



January 25, 2012

Dear Volunteers, Parents, and Community Partners:

We live in a time when infinite amounts of information are available via the internet. It is an exceptional way to communicate on a large scale, and we use it as a means to connect with our members. Unfortunately, the internet can also be misleading. This is a wonderful opportunity, however, to clarify some areas and reiterate what we stand for!

The goal of Girl Scouts is clearly stated in our mission—to help girls build courage, confidence and character. To accomplish this goal, we work every day to provide a quality leadership experience for girls and volunteers, utilizing valuable resources and an excellent staff, so that we can all contribute to the advancement of young women. This is who we are!

Recently, we have been made aware that there are websites that claim that Girl Scouts of the USA allocates funds to and is connected with the Planned Parenthood organization. This simply isn't true. Neither Girl Scouts of the USA nor Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi has relationships or plans to develop relationships with Planned Parenthood in the future. We believe that issues related to human sexuality and reproductive health are best left to parents and guardians to discuss with their daughters.

The Girl Scouts organization was founded on the principles of respecting and accepting all girls. Young girls deserve the opportunity that Girl Scouts provides to help them reach their full potential. We believe that the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one, though no specific religion or philosophy is endorsed.

We remain dedicated to our values of creating an accepting and nurturing environment where girls build the leadership skills necessary for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adults, girls develop the moral values that will serve them throughout their lives: strong ethics, a social conscience and conviction about their self-worth. Girl Scouts is a strong and proud organization with a rich history of 100 years experience of building girls of courage, confidence and character.

If you would like to discuss anything about Girl Scouts and our future direction, I welcome your call. It is you—the parents, volunteers and community leaders—who have the greatest impact on a young woman's Girl Scout experience. Working together as a community, we can provide the guidance and direction to help girls today become leaders tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Traweek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Becky Traweek  
Chief Executive Officer  
Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi