



Worcester Leadership Center  
115 Century Drive  
Worcester, MA 01606

Holyoke Leadership Center  
301 Kelly Way  
Holyoke, MA 01040

### Parent/Guardian Permission for Sensitive Issues Activities

In order to be responsive to girls' needs and interests, some Girl Scout activities focus on subjects that may be considered sensitive or controversial. There is no definitive list of these subjects. In general, sensitive issues may include religious beliefs, human sexuality, cultural and family values, eating disorders, AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse, child abuse, suicide, and/or teen pregnancy. These are issues that all children think and/or talk about at one time or another. The Girl Scout program helps girls to make informed, responsible decisions about their own well-being, as well as instills a sense of awareness of and appreciation for individual differences through positive interactions. Girl Scouts of the USA provides Girl Scout leaders and program providers with guidelines for discussion of sensitive issues in *Volunteer Essentials*, a nationally consistent Girl Scout resource of safety guidelines and program standards. The leader/advisor's role in these discussions is as a caring adult who can help girls acquire their own knowledge in a supportive atmosphere, and not as an advocate for any particular position.

Parent/guardian permission is required any time sensitive issues are the basis for a planned Girl Scout activity. By providing permission for your child to discuss topics of a sensitive nature, you will be allowing a healthy interaction that will hopefully allow your child to gain the confidence needed to come to you in the future when she is in need of your support and guidance.

A description of the specific planned activity is provided below. Please review it carefully to ensure you are familiar with the content and activities which will be taking place.

Activity date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adults who will be present: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Topic of the activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
 List any specific content that might create controversy: \_\_\_\_\_

List any action steps the girls will take when the activity is complete: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Participation in this activity is optional. If at any time during the sensitive issue discussion/activity, the leader/advisor feels that immediate parental/custodial intervention is needed for the safety and well-being of your child, you will be notified. If you have any questions about this activity, please contact: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Permission for Participation in a Sensitive Issue Discussion/Activity

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I, the parent/guardian of (full name) \_\_\_\_\_ give permission for her to participate in the activities indicated above. I understand that my child will be exposed to issues and discussions that could be considered to be of a sensitive or controversial nature. I have discussed the activity with my child and am confident that she has the maturity and ability to participate in this activity in a positive and compassionate manner.

I understand, and have shared with my child, that her attendance is optional for all or part of the activity. However, it is my child's responsibility to communicate to the leaders of this activity our needs in advance of the date the activity is to be conducted.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_