on, you may want to consider:

- **Location:** Do you have outdoor space for planting trees? Do you have outdoor space to do a citizen science project?
- **Time of year:** Planting trees is best in the spring and fall. Planting can happen in the summer if there is a frequent watering and maintenance schedule.
- **Materials:** What materials do you have available? Do you have access to seedlings or other materials for tree planting? Do you have technology to send data for a citizen science project?

Check out each event guide for more information and needed materials.

## Choose Your Event

### Girl Scout Climate Challenge

The Girl Scout Climate Challenge engages Girl Scouts and non-Girl Scouts of all ages in activities that get them outdoors to learn about climate science, connect them with their communities to understand the impact of climate change, and have them spread awareness of the issue to create sustainable change. For more information on hosting a Climate Challenge event, check out the [Girl Scout Climate Challenge: Event Guide](#).

### Girl Scout Tree Promise

Girl Scouts has launched a bold tree-planting and conservation initiative: across the country, Girl Scouts are planting five million trees in five years, in addition to protecting and honoring new and existing trees. This helps wildlife and helps ease the effects of climate change. For information on hosting a tree-planting event, check out the [Girl Scout Tree Promise: Host a Tree-Planting Event Guide](#).

**4. Discuss long-term engagement.** While you're starting with a one-time event, it's important to think long term about the partnership from the beginning! Which types of engagement do both parties most need and are most interested in aside from the event?

#### **Girl Scout Council Talking Points**

- How could AME support our council's volunteer needs?
- Would the AME church be able to help host troop meetings or events? Can it provide volunteer leadership for particular badges, Journeys, or highest awards projects?
- If our council has a STEM or faith advisory board, how can AME become involved?

#### **AME Talking Points**

- Are there any Girl Scout troops that might benefit from also becoming a part of the AME Church?
- Are there members of your council who are part of the AME Church or are considering AME as a faith to practice?
- Would you be willing to encourage adult members or volunteers to sign up for the latest news at a local AME church?

**5. Work together.** Discuss how you will work together and set expectations on both sides.

- What are your first steps to collaborate?

- How will you keep in touch?
- Are there any work practices that each team should know about? Share any information about how you work to avoid misunderstandings in the future. For example, is the council's office closed on Fridays? Does the AME church have a cadence for when people are typically available to check in?

#### **6. Create a plan for continuing the collaboration.**

- Are there any annual or pre-planned events that might be good opportunities for partnering?
- How will you plan each event?
- When does each organization set its calendar?
- How much planning time is needed before an event?
- How often will you check in with one another? How else might you communicate?
- Do you have basic information (e.g., newsletters) that each organization should receive?
- What potential collaboration opportunities exist that you might explore later?
- How might you both help each other to expand your networks?

### **For AME Churches: Sharing the Partnership and Event with Your Members**

---

To help share the partnership and event, we've created several assets, including:

- Girl Scouts and AME Church
- Sample Outreach Email
- Newsletter, Email, or Website Block
- Social posts and image

Pastors and church leaders can distribute information about shared activities, partnerships, and events with Girl Scouts during church services. For example, information about a Girl

Scout event can be shared to the congregation during the start of Sunday-morning worship services. Young adults, youth, women, and other ministries can spread awareness of how Girl Scouts can further support the holistic development of K-12 girls. AME churches that have schools can also collaborate and communicate with local Girl Scout leaders to see where there is overlap to develop relationships and keep in continual contact.



# The AME Church and Girl Scouts: Serving Girls Together



## The AME Church and Girl Scouts

In 1938, the AME Church first endorsed Girl Scouting, which is included in the AME Church’s Book of Doctrine and Discipline. Then, in 1993, the Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts (AAMES) was formed to encourage and support AME congregations with their youth ministries, with the official organized movement for girls in the AME Church being the Girl Scouts (p. 228; Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts: By-Laws; Section b, (1).).

### The AAMES:

- **Encourages** AME congregations to incorporate Girl Scouts into their Christian education programs for youth leadership and community outreach
- **Fosters** religious growth through religious awards programs, such as the God and Country award program and the AME Bishop’s Award of Excellence
- **Promotes** the desire to achieve higher-education goals by offering scholarships to girls who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award
- **Establishes** a clear link between the Christian principles taught in the Holy Bible and the morals and values promoted through Girl Scouts
- **Provides** another means of recreational and social interaction and development for youth

The initiatives AAMES has adopted for the 2018–22 Christian Education Quadrennial include:

- How to Grow Scouting in Your Church
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM): Our Scouts, Our Church
- AME Scout Chaplains and Chaplain Aides/Adult and Youth Service Awards and Emblems
- Emergency Preparedness (in partnership with the AME Health Ministry)

## Girl Scouts and Faith

GSUSA encourages girls within the AME Church to grow in their beliefs by earning AME’s religious recognitions, such as God and Family, God and Church, and God and Country. Through these awards, young people are provided with the opportunity to work with their pastor, understand the church’s structures and objectives, and participate in service projects that give them a better understanding of the AME Church’s mission.

Girl Scouts also offers the My Promise, My Faith pin, which strengthens a girl’s connection between the Girl Scout Law and her faith.



Although Girl Scouts is a secular organization, it has always encouraged girls to take spiritual journeys via their faith’s religious recognitions. Because Girl Scouts recognizes that religious instruction is at the center of many families and communities.

**To learn more about starting or supporting a girl scout troop, contact [your local council information here].**

## Sample Climate Challenge Outreach Email (for Councils and AME Churches to Share with Their Communities)

---

Subject: Climate Challenge for Girls

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I'm writing to invite you to participate in the Girl Scout Climate Challenge! This initiative empowers all AME girls (not just Girl Scouts) to live out their faith in our changing world by supporting actions called for in the [AME Church climate resolution](#) and the goals of the [Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts](#) to provide STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning opportunities.

Through the Girl Scouts Climate Challenge, girls of all ages can connect their passion for making the world a better place with the AME Church values of social justice and climate action. They'll learn about climate science, connect with their communities, and take action for change. All girls who complete the challenge will have the opportunity to purchase a Girl Scout Climate Challenge patch.

I invite you to share this opportunity with your families! To support you, you'll find the following resources [here](#), including versions of the Climate Challenge for both Grades K-5 and 6-12:

1. Newsletter/email copy block to share these resources with your community (attached)
2. Sample social posts and graphics
3. Girl Scout Climate Challenge Activity Guides and Youth Resources (for K-5 and 6-12)
4. Girl Scout Climate Challenge Adult Resource
5. Girl Scout Climate Challenge Event Guide

To learn more, please contact [faith@girlscouts.org](mailto:faith@girlscouts.org).

Sincerely,

[Name

Contact information]

### About the AME Church and Girl Scouts

In 1938, the [AME Church](#) first endorsed Girl Scouting, which is included in the AME Church's Book of Doctrine and Discipline. Then, in 1993, the [Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts](#) (AAMES) was formed to encourage and support AME congregations with their youth ministries, with the official organized movement for girls in the AME Church being the Girl Scouts.

[Girl Scouts](#) builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Find your local Girl Scout council [here](#).

### About the AME Church and Climate Change

Jesus commands us to love one another (John 13:34), and God has given us responsibility to care for His good creation (Gen. 1:28, Gen. 2:15).

The burning of fossil fuels is polluting our air and waters, warming the planet, and putting our seasons out of balance, with low-income communities, communities of color, the children, elderly, and our faithful in the Caribbean and Africa, and in rural communities bearing the greatest burden.

The AME Church stands together with other faiths who are calling for urgent action on climate change on behalf of the world's poor and God's creation. We commit to take action and promote solutions that will help make our families and communities healthier and stronger so we and our children can live our best lives. See the [AME Church climate change resolution](#) and [Why the AME Church is leading on climate solutions](#) letter from the AME Social Action Commission.

## Climate Challenge Newsletter, Email, or Website Block (for AME Church Leaders to Share with Their Communities)

---



### **FOR GIRLS:**

#### **Calling All Girls—Take the Climate Challenge**

Calling all girls who are passionate about making the world a better place! Take the Girl Scout Climate Challenge to learn about climate science, connect with your community, and take action for change.

Any girl can participate—you don't have to be a Girl Scout. You can join the Girl Scout Climate Challenge with other girls making a difference in their communities and around the world! All girls who complete the challenge activities can purchase a patch.

### **FOR ADULTS:**

#### **Support Girls to Take the Climate Challenge**

To help support your girls, check out the [Activity Guides, Event Guide, and Adult Resource](#) with tips for talking with youth about climate change and social justice.

The Girl Scout Climate Challenge empowers girls to live out their faith in our changing world. [The AME Church has committed to addressing climate change](#) because Jesus commands us to love one another (John 13:34), and God has given us responsibility to care for His good creation (Gen. 1:28, Gen. 2:15). The burning of fossil fuels is polluting our air and waters, warming the planet, and putting our seasons out of balance, with low-income communities, communities of color, the children, elderly, and our faithful in the Caribbean and Africa, and in rural communities bearing the greatest burden.

To learn more, please contact [faith@girlscouts.org](mailto:faith@girlscouts.org).

#### **About the AME Church and Girl Scouts**

In 1938, the AME Church first endorsed Girl Scouting, which is included in The Doctrines and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Then, in 1993, the [Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts](#) (AAMES) was formed to encourage and support AME congregations with their youth ministries, with the official organized movement for girls in the AME Church being the Girl Scouts.

[Girl Scouts](#) builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Find your local Girl Scout council [here](#).