

# Girl Scout Week Sensitive Issues and FAQs

## Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith

### What is Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith?

Girl Scouts of the USA has longstanding traditions of celebrating with faith communities during Girl Scout Week. Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events are celebrations to recognize Girl Scouts at their house of worship, thank faith partners for their support throughout the year, and honor Girl Scout volunteers. Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events can include participation in worship services, pre- and post-worship events, and service projects.

### Why is Girl Scouts doing Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith?

Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events are a longstanding tradition of Girl Scouts that provide Girl Scouts and their troops with a way to be acknowledged at their house of worship, thank faith partners for their support throughout the year, and honor adult volunteers.

### When can I do Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith?

Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events typically occur during Girl Scout Week, which is the week of March 12 every year. However, Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events can occur at any mutually agreeable time between your faith partner and you. In 2022, celebration dates include:

- Girl Scout Sunday: Sunday, March 6, 2022
- Girl Scout Jummah: Friday, March 11, 2022
- Girl Scout Sabbath/Shabbat: Friday, March 11–Saturday, March 12, 2022

Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith can be enjoyed with any faith partner on a date of your choosing. Christian and Buddhist partners typically celebrate on Girl Scout Sunday, Muslim partners celebrate on Girl Scout Jummah, and Jewish partners celebrate on Girl Scout Sabbath or Girl Scout Shabbat.

### Who is this expected to reach?

Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events support Girl Scouts and troops of any faith tradition. They also reach faith communities and nonmember families at houses of worship where Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events occur.

### Do Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines?

Please comply with your council's and your local safety guidelines for COVID. Each community is at different stages of reopening. Some houses of worship will be open, while others will still be celebrating virtually. The Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith toolkit <https://www.girlscoutsp2p.org/en/our-program/GirlScoutsandFaith.html> includes tips for celebrating virtually and in

person with your house of worship. Also see the *Planning your [Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith Event](#)* site.

### **Is there a badge or patch associated with participating in a Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith event?**

Yes. There are several fun patch options, listed below. These are available on the [GSM wholesale site](#) for wholesale ordering. Individual customers can order patches from the [online store](#).

- Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith
- Girl Scout Jummah
- Girl Scout Sabbath
- Girl Scout Shabbat
- Girl Scout Sunday

### **General Information**

#### **What is the mission of Girl Scouts?**

The mission of Girl Scouts is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Grounded in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Girl Scouting is a nonformal, experiential, and cooperative education program that promotes girls' personal growth and leadership development.

#### **What is “My Promise, My Faith”?**

“[My Promise, My Faith](#),” a Girl Scout religious recognition program, invites girls in grades K–12 to experience a faith journey through exploration of the Girl Scout Law and teachings from their faith. Girls can earn a national pin each year.

#### **Does Girl Scouts offer religious programming?**

The preamble of the Girl Scout Constitution states that “the motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual.” Therefore, Girl Scout partners with national faith organizations that have created their own religious emblems to encourage girls to grow stronger in their faith. Girl Scouts has approved of these programs and allows the recognition insignia to be worn on the official uniform, but each religious organization develops and administers its own program. Check with your council store or contact [religious organizations](#) to obtain the curriculum booklets. In addition, the Girl Scouts offers the “My Promise, My Faith” religious recognition program (please see above).

#### **What is the relationship between Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)?**

WAGGGS is composed of 145 member organizations that promote mutual understanding and cross-cultural opportunities for girls around the world. GSUSA 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 its country. GSUSA does not always take the same positions or endorse the same programs as WAGGGS. GSUSA's relationship with WAGGGS is akin to the United States' relationship with the United Nations. The United States may not agree with every position the United Nations takes, but it values having a seat at the table.

### **Does Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) have a financial relationship with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)?**

Girl Scout and Girl Guide organizations are members of WAGGGS. Each member organization, including GSUSA, 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.

### **Are Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) girl membership dues used to pay the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) quota?**

Membership dues from girls and from adults are not used to pay the WAGGGS quota. All dues collected from GSUSA members are used to pay for services that directly affect the development and delivery of Girl Scouting to girls in the United States and girls who are involved in USA Girl Scouts Overseas, our program that brings Girl Scouting to American families who live and work abroad.

## **Catholic Girl Scouting**

### **Does Girl Scouts wish to continue partnering with the Catholic Church?**

Absolutely, yes. Our partnership, which began in 1914, is nearly as old as Girl Scouts. For over 100 years, we have reached millions of girls in Catholic schools and churches, changing lives in so many ways. Today's girls face very difficult challenges in our society, and we believe strongly that they need guidance from values-based organizations like the Catholic Church and Girl Scouts. If members of the Catholic Church are concerned about what our girls are exposed to, we ask them to join our ranks and help our girls develop strong decision-making skills. Those volunteers will guide the girls through the leadership experience. Today we have more girls to serve than volunteers to serve them, and we need your help to reach even more girls. While we may not agree on every topic, we do know that working together, we can empower girls across the country to help change the world. We've demonstrated that for over 100 years, and we want to continue that work in our next century together.

### **Is Girl Scouts pro-abortion?**

No. Girl Scouts takes no position on abortion or birth control. We believe these subjects are best addressed by girls and their parents.

## **Does Girl Scouting have a relationship with Planned Parenthood?**

No. There is no relationship—past, present, or planned—between Planned Parenthood and Girl Scouts of the USA.

## **What is the Girl Scout position regarding human sexuality, birth control, and abortion?**

Girl Scouts 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, Girl Scouts of the USA directs councils, including volunteer leaders, to get written parental permission for any locally planned program that could be considered sensitive. Girl Scouts respects the moral teachings and theology of our religious partners. We support the right of pastors and other religious leaders to verify that troops in their institutions comply with religious teachings.

## **Does the Girl Scouts have a left-leaning agenda?**

The Girl Scout agenda is to provide girls with the courage, confidence, and character they need to make this world a better place. The strength of the Girl Scout Movement is that it is a grassroots volunteer organization run mostly by parents in each community. The local volunteers—many in churches, synagogues, and mosques across the country—control what programming the girls receive. Parents—many of whom serve as troop volunteers—are actively engaged in those activities and well aware of what their girls are doing. Girl Scouts has always been and will always be an inclusive organization. When our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, assembled the first 18 Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia, the group included not just girls from that Southern town's prominent families, but also girls recruited from the orphan asylum and the local synagogue. We're the preeminent leadership organization for girls, with 2.5 million girl and adult members across the country. From our perspective, all are welcome.

## **Muslim Girl Scouting**

### **What is Girl Scout Jummah?**

Girl Scout Jummah is the typical celebration date for Muslim partners celebrating Girl Scout Week. Girl Scout Jummah occurs on the Friday of the week of March 12 each year. In 2022, Girl Scout Jummah is Friday, March 11.

### **Why did Girl Scouts add Girl Scout Jummah to Girl Scout Week?**

Girl Scouts is an inclusive organization striving to serve all girls. The Muslim holy day is Friday. Girl Scout Jummah was added to support Muslim Girl Scouts and Muslim faith communities in their celebration of their Girl Scouts during Girl Scout Week.

### **Why is Girl Scouts making this change now?**

Girl Scouts has longstanding traditions of celebrating with our faith partners during Girl Scout Week. We do this to share information with faith communities about Girl Scouts and its benefits, to thank faith partners for their support, and to give girls the opportunity to be recognized as Girl Scouts by their faith community. Girl Scout Week can be celebrated by any faith group at any time during Girl Scout Week or at a mutually agreeable time with a faith partner. In the past, celebration dates for Girl Scout Week included Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath—both well-received events. However, these dates did not include faith traditions with services or holy days falling outside them. In response to feedback, we added Girl Scout Jummah to provide opportunities for Muslim communities to celebrate their Girl Scouts and to support our movement-wide diversity and inclusion goals.

### **Is there a Girl Scout Jummah patch?**

Yes. A two-inch round Girl Scout Jummah patch is available to promote and commemorate participation in your event. They are available on the [GSM wholesale site](#) for wholesale ordering. Individual customers can order patches from the [online store](#).

### **Where can I learn more?**

Learn more about Girl Scouts and faith [at https://www.girlscoutsp2p.org/en/our-program/GirlScoutsandFaith.html](https://www.girlscoutsp2p.org/en/our-program/GirlScoutsandFaith.html) or Planning Your [Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith Event](#).