

Official Statements from Girl Scouts of the USA with Commentary by Family Watch International

A number of Girl Scout families concerned about many of the issues addressed on our www.100QuestionsfortheGirlScouts.org website have contacted GSUSA asking them to explain their positions. Below is GSUSA's most recent attempt to rebut accusations about its involvement in and support of controversial issues. Family Watch International's commentary showing the misleading nature of many of their answers is highlighted in yellow below each answer.

Question: Did GSUSA distribute a Planned Parenthood brochure at a UN event?

GSUSA Official Answer: No, we did not. In 2010, GSUSA took part in the 54th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. Our participation in that conference was the subject of numerous internet stories and blogs that were factually inaccurate and troubling. Girl Scouts had no knowledge of the brochure in question and played no role in distributing it.

Comment: The fact is a stack of International Planned Parenthood's graphic "[Healthy, Happy and Hot](#)" booklets were on a table in the back of the Girl Scouts' UN meeting room as reported by Family Watch International president [Sharon Slater](#).

Before finding this brochure Family Watch had no knowledge of the Girl Scouts' numerous connections to Planned Parenthood and other controversial organizations and issues. The discovery of this brochure in the Girl Scouts' meeting room was the impetus for Family Watch and a number of Girl Scouts and Girl Scout leaders to conduct the extensive research presented on www.100QuestionsfortheGirlScouts.org, which documents GSUSA's numerous connections to Planned Parenthood and other controversial organizations, individuals and agendas.

Question: What is GSUSA's relationship with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts?

GSUSA Official Answer: The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is comprised of 145 member organizations which promote mutual understanding and cross-cultural opportunities for girls around the world. Girl Scouts of the USA is one of the 145 Member Organizations.

Each Member Organization creates its own programs and pursues advocacy efforts based on the needs and issues affecting girls in their individual countries. GSUSA does not always take the same positions or endorse the same programs as WAGGGS. GSUSA's relationship with WAGGGS is akin to the US relationship with the UN. The United States may not agree with every position the UN takes, but values having a seat at the table.

Comment: The analogy comparing GSUSA's membership in the pro-abortion group, WAGGGS, to a country's membership in the UN does not work and therefore makes this answer misleading on several levels.

First, while WAGGGS may have 145 member organizations, GSUSA members comprise almost one-third of pro-abortion WAGGGS total membership.

Second, most GSUSA members have no idea that because of their membership in GSUSA each Girl Scout is counted by WAGGGS as one of the 10 million girls supporting pro-abortion WAGGGS activities and statements. Citizens of UN member states are fully aware that their country is representing them at the UN.

After UN declarations, treaties, policies and programs are carefully negotiated by representatives of UN member states, these documents are publicly posted where citizens can see exactly what their government has supported. When GSUSA reports on what WAGGGS is promoting at the UN, they usually use vague descriptions like the girls are "helping to make the world a better place," or they are making sure "girls are at the center of government priorities," or girls are "making their voices heard." And while WAGGGS does promote good things that most people would consider noncontroversial, GSUSA highlights those and does not disclose to their members the controversial things that WAGGGS also promotes on behalf of all their members.

Fourth, UN member states can disassociate themselves from statements made by the UN with which they disagree. Since members of GSUSA are not even aware that statements are being made by WAGGGS on their behalf, they do not have the opportunity to encourage GSUSA to publicly disassociate themselves from such statements. We know of no instance where GSUSA has publicly disassociated themselves from WAGGGS' controversial positions or statements. When Girl Scout families have complained about WAGGGS' positions they give vague responses like the one above to the effect that GSUSA does not agree with everything WAGGGS does.

Fifth, GSUSA does not only have "a seat at the table" with WAGGGS, they provide a disproportionate amount of WAGGGS' funding, and therefore influence, compared to all of WAGGGS affiliates.

If GSUSA really does not agree with some of the major issues that WAGGGS promotes (like abortion and explicit sexuality education) why do they continue to provide substantial support and funding for WAGGGS?

(Documentation supporting this commentary, as well as the other commentary in the questions below relating to WAGGGS, can be found in the Girl Scouts and Pro-Abortion WAGGGS section of www.100QuestionsfortheGirlScouts.org)

Q: Does GSUSA have a financial relationship with WAGGGS?

GSUSA Official Answer: Every Girl Scout and Girl Guide organization is a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts – and each Member Organization, including Girl Scouts of the USA, pays dues. WAGGGS operates in much the same way as the United Nations: each member organization pays dues based on the size of its membership and the per capita income of the country in which the organization resides.

Comment: *When asked about the financial relationship with WAGGGS, why doesn't GSUSA clearly disclose that the dues they pay to WAGGGS amounts to millions of dollars and is more than all other WAGGGS members combined (more than half of all the membership dues WAGGGS receives) and that GSUSA has a number of other financial connections to WAGGGS?*

Question: Are girls individual members of WAGGGS?

GSUSA Official Answer: No, individual girls are not members of WAGGGS. Girl Scouts of the USA is a member organization of WAGGGS.

Comment: *This is probably the most misleading GSUSA answer of all. Until recently GSUSA openly acknowledged in several places on their website and other publications that all GSUSA members are also automatically members of WAGGGS.*

When a group of concerned Girl Scout mothers began questioning GSUSA headquarters about this, at first GSUSA gave contradictory and confusing answers and then began to say that GSUSA members are not members of WAGGGS.

It would seem that GSUSA only changed the wording on their materials because a number of Girl Scouting families were leaving the Girl Scouts upon learning that by being a Girl Scout they were part of the controversial, pro-abortion WAGGGS.

It is really quite simple. If Girl Scouts are members of GSUSA and GSUSA is a member of WAGGGS then (as Girl Scout materials have always said until recently) Girl Scouts are also members of WAGGGS.

Question: Do girls have to wear a WAGGGS pin?

GSUSA Official Answer: Girls wear the WAGGGS pin to represent their connection to the worldwide sisterhood of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding. For a girl to be in uniform, the only requirement is that she wears her Girl Scout pin.

Comment: *Just recently GSUSA changed the wording on their website, which used to say that all Girl Scouts wear the WAGGGS pin and by doing so it shows they are part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). While the wording in material has recently been changed possibly to avoid offending parents, the relationship with pro-abortion WAGGGS remains the same.*

Question: What is GSUSA's position regarding human sexuality, birth control, abortion?

GSUSA Official Answer: Girl Scouts of the USA does not take a position or develop materials on these issues. We feel our role is to help girls develop self-confidence and good decision-making skills that will help them make wise choices in all areas of their lives.

Parents or guardians make all decisions regarding program participation that may be of a sensitive nature. Consistent with that belief, GSUSA directs councils, including volunteer leaders, to get written parental permission for any locally planned program that could be considered sensitive.

Comment: See *Girl Scouts and Abortion, Girl Scouts and Pro-Abortion WAGGGS, and Girl Scouts and Sexuality* on www.100QuestionsfortheGirlScouts.org for a wealth of documentation showing how misleading this statement is.

Question: Does GSUSA have a relationship with Planned Parenthood?

GSUSA Official Answer: No, Girl Scouts of the USA does not have a relationship or partnership with Planned Parenthood.

Comment: See *Girl Scouts and Planned Parenthood and Girl Scouts and International Planned Parenthood* on www.100QuestionsfortheGirlScouts.org to see how misleading this statement is.

Question: Does Girl Scouting support families of faith?

GSUSA Official Answer: Yes. Girl Scouting supports girls from all backgrounds and beliefs. While we are a secular organization that refrains from teaching religious or spiritual beliefs or practices, we believe that the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one, and we greatly value our longstanding partnerships with religious organizations across many faiths that share the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

We encourage girls to develop connections to their own spiritual and religious beliefs by earning recognitions provided by their faith communities and by earning the new My Promise, My Faith pin, which helps a girl deepen the connection between the Girl Scout Law and her faith. We support the right of faith leaders to verify that program delivered to girls in their places of worship is consistent with their faith's teachings.

Comment: While it is true that GSUSA does support girls in earning recognition provided by their faith communities, it is in GSUSA's best interest to do so, since GSUSA receives much of their financial support from faith communities. Unfortunately, most members of these same faith communities that pay dues to, raise funds for, and sell cookies for the Girl Scouts are unaware of how Girl Scout funds are being used to undermine many of the values their faiths espouse and how Girl Scout materials are increasingly referring girls to organizations or encouraging them to admire individuals that are working to undermine many of their values.

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