

GSSA Troop Leaders, Volunteers and Supporters,

Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. As representatives of Girl Scouts in general and GSSA in particular, you may be questioned about our organization's position on various issues, including those listed below.

What Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama Stands for

- GSSA supports families. We encourage girls to participate in Girl Scouts with their entire family and make the program something that brings them closer to their parents and siblings.
- GSSA is committed to diversity, equity, inclusiveness, and belonging. Girl Scouts is dedicated to every girl, everywhere.
- GSSA does not promote a political agenda. We encourage girls to develop skills that reinforce a belief in themselves through courage, confidence and character.
- GSSA emphasizes good citizenship via community involvement. Girls are encouraged to look around their communities to identify community needs and join the effort to make their world a better place.
- GSSA provides hands-on, experiential education that supplements traditional school programs. We help girls learn to discover, connect and take action.
- GSSA emphasizes skill building in the outdoors and respect for the environment.

Planned Parenthood

- Girl Scouts does not take a position on abortion or birth control and these topics are not part of the Girl Scout program or our materials. We believe these matters are best discussed by girls with their families.
- The national umbrella organization, Girl Scouts of the USA, does not have a relationship with Planned Parenthood on a national level and does not plan to have one.
- Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama does not have a relationship with Planned Parenthood and does not plan to have one.
- It should also be noted that not having a relationship with Planned Parenthood includes not having a financial relationship.
 - They do not give Girl Scouts money, and Girl Scouts does not give them money.
 - In fact, GSSA has gift acceptance policies which state we have the right to refuse funds from organizations that do not enhance, promote and ensure the purpose of Girl Scouting. Planned Parenthood would fall under this category.

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

- WAGGGS is comprised of 145 member organizations that promote mutual understanding and cross-- cultural opportunities for girls around the world.
- Each member organization creates its own programs and pursues advocacy efforts based on the needs and issues affecting girls in its individual 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 UN. The United States may not agree with every position the UN takes, but values having a seat at the table.
- Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama has virtually no relationship with WAGGGS, other than through GSUSA.

For more information email customer care@girlscoutssa.org

