

**INSIDE THE
BELTWAY**

By John McCaslin

Trefoil tattoos

Scouting for girls was once as American as apple pie, says the summary of "Not Your Mother's Girl Scouts."

Today, however, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. has become a casualty of political polarization, increasingly identified with leaders and positions of "radical feminism."

In an article for Organization Trends, a publication of the Capital Research Center, Kathryn Jean Lopez, associate editor of National Review, writes that Girl Scouts this spring will once again be selling cookies, but now with an added ingredient.

Girl Scout officials "seem intent on a cookie-cutter approach to shaping a new generation of like-minded women with disdain for the past," opines Miss Lopez, who likens the Senior Scout hand-

book for girls 14 and over to an insert in YM or Seventeen.

It contains exercises relating to situations like "ending a pregnancy," or suggestions on how to organize "an event to make people aware of gender bias."

And what about those badges?

"You might know a Girl Scout who earned a badge for selling cookies or learning to cook," says Miss Lopez. "But did you notice her 'Domestic Violence Awareness' badge?"

A girl with green hair and fingernails also appears in a hip ad campaign unveiled by the Girl Scouts in Georgia: "Yeah, we still wear green. But a lot else has changed." Another ad features a girl's shoulder bearing a tattoo with the Girl Scouts' trefoil symbol.

Shortly after becoming executive director, the Scouts' Marty Evans boasted, "We're not your mother's Girl Scout troop."

"No kidding," says Miss Lopez. "Remember that when you consider buying this year's box of Thin Mints."

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