

SAFETY FIRST:
How to Have Fun, Be Safe, and
Keep Girl Scout Cookie Season about the Girl Scouts!

Girl Scouts, one of the most visible and well-respected organizations in America, is sometimes unjustly criticized by fringe groups with a political agenda. There have been isolated reports of cookie sale boycotting, as well as some incidents of criminality, like theft. While Girl Scouts nationwide stand united in being undeterred by criminals or fringe groups, the safety of our girls and volunteers is priority number one. Harassment of any kind is intolerable.

Here are five key safety tips to ensure Girl Scouts and Girl Scout volunteers can sell cookies safely while having tons of fun!

- 1) **IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GIRLS:** The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the world's foremost entrepreneurial experience for girls. The Program equips girls with a lifetime of special skills, such as financial literacy, goal-making, and people skills. **This is not a political experience; Girl Scouts is proud to be a nonpartisan, inclusive organization.** If a Girl Scout Cookie sales place is being peacefully protested by politically motivated individuals, kindly remind these individuals that selling Girl Scout Cookies is about the girls: adult conversations remain between adults. If anyone's safety is compromised, volunteers are instructed to call the authorities. More aggressive protesting or harassment of any kind is simply intolerable.
- 2) **STAY VISIBLE:** Plan to have at least one Girl Scout and two adult volunteers at a cookie booth at all times. Many booths operate on the property of local businesses; Councils and adult volunteers are trained to coordinate with these businesses. Set-up your cookie booth in an open area and stay visible. Coordinate additional security as needed with the entity on whose property your cookie booth operates.
- 3) **BUDDIES UNITE:** Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors who participate in door-to-door sales must be supervised by an adult. Girls of all grade levels must always use the buddy system.
- 4) **KNOW THE FACTS:** Money due for sold products is collected when the products are delivered to the customer (or as directed by your Council). Girls will need to know whether they can accept checks and to whom customers should write checks—find out from your council staff. Reference the attached flyer if anyone attempts to distort the destination or use of Girl Scout Cookie Funds. One Hundred per cent of Girl Scout Cookie sales money stays at the local council, directly financing Girl Scout experiences, such as community service events and travel opportunities.
- 5) **HAVE FUN!:** As our most trusted brand ambassadors, girls love thinking of smart and creative ways to market their product and share their excitement. This is what Cookie Season is all about. Create colorful signs, write a catchy new slogan, and share your enthusiasm about Girl Scouts with your friends and neighbors! Encourage your Girl Scout to use her creativity, compassion, and enthusiasm to remind your respective community that Girl Scout Cookie Season is about one thing: **GIRLS!**