

Calling All Girl Scouts: Boycott Barbie!

A new deal made between the toymaker Mattel and the Girl Scouts has resulted in a new Girl Scout Barbie. I urge my fellow Girl Scouts NOT to buy this Barbie! The very idea of a Girl Scout Barbie undermines our core values of integrity, commitment to excellence and shared accountability.

The “Barbie badge” that you get when you purchase a doll makes a mockery of the Girl Scout badge system. We all know that a badge represents a lot of hard work on our parts. Sometimes it represents us having conquered specific fears, or having learned new skills. But more than anything, every badge we earn represents the further development of character—and character cannot be purchased. Wearing a Barbie badge is tantamount to wearing a badge that you didn’t earn.

Furthermore, Barbie is hardly a fit representation of “excellence.” Her appearance is both unreal and unattainable. People point to all of the “careers” Barbie has had, but none of her “careers” are any more than window dressing and are more about her being able to wear many different fashions than they are about hard work and perseverance in any particular field. Artificial beauty, unhealthy body image and a shallow consideration of image are hardly examples of “excellence.”

Mattel and the Girl Scouts of America can team up if they want to, but if Barbie is able to infiltrate and thereby change what the Girl Scouts are about, it will be our fault, according to the principle of shared accountability. If we buy these Barbies, then we are as responsible for the corruption of the values we hold dear as are the corporate big-wigs who thought this up in the first place.

Both Mattel and the Girl Scouts are trying to exploit us for their own profits. Don’t let them do it! Boycott Barbie, and spread the word!

1. What is the author’s position? _____



Name _____ **Literary Non-fiction**

2. In the opening paragraph, the author claims that the very idea of a Girl Scout Barbie undermines out core values of integrity, commitment to excellence and shared accountability. Does the author provide reasons and evidence to support this claim? If so, list the reasons and evidence.

3. The author claims that the “Barbie badge” makes a mockery of the Girl Scout badge system. Does the author support this claim? If so, list reasons and evidence.

4. The author claims that Barbie is not a fit representation of “excellence.” Does the author support this claim? If so, list reasons and evidence.

5. Do you think that the author’s claims make this argument effective? Why or why not?
