



2026 Cookie Guide

Embrace the cookie season!

Hello Cookie Volunteers,
We are thrilled to have you with us for the 2026 Cookie Season!
This year, we introduce our newest cookie - The Exploremore!

Please take a moment to review this cookie guide developed by our council. We have packed it with as much helpful information as possible, and we hope you find these resources beneficial.

We are pleased to offer our popular \$5 Flat Rate Shipping for the entire season, and will continue to cover credit card processing fees for troops using the POS card reader at booths!

Digital Cookie has new features that will benefit girls, parents, and troop leaders. It is now simpler to ensure booth sales are accurately credited to the booth rather than to individual girls. Additionally, girls can now accept PayPal or Venmo payments for cookies sold at booths or in their neighborhoods. Even better, customer data fields are now optional, streamlining the sale process.

Our team is here to support you throughout the cookie season. Together, let's make the 2026 cookie season a wonderful business experience for our Girl Scouts!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

The Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada
Product Program Team

COOKIE HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2026

Life's more fun when you explore more! This Girl Scout Cookie season, we are inspiring Girl Scouts to be brave and fierce entrepreneurs. And most importantly, to have fun together as a troop!



Meet your new BFF: the black-footed ferret! This is the only ferret native to North America. Thought to be extinct, a small wild group was rediscovered in 1981. Thanks to captive breeding and release programs, about 400 now live in the wild. These shy hunters live in burrows, are most active at night.



Meet Exploremores™: rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookies with chocolate, marshmallow, and toasted almond flavored crème. They celebrate the bold spirit of every Girl Scout—from a kindergartener wide-eyed at the aquarium to a middle schooler braving her first overnight trip. Discovery begins with exploration—and a sweet bite to fuel it.



Digital Cookie: Girl Scouts and their caregivers use Digital Cookie to sell online, track progress, and manage orders. It makes cookie season simple and fun for every young entrepreneur. Troop Product Sales Coordinators (TPSCs) use both Digital Cookie and Smart Cookie.



Back Again - Flat Rate Shipping! This year, thanks to your incredible enthusiasm, we're thrilled to serve up \$5 Flat Rate shipping for all direct orders from Digital Cookie. Minimum Order: 4 packages Maximum Order: 48 packages (or 4 cases)



New This Year!! Pay and track in one place: Record cash sales and accept credit cards, PayPal, or Venmo through the Digital Cookie Mobile App. Enjoy streamlined checkout and improved booth orders. Never miss a new order again with the added Push Notifications.



Be Swipe Ready for Booths! Make cookie season easier. This year, we're teaming up with Cheddar Up so customers can tap or swipe for quick POS payments. GSSN will cover swipe fees for booth sales. Learn more in cookie trainings, and sign up your troop here:
<https://my.cheddarup.com/orgs/gssierranevada/signup>

COOKIE RESOURCES



GSSN Cookie+ Website: Your one-stop hub for all cookie info. Find your Troop Cookie Manual, Smart Cookies Guide, booth tips, cookie cupboard details, trainings, printables, real-time updates, and more. Site opens December 1.

Smart Cookies (abcsmartcookies.com): Manage the Cookie Program online—order and transfer cookies, record payments, run reports, and order rewards. Watch for an email around December 5 to set up your new season account. Guides and training videos are on our website.

Digital Cookie: Opens January 1, 2026, for troop volunteers. Digital Cookie opens January 5 for Girl Scouts and caregivers. Visit our website for training and tip sheets on how it works.

Cookie materials: Your service unit product sales coordinator (SUPSC) will deliver printed materials and a sample package. TPSCs keep the receipt booklets and sample box to share with the troop. Each girl receives a card for orders and a rewards flier.

Extra items—Family Cookie Guide, Super Sellers Guide, door hanger, and business card sheet—are available on the GSSN website.



COOKIE SEASON IN A NUTSHELL

Cookie season starts in December. Pick a Troop Product Sales Coordinator (Cookie Mom or Cookie Dad) to help lead the sale. The TPSC shares updates with leaders and families, plans booths, keeps records and receipts, and helps manage troop supplies. Leaders and the TPSC host a planning meeting with the troop to set goals, plus a parent meeting to align on roles. When everyone understands the plan, the season runs smoothly.

Before sales begin on January 5, hand out cookie materials. Girls take pre-orders first, then parents enter the initial order. Troops review and adjust, then place a booth order. A booth lottery opens so troops can claim locations. Only order what you can sell—cookies can't be returned. If you need more, pick up extras from cupboards.



By mid-February, cookies arrive. Cookies are delivered to outlying Service Units; Reno/Sparks troops pick up at the distributor's mega-drop. Girls deliver pre-sale orders. Booths run February 20 to March 15. Leaders and TPSCs collect money often and deposit it in the troop account, giving a receipt each time. Enter receipts in Smart Cookie regularly. At season's end, submit reward orders; rewards arrive in May.



COOKIE PROCEEDS

Girl Scouts put their cookie earnings to good use. All of the net revenue raised through the Girl Scout Cookie Program—100 percent of it—stays local and benefits our council, service units and troops.

Council

After paying for cookies and delivery costs, the remaining proceeds stay right here with Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada—supporting local troops, service units, and Girl Scouts. GSSN supports programs, camps, destination travel, road trips, events, rural outreach, award programs, facility upkeep, troop start-up funds, financial aid, trainings, product programs, and volunteer appreciation. Cookies truly fund the fun and make Girl Scouting possible!

Service Units

These volunteer-led teams work with council in your geographic area. With council funding, Service Units:

- Support troop leaders, volunteers, and parents
- Host local events and community activities
- Grow membership and keep families engaged
- Coordinate the Cookie Program
- Provide training and share important updates

Service Units receive yearly funds when goals are met. Meet your team and come to the monthly meeting! Girls should participate in planning and make decisions.

Troops

Cookie sales power year-round fun for Girl Scouts and their troops. Thanks to cookies, many girls try big things for the first time—camping, horseback riding, hiking, snowshoeing the Sierra, community service, trips, and top awards. Troops earn \$1 for every package their troop sells to plan their own adventures. If all girls in the troop agree, troops may opt out of girl rewards and earn an extra \$0.15 cents per package by contacting their SUPSC by March 1, 2026. Cookie Program patches are still awarded.

How the Cookie Crumbles

23%

Troop &
Service Unit Proceeds
Rewards

22%

Cost of Cookies
& Sale



55%

Programs
& Supports



Your Girl Scout Cookie favorites are back!



Adventurefuls®

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



Exploremores™

Rocky road ice cream-inspired cookies filled with flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond crème



Lemonades®

Savory slices of shortbread with a refreshingly tangy lemon flavored icing



Trefoils®

Iconic shortbread cookies inspired by the original Girl Scout recipe



Thin Mints®

Crispy chocolate wafers dipped in a mint chocolaty coating



Peanut Butter

Patties®

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



Caramel deLites®

Crispy cookies topped with caramel, toasted coconut, and chocolaty stripes



**Peanut Butter
Sandwich**

Crisp and crunchy oatmeal cookies with creamy peanut butter filling



**Caramel
Chocolate Chip**










*Caramel, semi-sweet chocolate chips, and a hint of sea salt in a delicious cookie**

*Limited availability



Girl Scout Cookies® 2026 Food Allergens Guide



	CONTAINS (Y) OR MANUFACTURED IN A SHARED FACILITY WITH (M)					CONTAINS				CERTIFICATIONS		
	Wheat	Soy	Milk	Peanuts	Eggs	NO High Fructose Corn Syrup	ONLY Colors from Natural Sources	NO Preservatives	NO Trans Fat	Certified Gluten Free	Made with Vegan Ingredients	Certified Kosher OU-D and Halal
 Adventurefuls®	Y	Y	M	M		Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
 Exploreables™	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y			Y
 Lemonades®	Y	Y	M	M		Y	Y		Y		Y	Y
 Trefoils®	Y	Y	Y	M		Y		Y	Y			Y
 Thin Mints®	Y	Y	M	M		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
 Peanut Butter Patties®	Y	Y	M	Y	M	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y
 Caramel deLites®	Y	Y	Y	M		Y			Y			Y
 Peanut Butter Sandwich	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y			Y
 Caramel Chocolate Chip						Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

For complete nutrition facts and ingredients, visit girlscoutcookies.org
or www.abcbakers.com for more information.

The GIRL SCOUTS® name and mark, and all other associated trademarks and logotypes, including but not limited to the Trefoil Design, are owned by Girl Scouts of the USA. ABC Bakers is an official GSUSA licensee.

COOKIE PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

Girl Scout Cookies open doors to hands-on learning. There are four ways to sell—online, direct, booths, or hybrid—and the program flexes to every Girl Scout. Decide together which options fit their goals, schedule, and support system, whether that's one or all four. Note: Troops take financial responsibility for inventory from initial orders and cookie cupboards. Exchanges are permitted in the first two weeks of cupboards and to replace damaged cookies. Cookies are not returnable.



E-COMMERCE Digital Cookie

Your Girl Scout will grow real-world business skills—building a customer list, creating simple digital promos, and using easy dashboards to track goals. They can handle local delivery with on-hand cookies or use direct ship straight from our cookie warehouses.

Benefits: Simplicity, Modern Marketing, Personal Brand

Keep in mind: Cyber-Safety, Caregiver's/Girl Scout Access to technology



DIRECT SALE Order Card

Learn the one-to-one skills used in today's fast-growing direct sales world. With a Cookie Order Card, girls take in-person orders, track inventory, place reorders, and build lasting customer relationships.

Benefits: People Skills practice, Real-time Money Skills, Personal Touch

Keep in mind: Time commitment and Safety Guidelines for walkabouts

BRICK & MORTAR Booths

The most familiar part of the Cookie Program is the in-person booth. It mirrors real-world retail: a set location where Girl Scouts greet shoppers, share product tips, and help folks find a favorite or try something new.

Benefits: People Skills, Fun, Money Management
Keep in mind: Caregivers and volunteers must be background-checked GSSN members and commit to booths before scheduling. Booths run rain or shine (even snow).

HYBRID

Why mix business models? Because it helps every Girl Scout meet customers where they are. Cookie Entrepreneurs learn how different ways of selling work together, try new approaches, and adapt as things change—real innovation, real customer care, real problem-solving.

Benefits: Girl Scouts, caregivers, and troops can choose what works best for them.
Keep in mind: Girl Scouts may have very different selling experiences.

SETTING GOALS

Girl Scouts and troops decide on cookie goals and create a team plan to meet them. These goal-setting skills matter for school, work, and life. When girls share their goals, customers are more likely to support. After all, helping someone reach a goal feels great. Here are a few quick tips for setting goals:

TROOP GOALS

Invite Girl Scouts to brainstorm how to use cookie proceeds. Price it out, then figure out how many boxes are needed. Pick a goal, map the steps, and give regular updates to keep the energy up.

New troops: Consider family help for booths and review your first order to see who's participating.

Questions? Connect with your service unit product sales coordinator for tips.

Returning troops: Review past sales and set a fresh, realistic goal for this season.

GIRL SCOUT GOALS

Meet one-on-one with each Girl Scout to set a goal that feels doable and exciting. Talk about how they'll get there, what skills they want to grow, and what support they need. If they sold last year, look at those results together and choose a reward level to aim for. Reflect on what worked, what could change this season, and check how the family feels about selling. New to cookies? Explore comfortable ways to sell and review the rewards. Invite parents and guardians to agree on a realistic goal—your Family Cookie Business Meeting is a great time to align troop and family goals.

HOW TO GET COOKIES

Four ways troops can get cookies:

- Initial order: Place an early order so girls are ready to start on February 20. Add extra to cover the time between the parent deadline and cookie drop, plus your first booths.
- Cookie Cupboards: Restock by the case for booths and extra sales. Our cupboards are volunteer led—please follow posted hours and be kind. Past locations include Elko/Spring Creek, Fallon, Carson City, Gardnerville/Minden, Bishop, and South Lake Tahoe. A current list will be on the GSSN website in February.
- Cookie Truck @ GSSN: Open Wednesday–Saturday during February and March at the GSSN Main Office once cookies arrive. A schedule will be shared in February.
- From other troops: If you have too much or too little, connect through your Service Unit Product Sales Coordinator or use the Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada Cookie Exchange.

HOW COOKIE MONEY WORKS

HOW COOKIE MONEY WORKS

- Troops are responsible for the cost of all cookies they receive: initial orders, cookie cupboards, and transfers from other troops.
- Cookies are checked out to Girl Scouts in Smart Cookies. Families collect customer payments and turn money in to the troop.
- Credit card sales are credited to each Girl Scout in Smart Cookies.
- After the first pick-up, at least half of the amount due must be turned in before more cookies are given.
- Give a receipt for every cookie and money exchange.
- The TPSC deposits all money into the troop bank account, ideally each week or more often if needed. Never use cookie cash for any troop expense. Deposit it!
- Council will withdraw payment and proceeds in two ACH pulls: one during the sale and one a few weeks after it ends.
- The Troop Balance Summary in Smart Cookies shows inventory, proceeds, PGA, transfers, and more.

TROOP COOKIE MANAGER CHECKLIST

Use this check list to ensure you're on track before, during, and after the sale.



BEFORE COOKIES ARRIVE: NOW–EARLY FEBRUARY

- ✿ Add sierranevada@email.girlscouts.org to your email's safe sender list! All Cookie News and updates will be sent with this email address.
- ✿ Receive Cookie Program materials from your service unit product sales coordinator.
- ✿ Complete training! Training will be held in-person and virtually in December and January
- ✿ Watch for an email to register your Smart Cookies account for the season. Add noreply@abcsmartcookies.com to your safe sender's list to ensure you receive the email.
- ✿ Log in to Smart Cookies and review your rosters. Emails go out around 12/5.
- ✿ Distribute cookie materials to Girl Scouts.
- ✿ Host an in-person or virtual Family Cookie Business Meeting.
- ✿ Instruct all families to complete the [Online Cookie Permission Slip](#).
- ✿ Complete the [TPSC Agreement](#) form.
- ✿ January 1: [Digital Cookie](#) Access for Volunteers
- ✿ January 5: Go Day. Digital Cookie opens, and girls can begin taking pre-orders
- ✿ January 18: Parent deadline to enter preorders themselves
- ✿ January 23: Round One of the Booth Lottery. Troops can secure up to three booths during this round.
- ✿ January 25: Round Two of the Booth Lottery
- ✿ January 25: Troop Initial Orders are due.
- ✿ January 31: Booth Scheduler Opens for First-Come First Serve
- ✿ February 2-9: Mega Drop Cookies Arrive
- ✿ Arrange for pickup of the troop's initial cookie order on your assigned delivery date.
- ✿ Set a cookie schedule. Let families know when orders are due and when cookies will be ready for pickup each week. Inform families of the date when all unsold cookies can be returned to the troop before the end of the sale.

DURING THE SALE: FEBRUARY 11-MARCH 15

- ✿ Stay up to date with TPSC emails and gssn.org for important updates for your role.
- ✿ Need additional cookies? Visit a cookie cupboard or place a planned order by the posted deadline.
- ✿ Monitor families' cookie inventory and be ready to arrange cookie transfers between girls, if needed.
- ✿ Use Smart Cookies to manage troop inventory and distribute cookies to girls.

AFTER THE SALE: MARCH 15⁺

- ✿ March 16: Make reward choices for girls.
- ✿ March 22: Ensure final deposits are made in the troop bank account. If needed, complete the Slow Pay paperwork report any issues.

POLICIES

Our Girl Scout Cookie Program is a fun and rewarding opportunity to fund girls' leadership experiences, adventures, and goals. Sometimes, though, there are tough questions that we would like to answer so you feel prepared. Please refer to the following pages for information on our Rules, Policies, and Procedures, Selling Issues, Customer Returns, Damaged Product, Fire/Theft/Burglary/Robbery, and tax information. As a Troop Product Sales Coordinator / Troop Leader, it is your responsibility to inform your parents about the rules surrounding the Cookie Program

TWO ADULT RULE

- During any Troop Event, including booth sales, two (2) background checked adults must be present and monitoring the girl scouts at all time.
- In California, there must be at least two trained mandated reporters when volunteers are supervising or in contact with children (this requires a livescan background check).



BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS

- Regular Volunteers in California need a livescan background check and must complete mandated reporter training.
- A regular volunteer with the youth service organization is defined as a person who is 18 years of age or older and who has direct contact with, or supervision of, children for more than 16 hours per month or 32 hours per year. Hours add up fast when parents are helping during cookies and other times of the year.
- Encourage your parents to get a livescan so they can help often! For more information on AB506, please visit our website. Questions? We're here to help! Email girlscoutshelp@gssn.org for assistance.
- Volunteers in Nevada need a regular background check if they plan to volunteer in either of the following capacities: Any person who will have direct contact with girls. Any volunteer with financial responsibility.



BOOTHS

- A booth is any sales location in front of a business or organization.
- All booths require prior authorization from GSSN and approval from the owner/manager of the location.
- Council secures booth locations at large stores, national retailers, and chain stores. Do not approach large stores about booths unless given permission by GSSN Product Sales staff. A full list of council secured booths will be listed in the 2026 Booth Essentials on www.gssn.org
- All booths require certain ratios to maintain Girl Scout safety. Booths require:
 - Two background checked Adults
 - Two to four Girl Scouts.
 - Mom & Pop Stores Exception: At small business, one Girl Scout can operate a booth with TWO Adults. The two adult rule always applies at booths. The Girl Scout must be Cadette or above.
- Troop Secured booths are allowed and will be approved on a case-by base basis after February 6. Troops can hold any number of approved Troop Secured Booths, however a location that is willing to have troops there more than twice require the location to be added to the booth lottery.
- Tip Jars are not allowed. Troops can accept donations through Care to Share or Operation Cookie or for an organization that the troop chooses.
- Only Girl Scouts and Background Checked adults are permitted at a booth. Non-Girl Scout attendees are not covered under our insurance and pose a safety risk to all participants at the booth. (No Tagalongs)
- Booths are not permitted outside of establishments where a Girl Scout cannot patron on their own. This includes:
 - Liquor stores, Bars, night clubs, casinos, dispensaries, and any business that does not allow children to be present or enter.
 - Breweries and Wineries are not permitted unless the location serves meals and allows children inside.
- For more information on Booths, check out the 2026 Booth Reference Guide!



SELLING ISSUES

The cookie program begins on January 5, 2026. Girl Scouts are not allowed to take orders or gather sale commitments prior to this date. If this occurs in your troop, please address the situation as it arises. If the problem is widespread, have a girl/parent meeting immediately.

Selling Issues can include early selling, unauthorized booths, unethical behavior, etc. To report a selling issue that you personally witnessed, please take the following steps:

- Do not engage
- Make note of the situation, location, adult present, and Girl Scout by name and/or Troop number.
- Notify GSSN immediately at girlscoutshelp@gssn.org

If a selling issue has been reported on a Girl/Caregiver in your troop, you and the troop leader should:

- Notify the caregiver as soon as possible. Explain the reasons for the rules as they relate to the Girl Scouts Promise and Law and business ethics.
- Remind the Girl Scout and Caregiver that not following the Girl Scout guidelines for the cookie program can result in negative consequences for the entire troop.

CUSTOMER RETURNS

If a customer chooses to return a product, please take the following steps:

- Accept the returned product from the customer, even if you did not sell to them.
- Offer the customer an even exchange for the same or other variety of product
- If you exchange an item, please contact girlscoutshelp@gssn.org and provide information on the situation and items exchanged so that GSSN can issue a replacement item for your troop.
- Remember, we help all customers even if we did not make the sale. It is rare, but sometimes a customer only comes forward when they see another Girl Scout.

PROBLEMS WITHIN A TROOP

- Troops can sometimes have differences of opinions regarding their involvement in the cookie program. If miscommunications or misunderstandings occur, please attempt to resolve the issue or contact Antoinette Kangas (akangas@gssn.org) for assistance.
- Staff at GSSN will help to resolve the situation until permanent solutions can be agreed upon after the cookie program.
- Troops are not permitted to separate or transfer girls during the Cookie Program.
- Cookie funds stay with a troop and are not transferred when a girl changes troops.

FIRE/THEFT/BURGLARY/ROBBERY

Once cookies have been delivered to the troop, cookies and related funds are the responsibility of the troop, TPSC, and caregivers. The best way to protect yourself and your troop is to be proactive about the storage of cookies and handling of cookie funds.

- Products should be distributed to the girls quickly, delivered to the customers promptly, and funds deposited frequently to help avoid potential issues.
- In the event that funds are stolen, the police must be notified and a report taken within 48 hours of the incident. The number of packages and/or money stolen must be specified on the police report. The police report must be submitted with an explanation in writing directly to GSSN as soon as it is available.
- In some case, homeowner's insurance will cover the loss.
- Please make a copy of the police report for your troop records.

DAMAGED PRODUCT

If you receive a damaged product (dented packages, crushed, cases missing individual packages), please take the following steps:

- Take a picture of the outside of the CASE where the printed code is visible and send the picture to girlscoutshelp@gssn.org
- Damaged product can be returned to any cupboard for a replacement.
- Please return damages as you encounter them. Do not wait until the end of the program to handle any damage issues.



2026 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SEASON

KEY DATES*

Get your troop product ready! Troops need a designated TPSC, a signed TPSC agreement, an updated ACH form, and attend a training!	December
Review gssn.org/cookies for training and cookie resources	December
Have a troop meeting with your Girl Scouts and their Cookie Supporter!	December - January
Troops can access Smart Cookie: Check Rosters	December 5, 2025
Digital Cookie Access for Volunteers	January 1
Official Start of order taking! Digital Cookie opens for girls!	January 5
Parent's initial order due in Digital Cookie	January 18
Cookie Booth Lottery Opens - Round One	January 23
Troop Initial orders due! TPSCs enter troop orders and check parent orders	January 25
Cookie Booth Scheduler Opens Round Two	January 25
Pre-Order Cookies Available: Check with SUPSCs for dates	February 2-9
Main Cookie Cupboard Opens	February 11
National Cookie Weekend - Booths Start	February 20-22
Booths End - Season Ends	March 15

GOT QUESTIONS?

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA IS HERE TO HELP.

Call: 775-322-0642 | Email: girlscoutshelp@gssn.org

Online: Search for Cookie + our website www.gssn.org

Social: To connect with other volunteers on Facebook, search
"Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada"

**All dates subject to change, refer to Cookie + for the most current information.*