



AMERICAN
HERITAGE
GIRLS™

FAITH | SERVICE | FUN

American Heritage Girls

Troop IL1320

Charter Organization

Edgemont Bible Church

Troop Policy and Guidelines Handbook

2021-2022

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About AHG

AHG Mission Statement

Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country.

Troop Scripture:

“Whoever walks with the wise, and becomes wise...” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

Verse of the Year:

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV)

AHG Oath

“I promise to love God,
Cherish my family,
Honor my country,
And Serve in my community.”

AHG Creed

As an American Heritage Girl, I promise to be:

Compassionate	Understanding others in fellowship, empathy, kindness, and caring. Respect others’ opinions and emotions.
Helpful	Willingly serve others.
Honest	Always tell the truth and keep my promises.
Loyal	True to God, family, friends, community and country.
Perseverant	Continuing to strive toward a goal despite obstacles.
Pure	Keep my mind and body pure.
Resourceful	Wisely use my time, materials and talents.
Respectful	Honor my country, be obedient to those in authority, and courteous to all.
Responsible	Accountable for my own actions. Reliable in all situations.
Reverent	Faithful and honoring to God. Respectful to the beliefs of others.

Statement of Faith

American Heritage Girls is a Christ-centered leadership and character development ministry. Within the local AHG Troop, the primary statement/profession of Christian beliefs, faith, and/or doctrine is that belonging to the chartering Church/Organization. As with any of its ministries, the Church/Organization should take steps to ensure the Troop appropriately reflects these beliefs. Furthermore, all American Heritage Girls’ Charter Organizations, Adult Members and Adult Leaders, must concurrently adhere to the Christian principles stated in **AHG’s Statement of Faith**:

We believe that there is one Triune God – Father; Jesus Christ, His one and only Son; and the Holy Spirit – Creator of the universe and eternally existent. We believe the Holy Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We believe each person is created in His image for the purpose of communing with and worshipping God. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Who enables us to live Godly lives. We believe that each individual is called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We believe God calls us to lives of purity, service, stewardship and integrity.

Clarity is further provided to the following terms:

Purity – God calls us to lives of holiness, being pure of heart, mind, word and deed. We are to reserve sexual activity to the sanctity of marriage; a lifelong commitment before God between a man and a woman.

Service – God calls us to become responsible members of our community and the world through selfless acts that contribute to the welfare of others.

Stewardship – God calls to use our God-given time, talents and money wisely.

Integrity – God calls us to live moral lives that demonstrate an inward motivation to do what is right, regardless of the cost.

American Heritage Girls' Inclusion Policy:

All biological girls of any color, race, national origin and socioeconomic status who agree to live according to the standards of the AHG Oath and the AHG Creed are invited to be a member of American Heritage Girls.

Further Explanation if needed:

- Merriam Webster defines “girl” as a female child; a young women.
- AHG is open to girls (biological females) who identify as such , and who agree to live according to the standards of the AHG Oath and the AHG Creed.
- The Bible, upon which AHG’s Program is based, also speaks to gender:
 - “Male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27)
 - “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place...your eyes saw my unformed body” (Psalms 139:13-16)
 - “A woman must not wear men’s clothing, nor a man wear women’s clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this” (Deuteronomy 22:5)
 - “But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’” (Mark 10:6)

Girl Membership

Girl Membership is defined as a girl age five (5) through eighteen (18) who is registered and meets all qualifications prescribed in the policies of American Heritage Girls.

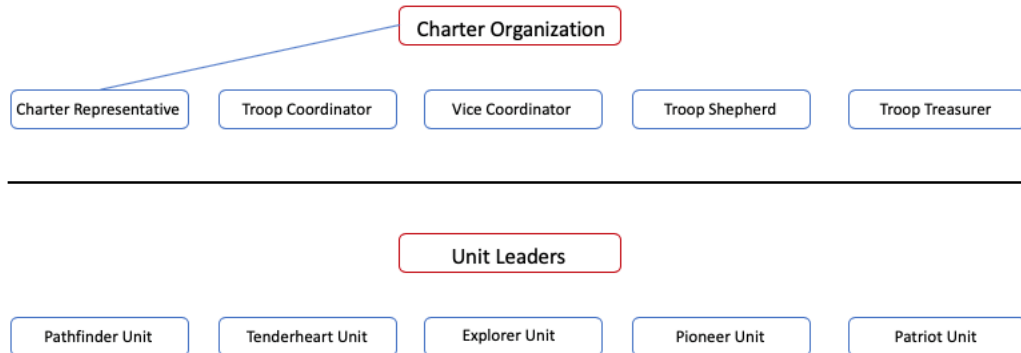
Living a Life of Virtue

AHG unashamedly believes, teaches, and practices Biblical principles throughout its Program and is committed to developing girls’ character and to teaching girls how to apply the truths of God’s Word to every aspect of life.

It is the expectation of AHG, Inc. that Girl Members not only subscribe to, but strive to live according to the values represented in the AHG Oath and Creed, to which they agreed when they became a member. All AHG girl members are expected to properly conduct themselves at all AHG functions. Proper behavior includes respect for themselves and others and adherence to AHG standards, as outlined in the AHG Creed. A girl who is out-of-line will first be counseled by her Unit Leader about the change that must take place. A second violation will result in an interview with the Troop Coordinator concerning how the incident does not live up to the AHG Creed. A third violation will result in parental notification and possible termination of membership, if deemed necessary. The Troop Board has the right to terminate membership if the violation is determined to be severe. The girl/adult membership fee is not refundable.

Troop Structure

Each Charter Organization owns and operates their AHG Troop. Charter Representatives are the liaison between the Troop and the Charter Organization.

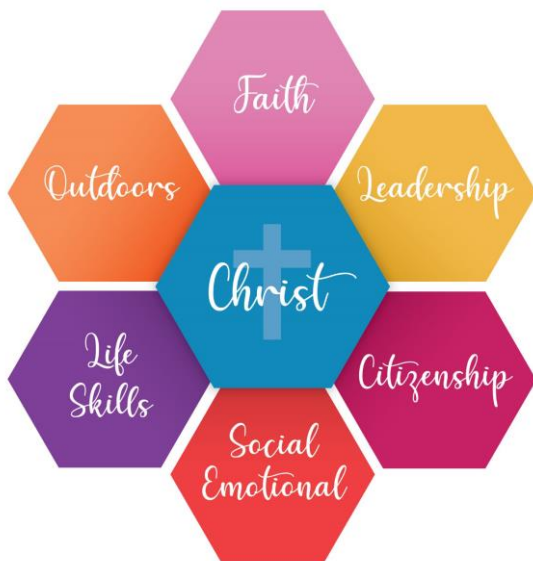


AHG Program

The AHG Program is built around six key components in order to achieve the mission of building women of integrity. These six key emphases create a balanced structure, providing girls with a holistic experience. A girl who completes the AHG Program will be a Christ-following servant leader who is honoring, relational, anchored in Christ, and competent: a woman of integrity.

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS PROGRAM
BUILDS

Women of Integrity



Faith (Christ Follower)

Girls are encouraged to grow in their faith and relationship with God through the AHG Faith Award Program, prayer, fellowship, and service, which are woven throughout each aspect of the AHG Program.

Outcome: A *Christ-follower* who submits to Christ and seeks God's will for her life.

Leadership (Servant Leader)

The AHG Program is rich in leadership opportunities girls of all ages. Girls discover their passions, acquire project management skills, hold leadership positions, and participate in leadership training.

Outcome: A *servant leader* who follows Jesus' model of leadership by putting others first.

Citizenship (Honor)

The AHG Program provides girls with a deeper understanding of their country and heritage. Girls cultivate honor for their country by participating in patriotic events, flag ceremonies, serving in their community, and

through badge work. Serving others and being active citizens with their Troop, fosters a lifelong love for their country.

Outcome: An *honoring* girl who cares for her community as an active citizen through service and patriotism.

Social & Emotional (Relational)

Girls will gain a better understanding of their identity in Christ through the AHG Program. AHG's multi-level Troop structure encourages girls to create friendships with girls of all ages. This unique Troop structure allows for mentorships and learning opportunities to occur naturally among girls. Girls learn to anchor their emotions in Christ in a caring and loving environment.

Outcome: A *relational* girl who invests in positive and loving relationships with others and clings to Christ when navigating emotions.

Life Skills (Competent)

In the AHG Program, girls can step out of their comfort zone and try new experiences in a safe environment. Earning badges provides girls the opportunity to learn a wide array of life skills, inspiring them to become lifelong learners and doers. AHG's six Badge Frontiers include: Heritage, Family Living, Arts, Outdoor skills, Personal Well-Being, and Science & Technology.

Outcome: A *competent* girl who enjoys mastering new skills and applies them to her life.

Outdoors

Nature reveals to us God's beauty, glory, power, wisdom, presence, creativity, and, most of all, his loving care. Through the AHG Program, girls are encouraged to participate in outdoor activities such as hiking or camping several times a year. High Adventure activities are great times for team building, leadership, physical activity, and strengthening relationships with friends. The outdoors will educate girls about their natural world and the beauty God has bestowed upon them.

Outcome: A girl who *values creation* through outdoor experiences that display the glory of God's creation.

The Troop budget includes 3-4 badges per girl to be completed during Troop meetings. Unit Leaders work with the girls plan their activities to revolve around their AHG Badge Requirements. If girls are absent from a Troop meeting where AHG Badge Requirements are being met, it is up to the Girl Member and/or parent to make sure she fulfills those requirements on her own time AND PROVIDE PICTURES OR FINISH PROJECT THE GIRL COMPLETES, if she wants to receive the badge along with the girls in her unit.

Girls are welcome to work on badges outside of Troop activities. Summer months are a great opportunity for girls to earn badges in the Outdoor Skills as well as the other Frontiers. **The individual will pay for all badges earned outside of the Troop meeting (\$4.00) AHG Badge Requirements earned outside the Troop meetings should be recorded and approved by the Unit Leader.** Unit Leaders have the right to question AHG Badge Requirements fulfilled outside of the Troop meeting. Girls might bring a display, pictures, or videos specific of the badge she earned or make a short presentation to the Troop or their Unit at a scheduled time. Please set up time with your Unit Leader. If there is a dispute regarding requirements, it will be brought to the attention of the Troop Board for rectification. **Individuals will be invoiced for their individual badges. Individual's may not purchase badges or insignia through the AHGstore. ***NOTE TO PARENTS: Please give your daughter's unit leaders ample time to review badge work before Awards Ceremony.*****

Girl and Adult Member Uniforms

The AHG Official Uniform is to be worn to all meetings and ceremonies. It can be worn to service projects, fundraising activities, and Troop activities that do not require more casual dress. While the girls are in uniform they are to be conscious of the fact that they are representing AHG and the Charter Organization and making lasting impressions on those around them. AHG uniforms, class B T-shirts, and spirit wear can be purchased individually through the AHGstore: americanheritagegirls.org/store/. AHG Class B T-shirts or Troop Spirit wear can be worn, when appropriate, to AHG activities that are more casual in nature or an outdoor type event.

Awards and Recognition

AHG provides numerous opportunities for girls to grow by earning awards and recognitions. Although not the focus of the Program, they serve as a tool to recognize girls as they grow into women of integrity. Some of the insignia AHG offers is:

- Joining Award
- Sports Pins
- Level Awards
- Stars & Stripes
- Service Stars
- Event Patches
- Faith Awards

AHG also recognizes the immense value of volunteers by offering tenure pins and other recognitions for their investment in girls and the AHG ministry.

Award Ceremonies

The Troop plans Award Ceremonies throughout the year so girls and adults may receive their Awards and Recognitions. Award Ceremonies are open to parents and families to attend. It is important to the girls that family attend the ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments. If a girl is unable to attend the ceremony, her recognition will be given to her at the next available Troop meeting.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents/guardians demonstrate commitment to the girls by encouraging them and supporting them throughout their years in AHG. Girls should arrive at meetings and events on time, in the appropriate uniform and with the necessary handbooks or supplies. Parents can obtain information at check-in for upcoming activities and should monitor e-mail communication regularly.

Providing a quality program for Girl Members requires a commitment from all families involved. Each family should actively participate in the Troop to ensure the success of the Troop as a whole. At times, some families may be asked to serve outside of regular meeting times, some may serve during Troop meetings, and others may experience a blend of both.

Registering Girls and Adults

New families can register girls at any time during the year. You will receive an invitation via email from the Troop to register in AHGconnect. If you intend to volunteer within the Troop, you will also receive an invitation to register.

Volunteer Position Recruitment and Selection

AHG is a family-supported program that encourages both girl and adult involvement. Our Troop will benefit most when utilizing the gifts and strengths from all members. We recognize everyone has different gifts and talents. An AHG Troop Board Member would like to connect with you to learn more about your gifts and strengths, and how you might use them within the Troop to grow God's Kingdom.

As an Adult Member of AHG you can:

- Serve in the Troop impacting the lives of girls for Christ
- Connect with other like-minded volunteers
- Receive AHG's Heritage Headlines magazine and QuickTakes bi-weekly email that includes program information and opportunities for girls
- Attend AHG Leadership Conferences, Conventions and AHG Equip Live! events
- Have access to:
 - Resources in AHGsource
 - Special Member-only discounts such as American Red Cross, Family Life, Camping Maxx, Great Wolf Lodge and Passport2Purity

All AHG volunteers will walk through a selection process by the Troop to discern if and where someone might best fit within the Troop. Volunteers will complete a background check and training pertinent to their role. The chart below provides information about some of the opportunities to serve within the Troop:

Role Type	Roles
Administrative Roles: Establishing integrity in the ministry by demonstrating an inward motivation to do what is right regardless of the cost.	Troop Coordinator Vice Coordinator Unit Leader and Assistant Unit Leader Registrar Advancement Chair Troop Secretary Refreshments Coordinator
Shepherding Roles: Serving the Members of the Troop by contributing to the welfare of others in order to show God's love and the value of each individual involved in the Troop.	Charter Representative Troop Shepherd Recruitment Coordinator Events Coordinator
Stewardship Roles: Instilling good stewardship practices of wisely using time, talent and money within the Troop in order to biblically model stewardship of the resources we are given.	Troop Treasurer Troop Fundraising Chair

Areas in Yellow are what is most needed for 2021-22 Year

Finances

Member Costs

The following is a breakdown of initial and annual costs. (Please note these costs are subject to change annually.)

Girl Member Registration- GOES TO NATIONAL	\$30.00 (annual); \$75 Sister cap (Families with 3+ Girls Registering at the Same Time) \$35 as of 1/1/22 (with sister cap of \$90)
Adult Member Registration- GOES TO NATIONAL	\$30.00 (annual) – Annual membership registration with AHG \$35 as of 1/1/22
Troop Dues	\$ 50(annual) – Helps cover Troop Budget
Program Support Fee	\$20.00 (annual) per Girl Member, to be covered with fundraising \$50 Sister cap (families with 3+ Girls Registering at Same Time)
Girl Handbook	Pathfinder: \$5 Tenderheart through Explorer: \$20 Pioneer through Patriot: \$20
Girl Uniform	Cost dependent on Girl Level and total items purchased
Adult Uniform	\$24+ (cost dependent on total items purchased)
Special Events (optional)	Information will be shared through the Troop for special event opportunities for girls and what charges may apply.

Troop Dues

The Troop Board will annually assess the amount of dues to be paid by each Girl Member in order to operate the troop. The troop budget includes, badges (3-4), unit supplies, girl and leader recognitions. General office supplies, etc. The Troop's source of income is from dues by its members. If you have questions regarding the Troop Budget, please contact the Troop Board.

Program Support Fee

AHG spends far more than \$30 per member to provide the AHG Program. The annual registration fee covers the processing of member registrations, background checks for Volunteers, and group liability coverage provided for both AHG Girl and Adult Members. The remaining cost to provide the AHG Program comes from the assessment of the Program Support Fee which is \$20 per registered girls paid to AHG annually by the Troop. (The fee is assessed annually during the Troop's 2nd year and after.) The Program Support Fee covers the development of new Badges and Program relationships; the maintenance of AHG website and AHGconnect (online registration system); as well as the member services to each Troop through the AHG office.

Health and Safety

As volunteers of a youth-serving organization, it is our responsibility to be properly trained and equipped to provide a safe environment for the girls we serve. AHG Adult Members are the gatekeeper and play the most important safety role by holding the sacred keys to the hearts and minds of the children of God. Therefore, AHG volunteers are registered Adult Members, which includes a criminal background check (CBC) and are required to complete AHG's KEYS to Child Safety Training.

AHG volunteers wear a Member ID badge and lanyard so they are easily identifiable as Adult Members. In addition, two-deep leadership and appropriate girl/adult ratios are always maintained when girls and adults are present together at a Troop/Unit activity, meeting or event.

For more information about AHG's Health & Safety Policy Manual surrounding the following topics, please go to <http://bit.ly/AHGHealthANDSafety>

Girl and Adult Health for meetings and events (SICKNESS POLICY)

- **All Girls and leaders should not come to an event if they have a fever or any signs of illness.**
- **All Girls and leaders will wash their hands (sanitize) when coming in.**
- **We will abide by any other health policies in place from the charter organization (Edgemont Bible Church)**

Troop Meetings

The Troop meets at Edgemont Bible Church each Monday from 6:30 pm till 8:00 pm. Please ensure your daughter eats dinner before coming to the meeting.

Troop meetings typically follow the agenda below:

6:30 Flag ceremony, announcements, prayer(with Trail Life) then AHG is dismissed.

6:45 Devotions

6:50 Planning, badge, service, or patch work in individual Units

8:00 Cleanup and closing prayer

Permission Slips

When girls will be participating in a field trip or activity that requires transportation outside of the Troop meeting, they must have a permission slip. If a girl forgets the permission slip, she will not be able to attend. Troop Volunteers are not authorized to take girls without a permission slip. Permission slips are given out or emailed at least one meeting prior to the activity.

Troop Trips

A Troop Trip Notification is to be completed and submitted in AHGconnect for all overnight Troop/Unit trips. Trips that include a High Adventure activity, and/or any day trips farther than 400 miles from the Charter Organization. All trips require approval by the Charter Representative prior to the activity. Appropriate numbers of certified First aid/CPR adults must be present at all activities of the Troop.

Girl or Adult Members participating in a High Adventure activity must complete and submit the High Adventure Health and Medical Form which includes a doctor's signature. It is the responsibility of the family to make sure that this information is provided. See your Unit Leader for the necessary Forms. There is also one provided in your initial registration packet. High adventure Health and Medical Forms are good for one year.

Troop Event, Meeting or Activity Cancellation:

A Troop meeting or activity may be cancelled if:

- There is inclement weather
- 50% of the members are absent due to illness
- There are not enough volunteers to provide 2-deep leadership or girl/adult ratios

The final determination will be made by the Troop Coordinator and Unit Leaders.

IF a Troop meeting, event or activity is cancelled, Unit Leaders will notify all Troop members by telephone, text, or email of the cancellation.

Girl Visitors

From time to time, girls may like to invite a friend to visit a Troop meeting. The following procedure is to be followed when inviting a guest(s):

1. The Troop Coordinator and Unit Leader should be notified at least one week in advance of a girls visitor.
2. Parents of Pathfinder and Tenderheart aged girls should accompany the girl and remain with the girl during the Troop meeting or activity.
3. If a parent is unable to attend, a permission slip should be submitted with vital parent information provided. The Troop Coordinator should be notified if a parent is not attending, explaining the lack of parental attendance.
4. A new girl and their parent may visit **ONE** time before registering as a Troop Girl Member.

AHG Troop IL-1320

2021-22Calendar

August

2-7- Camp Big Muddy

16- Parent Meeting/Girl Registration

23- 1st Meeting (Class A) Joining award, Flag etiquette, get to know you activities

30- Meeting

September

5- AHG/Trail Life Sunday (Serving Communion/Greeting at Edgemont Bible Church. Please wear you Class A uniform and look for ways to volunteer/provide information about AHG/Trail Life)

6- No Meeting (Labor Day)

10-11 Camping trip for Explorer. Pi/Pa [at the Shire (The Pitt's property), Will be 1 night and remote...]

11- E- recycle fundraiser (9AM to noon) – We need a couple leaders and girls not on the camping trip to help

13- Meeting (Class A Uniform) Space Badge Night

20- Meeting (Class A Uniform) Space Badge Night/Birthdays

27- Meeting (Class B uniform) Social Night- Bring A Friend (Women of Faith Badge- Pi/Pa OT due)

October

1-3- Pipalooza

4- Meeting (Class A Uniform) Space Badge Night

11- NO Meeting (Columbus Day)

15-16- Tenderheart Camp in

18- Meeting (Class A Uniform) Space Badge Night

25- Meeting (Class B Uniform) Social/Birthdays (Women of Faith Badge- Pi/Pa NT due)

November

- 1-Meeting Night (Class A Uniform) Space Badge Night
- 8- Meeting Night (Class A Uniform) Women of Faith #23 (ALL)
- 13-14- HIKE-IN Camp out (Pi/Pa only @ Panther's Den)
- 15- Meeting Night (Class A Uniform) Space Badge Night/Birthdays
- 22- Meeting Night (Class B Uniform) Dinner fellowship (Women of Faith- Pi/Pa genealogy due)
- 29-No Meeting (Thanksgiving)

December

- 4- (Saturday) Parent Night out Fundraiser 4pm-9pm [For children infant to 10years]
- 6- Meeting (Class A Uniform) Badge Night- Joining Award Ceremony - (T/E #15 Women of Faith)
- 13- Meeting (Class B/ Warm clothes) Christmas Caroling/Party
- 20- NO meeting Christmas
- 27- NO meeting Christmas

January 2022

- 3- Meeting (Class A Uniform) T/E Women Of Faith Badge Night
- 10- Meeting (Class A Uniform) T/E women of Faith Badge Night
- 15-17 Girl Leadership Retreat
- 17- No Meeting (MLK)
- 24- Meeting (Class A Uniform) Creed Study
- 31- Meeting (Class B Uniform) Social/ Birthdays (Women of Faith – Pi/Pa minor due)

February

- 7- Meeting (Class A Uniform) T/E Women of Faith Badge Night
- 14- Meeting (Class B Uniform) Social/ Birthday
- 21- NO Meeting (President Day)
- 28- Meeting (Class B Uniform) Service Project

Will be scheduling a CPR/First aid class TBA

March

7- Meeting (Class A Uniform) T/E Women of Faith, Pi/Pa Fashion Badge Night

14-Meeting (Class A Uniform) Fashion Badge Night

21- Meeting (Class A Uniform) Creed Study

28- Meeting (Class B Uniform) Social/ Birthday (Women of Faith- Pi/Pa 2 applications due)

Saturday-----Sewing badge option--- Dates TBA

April

4- Meeting (Class A Uniform) Fashion Badge Night

11-Meeting (Class A Uniform) Fashion Badge Night

18- NO meeting (Easter)

25- Meeting (Class B Uniform) Social/ Birthday Fashion Show! **BOARD OF REVIEWS**

May

2- Meeting- Class??? Social Bring A Friend

9- End of Year

Still need to schedule a spring camp out with all girls

*** Fundraisers Dates

December – Parents Night out December 4th

Trivia/auction- Spring (With Trail Life)

Coffee sale- Fall

Recycle collection- September 11