

## Girl Scout 2026 Cookie Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Changes made to the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program are based on Girl Scout, volunteer, and parent feedback and will be reviewed, reassessed, and adjusted accordingly each year. Our goal is simple—keep growing with our Girl Scout families and make each year even better than the last!

If you have any questions regarding these FAQs or other questions about the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program, please contact GSNI's Product Program Team at [cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org). We will continue to update these FAQs before and throughout the season as more valuable questions are asked!

### **Q: Are there allergy concerns for Exploremores?**

**A:** Exploremores contain almond flavoring, as well as peanut flour, wheat, soy, and milk and manufactured in a shared facility with tree nuts and eggs. Please review the [Cookie Ingredients and Food Allergen Guide \(Spanish\)](#) as well as the [2026 Girl Scout Cookie flyer \(Spanish\)](#) for cookie descriptions and nutritional information provided by Little Brownie Bakers.

### **Q: Will Exploremores be included on the order card?**

**A:** Yes, like the other eight varieties of cookies, Exploremores will be on the order card, available for both Girl Scout delivery and shipped Digital Cookie orders, and available in cookie cupboards for troops to sell at cookie booths!

### **Q: Will Girl Scouts be able to taste Exploremores before the program starts?**

**A:** Yes! Samples will be available to taste at the Explore Cookies & S'more events on Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at all GSNI Resource Centers. Exploremores will also be the cookie package all troops receive with their troop materials!

### **Q: Why does the cookie program happen during the coldest months?**

**A:** Selling in colder months can be challenging. Our Girl Scout Cookie Program continues to run during this time due to:

- **National Promotions:** The national Girl Scout Cookie Program, led by Girl Scouts of the USA, kicks off in January. Aligning with this national timeline allows us to take advantage of coordinated promotions and media coverage, helping to boost visibility and sales locally.
- **Digital Cookie Advantage:** While in-person booth sales may be affected by the cold, **Digital Cookie** provides a convenient, flexible way to sell without braving the weather.
- **Program Year Planning:** Starting the cookie program later—such as in March or April—would significantly shorten the timeline for distributing rewards and planning reward events before the Girl Scout year ends.
- **Warm Weather Trade-Offs:** While warmer months are more comfortable, they also come with scheduling conflicts like spring breaks, standardized testing, family vacations, and overlapping extracurriculars, all of which can limit participation and availability.

### **Q: Can volunteers receive the Initial Order t-shirt?**

**A:** The Initial Order reward t-shirt is just for Girl Scouts. The focus on rewards for 2026 was based on Girl Scout requests. The Product Program team will continue to review volunteer recognition items in the future.

### **Q: How does the Build Your Own Camping Kit reward work?**

**A:** GSNI will be using a new opportunity offered as a partnership between GSUSA and Amazon. GSNI will create a large list of camping items, and Girl Scouts will receive a shopping code for a set dollar amount and be able to “shop” for the camping items they want or need. The process is very similar to making any purchase on Amazon, and items will be shipped directly to the Girl Scout.

**Q: Why did the troop experience reward change to a troop membership reward?**

**A:** Families and volunteers told us membership costs were a concern. This change is designed to help reduce the financial burden on families, allowing many to only pay the original \$25 membership fee to continue their Girl Scout journey. This is our way of giving back and supporting our Girl Scout families by making it easier to stay involved and engaged.

**Q: Troop proceeds remain at \$0.95 per package. Why haven't they increased?**

**A:** The base proceeds were increased from \$0.85 to \$0.95 for the 2025 program year and introduced additional ways to earn more. These proceeds were updated opportunities for 2026:

- Troops can earn an additional \$.05/package in proceeds by participating and meeting requirements in both Fall Product and Girl Scout Cookie Programs.
- If, as a council, we meet a stretch goal of 1.125 million packages, troops can earn \$.05 more per package.

GSNI will continue to review and evaluate the possibility of an increase to troop proceeds for future programs as we balance rewards, proceeds, and program sustainability.

**Q: Why was the Super Seller-bration reward event reformatted?**

**A:** Based on feedback from our youth member survey, the reward at the 600+ package level was re-named to Cookie All-Stars and updated the experience. Many Girl Scouts expressed they were ready for something different than the traditional camp reward, and we listened! GSNI is committed to continuing to listen to what Girl Scouts want and evolving the program accordingly.

**Q: Why aren't Girl Scouts who opt out of rewards invited to attend Cookie All-Star?**

**A:** Girl Scouts who choose higher troop proceeds instead of rewards are making a different, but equally valuable, choice. Because the Cookie All-Star is a reward, Girl Scouts who opt out are not eligible to attend.

**Q: What happened to the Disney trip reward?**

**A:** Girl Scouts asked for something new! This year, the top reward level offers two exciting adventure choices (each including a trip, Crocs, and a Stanley cup). While Disney has been a popular reward for many years, feedback from our Girl Scouts showed they were ready for different experiences. These fresh options provide just as much fun while keeping the experience new.

**Q: I thought BFF-themed custom Crocs were included at the 3,500 package level?**

**A:** GSNI recently learned Crocs will be discontinuing the option to customize Crocs. Girl Scouts who achieve this package level will still get to choose a pair of Classic Clog Crocs along with their trip experience.

**Q: Why is Cookie Dough only offered at one level this year?**

**A:** This decision was based on the use of Cookie Dough over the past several years. At the same time, our youth member survey revealed many Girl Scouts were interested in different types of rewards, including more experiences, events, and wearables. This change to Cookie Dough ensures rewards are exciting, meaningful, and actually used.

**Q: How will troops know the Balance Due to Council for the final bank sweep?**

**A:** GSNI listened to troop frustrations regarding calculating what amount will be swept from troop bank accounts. For this year, only one sweep will occur at the end of the program on Tuesday, April 7. The amount due will now be displayed on the troop dashboard in eBudde. This amount will match the Sales Report tab with a full breakdown of calculations.

**Q: Sometimes our Girl Scouts get asked questions at cookie booths regarding palm oil. Does GSNI have resources for this?**

**A:** You have access to a [Sustainable Palm Oil Toolkit](#) developed by GSUSA. This is posted on the website and Rallyhood for volunteers to learn how to guide Girl Scouts to understand what it means to be a

global citizen who supports the use of sustainable palm oil. This is a long document but filled with valuable information.

If you were unable to join us for the early glimpse of What's New in 2026 Cookie Program presentations, please join the [Cookie Program Rallyhood](#) to view the recordings.

Update 9/17/2025

**Q: How can stories about Girl Scout and Troop achievements be shared?**

**A:** Sharing of any Girl Scout stories is encouraged anytime regarding the cookie program or any Girl Scouts experiences to [stories@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:stories@girlscoutsni.org).

The Blue Ribbon MVP program will be a new addition for 2026 Cookie Program where GSNI staff and Board members will be visiting cookie booths. This is a great time for Girl Scouts to share their favorite cookie stories. The staff and board members visiting the booths will also distribute a Blue Ribbon MVP patch to the Girl Scouts present at the cookie booth.