

Girl Scout Facts // Communication on Sensitive issues for Adults

The Girl Scout cookie sale is a time where Girl Scouts brand is most visible because of the wonderful work of girls and adults like you. We want to be sure that you feel empowered to answer any questions that might come your way during the sale. Most people will just want to know about the cookies, how you plan to use the funds for projects or what your Girl Scout experience means to you. However, there are some who have read inaccurate information and may ask you questions regarding what they have read or seen. Please help our girls make this a great experience by being familiar with these communication tips and letting us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Girl Scouts by the Numbers

- Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) is the largest leadership organization for girls in the world. Currently, there are nearly 3 million girl and adult members worldwide.
- Founder Juliette Gordon Low organized the first Girl Scout troop on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia. Girl Scouts celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2012.
- More than 59 million American women alive today participated in Girl Scouts during their childhoods.

Girl Scout Greats

- Famous Girl Scout alumnae on the stage and screen include Taylor Swift, Halle Berry, Reese Witherspoon, Sheryl Crow, Dakota Fanning, and Queen Latifah.
- Virtually every female astronaut who has flown in space is a Girl Scout alumna.
- Star athletes who are Girl Scout alumnae include Venus Williams (tennis player), Lolo Jones (track-and-field and bobsled Olympian), and Dorothy Hamill (1976 Olympic gold medalist in figure skating).
- Media greats Katie Couric, Barbara Walters, and Robin Roberts are Girl Scout alumnae.

Girl Scouts Rule

- Girl Scout alumnae in the world of public service include former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.
- Fourteen of the 20 women (70 percent) in the US Senate are Girl Scout alumnae.
- More than half of the 79 women in the US House of Representatives are Girl Scout alumnae.
- There are currently five women serving as governors across the U.S.—and all five are Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Cookies: Delivering both Inside and Outside the Box

- The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the world.
- Girl Scouts sell about 200 million boxes of cookies—more than \$700 million worth—during each cookie season.
- Girl Scout Katie Francis, a 12-year-old from Western Oklahoma, broke the all-time cookie sales record during the 2014 season, selling 21,477 boxes of cookies.
- There's more to Girl Scout Cookies than what's in the box. When a Girl Scout sells you cookies, she's building a lifetime of skills and confidence. She learns goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics—skills essential to leadership, success, and life.
- Thin Mints are the most popular variety of Girl Scout Cookies, followed by Samoas and Tagalongs.

Ingredients in Girl Scout Cookies

- GSUSA is constantly exploring new options for our cookies to ensure we continue to make great-tasting cookies that also have as little impact on our environment as possible.
- Our council will be selling the following cookies in 2015: Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Do-Si-Dos, Savannah Smiles, Trefoils, Rah Rah Raisin (New), and Toffee-Tastic (New & Gluten Free).
- We support sustainability in the palm oil industry.
- GSUSA 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.
- At the current time, there are genetically modified agricultural crops (GMOs) in Girl Scout Cookies. It is important to note that there is worldwide scientific support for the safety of currently commercialized ingredients derived from genetically modified agricultural crops.

Digital Cookie and Cost of Girl Scout Cookies

- Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma is NOT participating in Digital Cookie, the online pilot for Girl Scout Cookie Sales. We will continue to discuss and evaluate the program for the future with our members and supporters.
- In 2015, Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma will increase the sale price of our cookies from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per box (\$5.00 for Toffee-Tastic). This increase is due to the rising cost of goods, distribution and for the benefit of the Girl Scout program.
- We are one of the last councils to increase the cost of cookies to \$4.00 or more per box. In fact, our last cookie price increase was nine years ago.

The Outdoors Will Always Be a Part of Girl Scouts

- The notion that the outdoors has been sidelined by other programs is simply not true—not a single council has stopped offering outdoor experiences as part of what it offers girls.
- We will never eliminate the outdoors from our program, which has served girls well for more than 100 years. The outdoors and environmental stewardship is part of our brand and gives us a competitive edge in serving girls.
- The overall outdoor experience of trying fun new activities with friends and participating in beloved traditions like sing-alongs has remained the same.
- One of many ways that Girl Scouts enjoy the outdoors is at camp. Today's camps reflect and honor girls' ever-growing opportunities in our society as well as what girls are requesting.
- Over the past several months, delegates who have been elected by their councils were asked to gather their council's input—from girls, volunteers, staff, etc.—about the importance of the outdoors in Girl Scouts. As a part of the National Council Session, delegates will discuss this topic. This discussion will inform the development of the Girl Scouts' long-term outdoor strategy, which we aim to unveil next year.

Girl Scouts and Council Properties

- Local councils make decisions about their strategic property goals, including camps. GSUSA does not make property decisions for councils, but provides councils with tools to develop sound, sustainable property strategies.
- At times, a council's long-term strategy requires the sale of a property. When this happens, we understand that it may be difficult for our members who have positive memories of that property. However, we believe strongly that together we can continue to create wonderful outdoor experiences for today's girls through a different mix of properties.

Girl Scouts and Faith

- Girl Scouts encourages girls to develop connections to their own spiritual and religious beliefs by earning recognitions offered by their faith-based communities and by earning the My Promise, My Faith pin, which helps a girl deepen the connection between the Girl Scout Law and her faith. We support the right of faith leaders to verify that the program delivered to girls in their places of worship is consistent with their faith's teachings.
- Girl Scouts supports girls from all backgrounds and beliefs. We believe that the motivating force in Girl Scouting can be a spiritual one, and we greatly value our longstanding partnerships with religious organizations across many faiths that share the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Liberalization of Girl Scouts

- Girl Scouts is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization. We have girls in every zip code representing every political, religious, economic, and ethnic background. The reason we have been able to serve so many millions of girls over the past 102 years is by staying true to our core beliefs and values and by not taking a stand on political issues. Building girls' leadership skills is a nonpartisan, nonpolitical agenda.

Alleged Ties to Planned Parenthood

- GSUSA does not have a relationship or partnership with Planned Parenthood.

Girl Scouts and Human Sexuality, Birth Control, and Abortion

- GSUSA does not take a position or develop materials on these issues. We feel our role is to help girls develop self-confidence and good decision-making skills that will help them make wise choices in all areas of their lives.
- Parents or guardians make all decisions regarding participation in programs that may be of a sensitive nature. Consistent with that belief, GSUSA directs councils, including volunteer leaders, to get written parental permission for any locally planned program that could be considered sensitive.

Gender Identity

- GSUSA is an inclusive organization focused on delivering a leadership experience for all girls in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Acceptance of transgender youth is handled on a case-by-case basis, with our top priority being the welfare and best interests of the child and the members of the troop in question.

Reminder: Please refer any and all media inquiries or questions to Customer Care at info@gswestok.org or call toll free at 1.800.698.0022. Thank you!