

## **Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama Girl Scout Cookie Season FAQ's**

*The Girl Scout Cookie Sale program is the largest girl-led business in the country. Because of this, you may encounter questions from customers that you are unable to answer. We want to help you know exactly what to say, so please see below for some help with frequently asked questions and their answers. For further information or other inquiries, please feel free to contact Meghan Cochrane, Director of PR and Marketing, at (800) 239-6636, ext. 2907 or [mcochrane@girlscoutssa.org](mailto:mcochrane@girlscoutssa.org)*

### **Product Information**

Are all Girl Scout Cookies kosher? Yes. All Girl Scout Cookies are kosher.

Do Girl Scout Cookies have trans fats? Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama is proud that all Girl Scout Cookies have "zero trans fat per serving," with the same great taste that has made them one of America's favorite treats over the years.

Why is palm oil used in Girl Scout Cookies? Palm oil is an ingredient found in the majority of 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 shelf life, to offer customers the highest quality, and to serve as an alternative to trans fats. One of the primary goals of our Girl Scout cookie bakers is to create the best-tasting cookies possible using the healthiest ingredients available.

The world's food supply is intricately tied to the use of palm oil, so we believe promoting sustainable manufacturing principles is the most responsible approach for Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Cookies.

Are there GMOs in Girl Scout Cookies? At the current time, there are genetically modified agricultural crops (GMOs) in Girl Scout Cookies. Our bakers determine whether to use GMOs in Girl Scout Cookies based on a range of market-related factors and depending on the specific cookie recipe.

Girl Scouts recognizes that many people have concerns regarding GMO ingredients, and we monitor member and consumer opinion on this matter. It is important to note that there is worldwide scientific support for the safety of currently commercialized ingredients derived from genetically modified agricultural crops. The World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the American Medical Association all share this assessment. In addition, in the future, GMOs may offer a way to help feed an ever-increasing world population

### **Cookie Revenue**

How can I be sure that Girl Scout Cookie Program revenue supports the local Girl Scouts in my community? All of the revenue earned from cookie activities—every penny after paying the baker—stays with the local Girl Scout council and troops. Cookie program revenue is a critical source of funding for local Girl Scout councils, and it is often what makes it possible to serve girls in hard-to-serve areas, and maintain camps and properties. Girl Scout troops and groups must pool their proceeds to pay for program supplies, activities, and group travel.

Does any of the money from cookie sales go to Girl Scouts of the USA? Girl Scouts of the USA is paid a royalty by its licensed bakers for use of Girl Scout trademarks based on gross annual sales. Girl Scout councils do not provide any portion of their cookie revenue to Girl Scouts of the USA, and no other revenue from cookie sales goes to Girl Scouts of the USA.

Does any part of Girl Scout Cookie Program revenue support organizations other than

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama? One hundred percent of the net revenue raised through the Girl Scout Cookie Program stays with the local council and troops.

## **GSSA Statements**

Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. As representatives of Girl Scouts in general and GSSA in particular, you may be questioned about our organization's position on various issues, including those listed below.

### What Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama Stands for

- GSSA is pro-family. Throughout the year, we provide a variety of events that promote family togetherness, including our annual Mom and Me camporee, Girl Scout Night at the Montgomery Biscuits and Mobile Bay Bears, the Thin Mint Sprint and fall festival celebrations. We encourage girls to participate in Girl Scouts with their entire family and make the program something that brings them closer to their parents and siblings.
- GSSA is committed to diversity and inclusiveness, as Girl Scouts is dedicated to every girl, everywhere.
- GSSA does not promote a political agenda. We encourage girls to develop skills that reinforce a belief in themselves through courage, confidence and character.
- GSSA emphasizes good citizenship via community involvement. Girls are encouraged to look around their communities to identify community needs and join the effort to make their world a better place.
- GSSA provides hands-on, experiential education that supplements traditional school programs. We help girls learn to discover, connect and take action.
- GSSA emphasizes skill building in the outdoors and respect for the environment.

### Planned Parenthood

- Girl Scouts does not take a position on abortion or birth control, and these topics are not part of the Girl Scout program or our materials. We believe these matters are best discussed by girls with their families.
- The national umbrella organization, Girl Scouts of the USA, does not have a relationship with Planned Parenthood on a national level and does not plan to have one.
- Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama does not have a relationship with Planned Parenthood and does not plan to have one.
- It should also be noted that not having a relationship with Planned Parenthood includes not having a financial relationship.
- They do not give Girl Scouts money, and Girl Scouts does not give them money.
  - In fact, GSSA has gift acceptance policies which state we have the right to refuse funds from organizations that do not enhance, promote and ensure the purpose of Girl Scouting. Planned Parenthood would fall under this category.

### World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

- WAGGGS is comprised of 145 member organizations that promote mutual understanding and cross-cultural opportunities for girls around the world.
- Each member organization creates its own programs and pursues advocacy efforts based on the needs and issues affecting girls in its individual country. GSUSA does not always take the same positions or endorse the same programs as WAGGGS.
- GSUSA's relationship with WAGGGS is akin to the United States' relationship with the UN. The United States may not agree with every position the UN takes, but values having a seat at the table.
- Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama has virtually no relationship with WAGGGS, other than through GSUSA.

