

# Get the facts about Girl Scout Cookies!



## So, where exactly does that cookie money go?

One hundred percent of the money that a council and its troops raise through the Girl Scout Cookie Program stays with that council and its troops. Again, let there be no question: all of the revenue from cookie activities—every penny after paying the baker—stays with the Girl Scout council. Girl Scout councils offer a wide variety of recognition items, program- and store-related credits, and travel experiences that girls are eligible to earn individually based on their sales. Girl Scout councils do not provide any portion of their cookie revenue to Girl Scouts of the USA.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is an important program for girls. Through this program, girls not only learn goal setting, but decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics—skills essential to leadership, to success, and to life. Girl Scouts selling Girl Scout Cookies set their own money-earning goals for the season. They may decide to donate troop proceeds to a local animal hospital or use their hard-earned money to help fund a back-to-nature wilderness adventure. Whatever the specific goals and outcomes, we assure you that selling cookies does great things for girls.

## Should people be concerned about where the money goes?

As we've made clear, absolutely not! Girl Scout cookie sales fund the amazing work that Girl Scouts do to improve communities nationwide—including yours. Through Girl Scouting, including our beloved Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls discover the fun and friendship that life holds, developing to their full potential and gaining values that will guide their actions along the way.

More background: in the United States, Girl Scouts serves 3 million members as part of a worldwide girl-serving family consisting of 10 million girls and adults in 145 countries. More than 59 million American women were Girl Scouts and through our 100-year-plus history, our mission has remained constant: to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

## Why do some people voice concern about Girl Scout Cookies?

In short, it's because they've received false information about the Girl Scout Cookie Program, which frankly is nothing new. As such a large organization, Girl Scouts is occasionally a target for outside entities with clear agendas. A fundamental piece you should know is that Girl Scouts does not advocate one way or another with regard to what we perceive as private issues best handled by families. Personal matters are just that—personal and private—and should be addressed accordingly.

And hey, let's let the girls have fun! We ask that adults keep adult conversations to themselves. Approaching girls with salacious materials at a cookie booth is not acceptable.

## Should I buy Girl Scout Cookies?

For all the great reasons above, we certainly think so! Following a diet that looks less than favorably on sweet treats? You should know that Girl Scouts have the option of participating in a council-approved “Gift of Caring” program that allows them to collect cookie box donations for military personnel serving overseas. Ask us more about it!

To drive our point home: when a Girl Scout sells you cookies, she’s building a lifetime of skills and confidence. Through Girl Scouting and the Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls learn they can be and do anything they set their minds to. And why wouldn’t you want to be a part of that?

## Why does Girl Scouts use palm oil in its cookies?

The world’s food supply is intricately tied to the use of palm oil, and palm oil is found in many baked snacks sold in the United States. GSUSA’s licensed bakers tell us it continues to be necessary to use palm oil in our cookies to ensure their shelf life, to bring you the highest-quality product, and in order to avoid using trans fats. Although we continue to explore other alternatives, at this time there are no viable ones.

## Why can’t you use something other than palm oil in your cookies?

The world’s food supply is intricately tied to the use of palm oil, so we believe promoting ethical manufacturing principles is the most responsible approach to Girl Scout Cookie development. Although we continue to explore alternatives, at this time there are no viable ones.

## What action is Girl Scouts taking to combat child labor?

We are aware of the concerns around the process by which palm oil is gathered. To be clear, child labor has no place in the production of Girl Scout Cookies. We have worked and continue to work with our bakers to increase the transparency and sustainability of our production lines and ingredient sourcing. If certain suppliers involved in Girl Scout Cookie production are not following best practices with regard to ethics, we rely on our bakers and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, of which GSUSA is an affiliate member, to take action quickly to meet our standards.

Learn more about the Girl Scout Cookie Program at [www.girlscoutcookies.org](http://www.girlscoutcookies.org).

For additional supporting materials, please visit [www.gssem.org/socialissues](http://www.gssem.org/socialissues).



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