



FAQ's

The popularity of Girl Scout cookies means the Girl Scout Cookie Program attracts lots of attention. Most of the “buzz” about cookies is positive and our customers and most of the general public recognize the huge benefits our girls derive from the five skills they acquire selling cookies: Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills and Business Ethics.

Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio Council (GSSGC) conducts one of the most successful cookie programs in the nation, measured both by average number of boxes sold per girl and by quality of the exciting and vital learning opportunities that girls experience. That's because our girls work hard, receive adult support and coaching, and earn fabulous rewards for their work. Every penny of revenue from the sale of Girl Scout cookies, except the money paid to the baker, stays with GSSGC and its girls.

Cookie Time puts Girl Scouts front and center in the public arena. It's the time when people of all faiths, political persuasions and social viewpoints want to know more about Girl Scouts and the way the Movement builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Unfortunately it's also the time when a few misguided or ill-informed groups attack Girl Scouts with falsehoods about the Movement and urge people to not buy Girl Scout cookies.

Here are a few facts about Girl Scouts, the San Gorgonio Council and the Cookie Program

- ▶ The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the world's number one entrepreneurial program for young women.
- ▶ GSSGC had a record-breaking cookie season last year with 2.6 million boxes sold, for an average of 393 boxes per girl—first among 112 councils in the nation selling at \$5 a box and second in the nation at any price point. This means increased troop profits, girl incentives, programming and community service in our local area.
- ▶ GSSGC and its cookie baker, ABC Bakers, believe environmental responsibility needs to be a key component of the Girl Scout Cookie Program. In fact, our girls and adult volunteers insist upon it. The harvesting and production of every single food item, by its very nature, impacts our environment. Here are examples of how Girl Scouts and ABC Bakers act in environmentally responsible ways:
 - *Palm oil was chosen by ABC Bakers as the best alternative to partially hydrogenated soybean oil. Two Michigan Girl Scouts researched palm oil for their Silver Award project and discovered that harvesting the oil has a significant environmental impact. ABC Bakers is an official member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and joins the RSPO in promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices.*
 - *ABC Bakers obtains its cocoa from companies that are founding members of the World Cocoa Foundation. These companies provide support to cocoa farmers and their families through programs that help raise farmer incomes, encourage sustainable cocoa farming and strengthen communities.*
 - *Starting with Thanks-A-Lots in 2010, ABC Bakers is taking some cookie varieties “out of the box”. This change in packaging saves hundreds of tons of paperboard from going into America's waste stream and, since more cookies can be shipped on a single truck, thousands of gallons of diesel fuel are saved each year.*
 - *GSSGC's baker is constantly improving energy efficiency in its factories and in the way it transports cookies.*
- ▶ All GSSGC suppliers are required to sign vendor certifications that they have strict and clear policies regarding fair labor practices and abide by all government regulations regarding child labor laws, health and safety guidelines, and fair wage practices.

- ▶ GSSGC encourages girls to embrace diversity, hold strong beliefs and take action to support those beliefs in their daily lives. It does not encourage any particular point of view, except that girls and women must take their rightful place as leaders in their communities, our nation and the world.
- ▶ Neither the national Girl Scout organization nor GSSGC takes a position on abortion or birth control, does not endorse or provide funding to organizations that advocate on these issues, and neither has any relationship with Planned Parenthood nor provides any financial support to Planned Parenthood.
- ▶ Girl Scout outdoor activities offer unique experiences that raise girls' self esteem, strengthen their courage and builds confidence. While some Girl Scout councils are selling surplus camp facilities, GSSGC is investing more money in the renovation and expansion of its three camp facilities and four scout houses.
- ▶ What is the difference between Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts? Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are two completely separate organizations. The Girl Scout leadership program is designed with, by and for girls – every G.I.R.L! Research shows there is no better place for her to discover her full potential than in Girl Scouting. Both organizations serve a vital role in our country. Scouting lifts up service and community in the hearts of our nation's children. In Girl Scouting, girls develop a strong sense of self. Girls have confidence in themselves and their abilities and form positive identities. They develop or enhance positive values. Girls act ethically, honestly, and responsibly, and show concern for others. The Girl Scout program is for the challenge seeking that encompasses adventure and science, outdoors and life skills, business and travel-just to name a few. In addition she develops healthy relationships with herself and others and above all is grounded in community service and problem solving.

All revenue, after product costs, from every box of cookies sold stays in our local area:

- ★ **80% of each \$5 box of cookies purchased from a local GSSGC Girl Scout remains in our GSSGC communities within San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The remaining 20% pays for the cost of the cookies to the baker.**

how the cookie crumbles

