

From Brownie to Leader to Protester: One Woman's Journey with the Girl Scouts

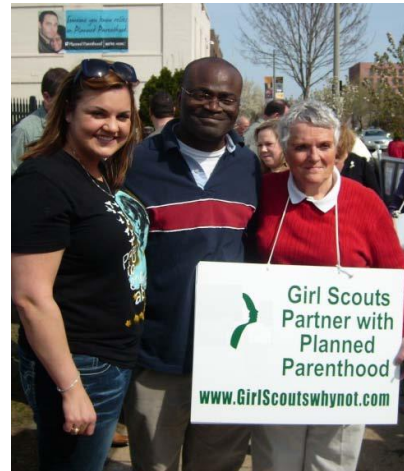
From a Brownie. . .



to an active adult Girl Scout. . .



to a concerned protester.



My name is Jane Petry. I am a Lifetime Girl Scout Member and have been heavily involved with Girl Scouts for over 60 years. I am a member of the Catholic Committee of Girl Scouts/Archdiocese of Greater St. Louis and recipient of the First Class Award, the Curved Bar Award (equivalent to today's GSUSA Gold Award) as well as the Marian Award Medal and St. Anne's Award from the Archdiocese of Greater St. Louis Catholic Committee.

My mother, Evelyn Smith, laid the groundwork for four generations of women to call themselves Girl Scouts. She started her first Brownie troop in Kirkwood, Missouri over 50 years ago. I was a member of that troop and proudly said my pledge. My family and I have contributed countless hours of service to the Girl Scout program, and upon my mother's death I enrolled all three of our daughters and myself as Lifetime Members in the Girl Scouts.

I knew that my mother would have been proud of my decision.

So why am I now ashamed to be a member of the Girl Scouts of the USA?

It all started when I read an account about a vulgar International Planned Parenthood booklet that was available at a meeting sponsored by GSUSA at the UN. GSUSA flatly denied that the booklet was distributed, but the article caused me to start looking into what the Girl Scouts were doing at the United Nations in the first place.

When I contacted GSUSA headquarters and inquired as to what the girls were promoting at the UN, I was given vague answers like, "The girls were helping to make the world a better place," and they would give no specifics. Then when I learned that some GSUSA Girls Scouts were actually

participating on the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) UN delegation that issued a statement demanding access to abortion, and when I saw on the WAGGGS website the other controversial issues WAGGGS was promoting, I was completely ashamed.

Part of my dues over the years has supported WAGGGS and their controversial efforts at the UN and elsewhere.

When I began looking into the Girl Scouts association with Planned Parenthood within the U.S., I was shocked at what I found. After seeing what some Girl Scout troops had allowed Planned Parenthood to teach to girls, this made me truly ashamed of my association with the Girl Scouts. It also made a lot more sense that International Planned Parenthood's vulgar "Healthy, Happy, and Hot" brochure was found at the Girl Scout UN meeting.

It was very troubling that when I made inquiries to GSUSA regarding their association with Planned Parenthood they had very carefully worded answers that I believe were intended to be misleading. If you read their statements very carefully you can understand that GSUSA's policy is to allow Girl Scout Councils and troops to partner with Planned Parenthood if they want to (and many have), and GSUSA considers that not partnering with Planned Parenthood because their corporate office is not officially involved in it. So they can honestly say that GSUSA, meaning the national corporate entity/office full of adults, does not partner with Planned Parenthood, yet they know full well that Girl Scout troops in the past have partnered with Planned Parenthood to deliver inappropriate and graphic sexuality materials to girls.

While I recognize all of the great things that GSUSA and WAGGGS do accomplish for girls, I cannot ignore the things that they are promoting that run completely counter to our family's values. However, I have taken a different route than others who decided to leave the Girl Scouts when finding out what they have become.

I owe it to my mother who left us such a wonderful scouting legacy to do what I can to expose what is happening and to try to stop an evil agenda that is spreading quickly. I am no coward and will continue to raise my voice for truth until the day comes that I no longer feel ashamed and can once again feel that sense of pride and patriotism and love for God when I hear the words "Girl Scouts."

Sincerely,



Jane E. Petry