

# Cookie Booth Essentials

## How to Maximize Your Booth Experience, Interact with Customers, and Stay Safe



Cookie booths are a great place for Girl Scouts to leverage and grow their entrepreneurial skills. This opportunity comes with some important responsibilities.



Remember to follow all guidelines that your council sets, like approved and designated booth locations, as well as requirements for setting up, running, and taking down a booth.



Use this flyer for helpful tips on how to talk to customers about the cookie program, and how to navigate difficult situations that may come up.

## Booth Requirements

While at a cookie booth, make sure Girl Scouts wear their uniforms, other Girl Scout-branded clothing, or their membership pin to clearly identify themselves as Girl Scouts. It's a great way to show your Girl Scout pride!

- All booth sales must take place in a designated, council-approved area.
- Booths should not block a store entrance or exit.
- Make sure there is adequate space for a table for the cookies to be on display, and the participating Girl Scout. Ensure that pedestrians, bikes, and cars can safely pass by.
- Always have a first-aid kit available at the booth.
- Have approved volunteers/adults present at a booth at all times.



## Tips for Safeguarding Cookie Money

- After receiving cash and making change, Girl Scouts should hand the money to a volunteer for safekeeping and to deposit into the cash box as soon as possible.
- Keep the cash box in a safe place or behind a barrier of cookie packages.
- Don't walk around with large amounts of money.
- Bank cookie money often and do not keep money at home or at school.
- Reduce cash transactions by offering credit card payment options whenever possible.

Have an amazing cookie season and get ready to reach your goals!

## "What If?" Scenarios

### What if someone asks you, "What's the difference between Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts?"

- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are two completely different organizations.
- Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world! And research shows there's no better place to discover their full potential.
- Talk to cookie customers about what the Girl Scout experience has been like for you and your troop.

**PRO TIP: Stay positive. Don't put other organizations down. Just lift Girl Scouts up!**

### What if you're approached by an angry customer or someone makes you uncomfortable?

- Try to get a good look at the person in case you need to describe them to security or the police.
- If the situation calls for it, call 911 and alert security.
- If it feels safe to do so, we want you to feel empowered to capture the person with your smartphone's video, photo, or audio recording to provide evidence to police.

**PRO TIP: Never argue or negatively engage with a customer. Try to stay calm.**

### What if someone steals money or cookies from the booth?

- Try to get a good look at the offender so you can describe them to security or the police.
- Call 911, and alert security (if applicable).
- Report any incidents to your council according to its guidelines.

**PRO TIP: Never attempt to physically recover stolen items or confront a suspect.**

### What if a customer complains about where the cookie proceeds go?

You can say, "Girl Scout Cookie proceeds stay local to power amazing adventures and life-changing opportunities for girls, such as STEM activities, trips, community projects, and charitable donations. The more cookies you buy, the more you help troops and Girl Scouts gain the skills needed to take on the world!"

**PRO TIP: Always practice good listening skills before replying. Do not engage with someone if the situation escalates.**

### What if someone asks why Girl Scouts use palm oil in their cookies?

- Palm oil is an ingredient found in most baked snacks sold in the U.S.
- Palm oil ensures shelf life and serves as an alternative to trans fats.
- We continue to explore alternatives, but there are no viable or readily available alternatives at this time.
- Girl Scouts of the USA is a member of RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) which supports efforts to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil products.

**PRO TIP: If someone is asking questions that you can't answer, feel free to direct them to the Girl Scouts website for more info.**