

## FAQs about Girl Scouts and Social Issues

### 1. What is Girl Scouts doing about the link to child labor and human trafficking in the manufacturing of palm oil, which is a product used in Girl Scout cookies?

Girl Scouts of USA's licensed bakers, including ABC Bakers used by Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, are members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), an organization striving to develop and enact proper practices to ensure an ethical supply chain. If certain suppliers are not following ethical practices, we expect our bakers and RSPO to take action quickly to rectify those exceptions.

Statement provided by ABC Bakers:

ABC Bakers, as an official member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), sources palm oil exclusively from members of the RSPO. ABC Bakers will continue to work with suppliers and the RSPO to encourage the development of an economically and logistically feasible supply chain for sustainable palm oil. Working in partnership with our customers and suppliers, we continue to evolve our oil supply.

### 2. How are Girl Scouts using safe practices during the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains has provided all Girl Scouts with a COVID-19 Booth Safety Checklist to ensure that our girls, volunteers, and customers remain safe during this year's cookie season. Masks are required at all booths. To view the COVID-19 protocols, visit our website at [www.gs-top.org](http://www.gs-top.org)

### 3. Does Girl Scouts support Planned Parenthood, abortion, and sex education?

There is no relationship between Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains and Planned Parenthood. Girl Scouts does not advocate for or against any issue regarding a girl's health and sexuality. Parents or guardians make all decisions regarding program participation that may be of a sensitive nature. Consistent with that belief, GSUSA directs councils, including volunteer leaders, to get written parental permission for any locally planned program that could be considered sensitive. If programs address these issues, girls who choose to participate must have the fully informed consent of their parents or guardians. We support the right of pastors to verify that troops in their parishes are in compliance with Church teaching.

**4. Do Girl Scouts allow transgendered youth to join?**

Girl Scouts is a leadership program for all girls, ages 5 - 17. Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains has not dealt specifically with this situation here in our council. If it does, it will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the welfare and best interest of the child and the members of the troop in question a top priority. Girl Scouts is open to all girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law and meet membership requirements.

**5. What is the relationship between Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts?**

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are two separate, independently run non-profit organizations and do not have a shared relationship.

**6. Does being anti-racist mean Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains support the Black Lives Matter movement.**

As an organization that is anti-racist, GSTOP supports girl leadership in all girls, no matter their race. GSTOP does not tolerate racist behavior from its staff, volunteers, or girl members. GSTOP does not advocate for or financially support other non-profit organizations or comment on the actions or ideals of organizations outside of Girl Scouts.

Racism and hate have no place here. Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, and our Girl Scouts of the USA sisterhood, stands for all girls, volunteers, and staff to ensure liberty, justice, and equity for all as we equip girls with courage, confidence, and character who are making the world a better place.

To review additional Q&As about Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, visit our website at <https://www.gs-top.org/en/our-council/qa.html>