

2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program Jan. 15-March 29

Family Guide



Important Dates



Monday, Jan. 12

Girl Scouts start setting up Digital Cookie sites.
Digital Cookie Family Training go.gsoh.org/cookie-family-training

Thursday, Jan. 15

2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program begins!

My troop's deadline to enter Initial Order card totals in Digital Cookie.

Friday, Feb. 13- Sunday, March 29

Girl Scouts deliver cookies, collect payments & participate in cookie booths.

Pick up Initial Order cookies and rewards from TCPC.

Deadline to submit additional orders to my TCPC.

Sunday, March 29

2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program ends.
Final deadline to turn in all collected money to TCPC.

April-May

Pick up final rewards from TCPC.
Celebrate your Girl Scout and her troop's successes!

Questions? Contact Us!

Facebook: @GSOHProductProgram Website: www.gsoh.org Email: customer care@gsoh.org

girl scouts
of ohio's heartland



The Cookies



Thin Mints

Crispy chocolaty cookies made with natural oil of peppermint



Trefoils

Iconic shortbread cookies inspired by the original Girl Scout recipe



Samoas

Crisp cookies with caramel, coconut, and chocolaty stripes



Tagalongs

Crispy cookies layered with peanut butter and covered with a chocolaty coating



Do-si-dos

Oatmeal sandwich cookies with peanut butter filling



Adventurefuls

Indulgent brownie-inspired cookies topped with caramel flavored crème with a hint of sea salt



Lemon-ups

Crispy lemon cookies baked with inspiring messages to lift your spirit



Toffee-tastic

Gluten free! Rich, buttery cookies with sweet, crunchy toffee bits



Exploremores **NEW***

Sandwich cookies with chocolate, marshmallow, and almond flavored creme

Welcome

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurship program in the world. By participating, Girl Scouts learn valuable life and leadership skills through hands on experience interacting with customers, working as a team, creating budgets, and speaking with confidence.

There's no stopping a Girl Scout when she has support, assistance, and encouragement from her family! If you need any help, your Troop Cookie Program Coordinator, the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Customer Care team, and the Product Program team are here to support you! Best wishes to you and your Girl Scout and have fun!

— *Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland*

The Five Skills

The Girl Scout Cookie Program helps Girl Scouts develop real-world skills in five essential areas:



Goal Setting

Encourage her to break down her goals into small, frequent wins like weekly challenges.



Decision Making

Help her make decisions that help her meet her goals.



Money Management

Build on her interest in learning to manage all facets of the cookie business, like creating a budget and making change.



People Skills

Help her find her voice and build confidence through customer interactions.



Business Ethics

Talk to her about acting ethically, both in business and life, and the importance of delivering on her promise to customers.

What Cookies Fund

Girl Scout cookie entrepreneurs earn individual rewards and earn money for their troops to fund travel, camping, service projects, and more. All funds generated by the Girl Scout Cookie Program remain in the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland council to help:

- Provide financial assistance to make Girl Scouting available for all.
- Keep programs and camp fees at a reasonable rate for all members.
- Improve and maintain camps and other sites.
- Train and support adult volunteers.

Where Do the Funds Go?

23%
Proceeds & Rewards

23%
Cost of Product

54%
Girl Programs & Volunteer Training



Ways to Participate

Troop Cookie Program Coordinators (TCPCs) and families will work together to pick the right experiences to help their Girl Scouts learn, grow, and reach their goals.

		Girl Scout Experience	Family Experience	Skills Highlight
Order Taking	Use order cards and collect payments when cookies are delivered.	Hands-on practice with people and money management skills while interacting with customers they know and trust.	Help Girl Scout contact friends and family or go door-to-door, submit orders to TCPC, deliver cookies and collect payments from customers, and submit money to the TCPC.	 
Cookie Booths	Set up shop at pre-approved locations around the community.	Work as a team to reach new customers while communicating their goals, interacting with customers, and safely handling money with adult support.	Help with decorations or practicing money math or chaperone booths one-on-one with your Girl Scout or as a volunteer helping to support the troop.	 
Cookie Stands	Hold a cookie booth in your yard or driveway.	Set up and decorate a lemonade-style cookie stand near home.	Help Girl Scout set up and decorate booth, fill orders, and take payments, using existing inventory or new cookies received from troop.	 
Walkabouts	Take cookies door-to-door.	Go door-to-door with help from their family to sell their cookie inventory, practice people and money management skills.	Help Girl Scout make a safety plan, fill orders, and take payments, using existing inventory or new cookies received from troop.	 
Girl Delivery	Learn new skills through prepaid online orders in Digital Cookie.	Practice setting and sharing goals, learn how to create a video, practice digital safety and wellness, then deliver orders and thank customers.	Help track sales, request inventory from the troop, and deliver cookies to customers without handling money. All sales are prepaid through Digital Cookie.	 
Shipped Orders	Reach more customers with orders shipped directly to customers through Digital Cookie.	Share goals with friends and family near and far promote their business online safely and fairly.	Support your budding entrepreneur without handling cookies or money.	
Operation Salute	Motivate customers to donate cookies to military personnel, veterans, and their families.	Practice discussing a philanthropic effort and the value of giving back to the community.	Track progress toward goals and help brainstorm creative ways to engage customers.	 

 **Initial Order Phase**
January 15-25

 **Booth Phase**
February 13-March 29

 **Entire Program**
January 15-March 29

Supporting Your Girl Scout

Financial Responsibilities

Caregivers who sign the Girl Scout Permission Slip agree to:

- Notify the TCPC when you need additional cookies, pick up all cookies ordered for your Girl Scout, and sign a receipt every time you receive cookies from the troop.
- Approve or decline Girl Delivered Digital Cookie Orders and deliver orders promptly.
- Not accept checks at cookie booths or from customers you do not know.
- Submit all payments to the troop by the given deadlines and sign a receipt each time.
- Replace lost or stolen money collected from customers prior to being turned into the troop.



Operation Salute

Operation Salute is a council-wide service program that benefits military personnel, veterans, and their families. Customers make a \$6 donation to purchase a package of cookies to be donated to Operation Salute and Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland delivers all donated cookies to various military organizations within our council, including:

- Blue Star Mothers
- MASH Pantry
- Chillicothe, Columbus, and Mansfield VA Hospitals
- Wayne County VA
- Defense Supply Center Columbus
- And more!

Girl Scouts get to learn the importance of giving back while also earning rewards and money for their next Girl Scout adventure! And if they achieve 10+ packages for Operation Salute, they earn the exclusive 2026 Operation Salute patch!

Digital Cookie

Digital Cookie is the online portion of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, helping prepare Girl Scouts to be leaders in a fast-paced e-commerce world.

On **Mon., Jan. 12**, Girl Scout caregivers will receive registration emails from "Girl Scout Cookies" (email@email.girlscouts.org) with subject "Register for the Digital Cookie Platform Today".

Fri., Jan. 23-Sun., Jan. 25, Girl Scouts can use the **My Cookies** tab in Digital Cookie to enter the totals from their paper order cards instead of giving their order cards to their TCPCs to enter. TCPCs will review the submissions and submit them with the troop's Initial Order.

Having trouble accessing digital cookie?

Search your Spam folders, then visit gsoh.formstack.com/forms/digital_cookie if you need assistance.



- 1 Follow the prompts to log in, set up, and publish your Girl Scout's site. Links will be activated when the cookie program begins **Thurs., Jan. 15**.
- 2 Use the Customers tab to enter customer names and email addresses, learn about marketing emails, and reach out to customers directly.
- 3 Check your email **daily** for Girl Delivered orders to approve or reminders and updates from your troop and Council.
- 4 Use the **Orders** tab to approve or decline Girl Delivered orders. **Orders that are not approved within five days will be automatically canceled or donated.**
- 5 Notify your TCPC every time you need cookies to fulfill orders after **Sun., Jan. 25**. This allows them to better plan to make fewer trips to Cookie Cupboards and distribute cookies to your Girl Scout and their customers sooner.

Cookie Booths

Cookie booths are one of the most exciting parts of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, giving Girl Scouts the opportunity to work individually or as a troop to meet their goals, gain confidence, and interact with their communities. **For some customers, cookie booths are the only time they will interact with a Girl Scout all year!** Talk to your Girl Scout about how she wants to represent her troop and show what it means to be a Girl Scout to her community.

Some Council rules to plan for:

- Girl Scouts should participate in setting up, cleaning up, talking to customers, and making change.
- Everyone present at a booth must be courteous of booth hosts, neighboring businesses, and other troops and take all trash and supplies with them when they leave.
- Troops should arrive and leave on time and take orders only within their assigned timeslot.

Supporting Your Troop

Your Troop Cookie Program Coordinator (TCPC) is a volunteer who needs your help to deliver a fun and successful cookie program to the troop. Your TCPC does so much behind the scenes to help your Girl Scout!

Here are some ways you can help your TCPC and troop. Most do not require much time commitment or being a registered volunteer, so pick one thing on this list that you can commit to, tell your TCPC that you can help, and put it on your calendar now:

- Help troop create Digital Cookie video for troop site.
- Lead a troop meeting or activity during the Cookie Program.
- Create a troop calendar.
- Help pick up cookies as a driver or to help count.
- Help sort and distribute cookies.
- Pick up booth decoration supplies.
- Lead booth decoration activities with Girl Scouts.
- Attend a cookie booth as an approved volunteer.
- Pick up cookie cupboard orders as an approved volunteer.
- Help sort and distribute rewards and patches.

Contests & Tools



Cookie Pitch Challenge

Girl Scouts will stretch their techie skills, creativity, and people skills by creating videos for their Digital Cookie sites. Individual entries will be entered in a weekly drawing for a \$25 program card. All troop entries will be entered in a monthly drawing for a \$75 reward card on the last Friday of each month.

Enter Contest:

go.gsoh.org/cookie-pitch



Great Job, Girl Scout Detectives

Our cookie detectives will be roaming the council looking for exceptional cookie booths so they can reward Girl Scouts on the spot with a special patch!

5 for 5 Contest

The 5 for 5 contest is a chance for customers to win five cases of cookies for every five packages they buy at a cookie booth. Troops will receive 5 for 5 tickets with unique codes to hand out and can use this contest to encourage customers to purchase more packages. We'll randomly select five winners on **Mon., Mar. 9** and **Mon., Mar. 30**. The Girl Scouts whose customers are drawn as winners will receive credit for an additional 12 packages in eBuddle!

Social Media Graphics & Tools

Troop volunteers, Girl Scouts, and families can find great resources in the Cookie Promotional Kit! You can find these and more at go.gsoh.org/cookie-resources.

- Social media graphics
- Operation Salute resources
- Door hangers, recipe cards, and more



Cookie Rewards

Reward Options

- Junior through Ambassador troops can receive an additional \$0.05 per package if all participating Girl Scouts vote to Opt Out of individual rewards. Girl Scouts in troops selecting this option are still eligible to receive all patches, Initial Order, and troop rewards, if earned.
- At most levels, Girl Scouts can choose to receive a physical reward item, donate to The Shoe That Grows, or receive a GSOH reward card.
- Help us reach our council goal of donating 125 pairs of shoes. The Shoe That Grows expands five sizes for children to wear for school, chores, or play in the harsh conditions in refugee camps.
- Reward Cards can be used towards GSOH memberships, programs, shops, camp, site usage, Girl Scout Destinations, or GSOH approved travel. Girl Scouts receive one card with the total amount they earned after the cookie program ends.

Reward Cards

To use a Reward Card to register for Council programs:

- 1 Find a program at gsoh.org/activities and begin registration.
- 2 At check-out, select **Apply for Program Credits** and submit the registration.
- 3 Once you have submitted the order, contact Customer Care at **614-487-8101 ext. 6030** or customercare@gsoh.org with your Reward Card information. *Important: Registration is not complete, and space cannot be held until payment is applied. Registrations left unpaid will be cancelled.*
- 4 If the Reward Card does not cover the full balance, the remainder can be paid online through your myGS account or over the phone.



Initial Order Rewards

****Earned exclusively for cookies purchased during the Initial Order phase Jan. 15-25.****

TCPs will receive these rewards at their cookie delivery in February and distribute them to Girl Scouts right away.



200+ Packages Individual Initial Order
Ferret Plush Dangler

Troop Initial Order Reward



180+ Packages Troop Initial Order Per Girl Average
Matching Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Beanies for each participating Girl Scout

Due to availability, a comparable item may be substituted for any reward item.

Individual Rewards

Your Girl Scout will receive these rewards from her TCPC as soon as she reaches each level!

Instant Rewards



25+ Packages
BFF Action Patch



100+ Packages
Window Art Kit



Troop Choice
2026 Bar Patch

Your Girl Scout will earn a reward for each level she achieves by the end of the Cookie Program and will receive the items in April-May.

Final Rewards



230+ Packages
Ferret Plush or \$10 Cookie Reward Card



300+ Packages
Crossbody Bag w/ Cookie Charms
or \$10 Cookie Reward Card



400+ Packages
BFF Pillow Set or \$15 Cookie Reward Card



500+ Packages
Personalized Long Sleeve T-Shirt & Bracelet Hair
Tie Set or Girl Scout Uniform or Membership



700+ Packages
Custom Retro Trucker Hat or Personalized
LED Name Sign or \$30 Cookie Reward Card



900+ Packages
Sewing Machine & Accessory Set or Osprey
Hydration Backpack & or Choice of Field
Guide or Journal or \$50 Cookie Reward Card



1,200+ Packages
Stellar Seller Event



1,600+ Packages
American Girl Doll or 2 tickets to Columbus Crew
game or One session of 2026 or 2027 GSOH
resident camp or \$120 Cookie Reward Card



2,000+ Packages
Two-Person Inflatable Kayak & PFD or
Animal Encounter Experience at the
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

Due to availability, a comparable item may be substituted for any reward item.

Patches

Girl Scouts receive these patches after the program ends and display them on the back of their sashes or vests to show their successes!



2026 Bar Patch
Troop Choice Instant Reward



Ferret Action Patch
Sell 25+ Packages



Booth Sales Patch
Achieve 50+ packages during the Booth Phase.



Bar Patches
Girl Scouts earn Bar Patches at the highest level they achieve between 200+ and 1,000+ packages.



Operation Salute
Achieve 10+ Operation Salute packages donated to active and veteran members of the military and their families.



Shoe That Grows
Participate in The Shoe That Grows philanthropic reward option.
You can select this option instead of receiving a reward beginning at the 300+ package level.



Cookie Crossover
Girl Scouts who created a Me2 avatar and sent 18 emails in the 2025 Fall Product Program plus reach 275+ packages in the 2026 Cookie Program earn this patch.

Stellar Seller

Reach 1,200+ packages of cookies!



Girl Scouts who achieve 1,200+ packages will earn an invitation to the Stellar Seller Celebration at the Columbus Clippers game at Huntington Park in Columbus on May 2. Each Girl Scout can bring one adult caregiver. Parking, food, and beverages will be provided.

Double Stellar Seller

Reach Stellar Seller level during both the 2025 Fall Product Program AND the 2026 Cookie Program!



Girl Scouts who achieve the \$1,200 level during the 2025 Fall Product Program AND reach 1,200+ packages during the 2026 Cookie Program will also earn a 2-hour Open-Air Safari Tour at The Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio, for them and a caregiver in May or June 2026.