

GS-TOP Cookie Sale Talking Points 2010

General Information

Q. What is the Girl Scout Cookie Program?

A. The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the nation's premier entrepreneurship and educational program for girls and we appreciate your support. The activity of selling cookies is directly related to our purpose of helping all girls realize their full potential and become strong, confident, and resourceful citizens.

Girl Scouts practice life skills like goal setting, money management, and teamwork

Customers get a great product and get to support girls in their own community.

All of the proceeds support Girl Scouting in the local community.

Q. How long has the Girl Scout Cookie Program existed?

A. The Cookie Program started in 1917 with the Mistletoe Girl Scout Troop in Muskogee, Oklahoma, which baked cookies and sold them in its high school cafeteria. The first Girl Scout Cookie Program that used commercially baked Girl Scout cookies was in Philadelphia in 1934. In 1936, Girl Scouts of the USA licensed the first commercial baker.

Q. What is *Project Troop to Troop*?

A. *Project Troop to Troop* is a Girl Scout service initiative that encourages members of the community to buy packages of Girl Scout Cookies to donate to the U.S. Armed Forces. For U.S. Troops stationed across the nation and around the world, nothing says home like a box of Girl Scout Cookies. Project Troop to Troop encourages customers to buy additional packages of Girl Scout Cookies to donate to members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains will send these donated cookies around the globe, bringing a taste of home to those who protect our home. During the 2008 Cookie Sale Program, customers "sponsored" over 36,000 packages of cookies for Project Troop to Troop.

Q: Where does Cookie revenue go?

A. All of the revenue remains in the area where the Girl Scout Cookies are sold and directly or indirectly benefits local Girl Scouts. Girl Scout Cookie proceeds are used for many purposes, including maintaining campsites and providing financial assistance for girls, leadership development for adult volunteers, and support for special membership initiatives. The allocation of Girl Scout Cookie revenue to individual Girl Scout Troops/groups and "Cookie Bucks" for individual girls to apply to such activities as Girl Scout Camp or event fees is handled at the council level. At the Girl Scout Troop level, the girls vote on how to spend the money they've earned. Examples include special trips to museums or exhibitions, overnight stays at camp, and community service projects.

Q: How do you ensure the safety of Girl Scouts who participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program?

A: The safety and security of our members is always our chief concern. We have strict guidelines for safety. Girl Scouts, must be supervised by an adult when participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

Q. What if someone in the community would like to support the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, but does not wish to purchase Girl Scout Cookies?

Supporting the Girl Scout Cookie Program is only one way to support your local Girl Scout organization. For information on alternative ways to support the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains contact Senior Director of Fund Development, Lee Koch at 817-735-5313 or 800-582-7272, ext. 206 or lkoch@gs-top.org.

Health and Nutrition Information

Q. What baker does Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains use?

A. ABC Bakers of Richmond, Virginia.

Q: Are any added preservatives used in Girl Scout Cookies?

A: No. Girl Scout Cookies do not contain added preservatives. They are all made with pure vegetable shortening, are kosher, and freeze well to extend their shelf life.

Q: How can I find out what ingredients are used in Girl Scout Cookies?

A: So that consumers can make an informed choice, the ingredients and nutritional profile of each variety are clearly listed on the cookie box, the cookie order form, and our baker's website: www.abcsmartcookies.com.