



Invitation to Cover

Girl Scout Cookie season happens only once a year—and the 2026 cookie season has arrived. For more than 100 years, Girl Scouts and their enthusiastic supporters have helped ensure the success of the iconic annual Girl Scout Cookie Program, the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world. Throughout the program, Girl Scouts develop valuable life skills and make their communities a better place every step of the way. Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast will kick off the season with door-to-door sales on Friday, January 9, 2026, with booth sales to follow beginning on Sunday, February 22, 2026.



2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program® Highlights

Program Begins: January 9

National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend: February 20-22

Count n' Go: February 21

Cookie Booths and Start: February 22

Program Ends: March 29



Theme/Mascot info

The 2026 Cookie Program theme is “Brave, Fierce, Fun!” and the Cookie program animal mascot is the Black Footed Ferret! She’s Girl Scouts’ new BFF (Best Friend Ferret). Each year, an endangered or at-risk species is spotlighted to raise awareness about conservation.



Exploremore

Exploremore™, a rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie, will join the legendary lineup for the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season. Filled with delicious flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond-flavored crème, Exploremore reflect the spirit of exploration at the heart of every Girl Scout. In addition to the exciting new cookie, the 2026 cookie lineup will still include fan favorites such as Adventurefuls®, Do-si-dos®, Lemon-Ups®, Samoas®, Tagalongs®, Thin Mints®, Toffee-tastic®, and Trefoils®

Cookie Proceeds

The Girl Scout Cookie Program® provides invaluable entrepreneurial skills for Girl Scouts across the country and funds experiences such as service projects, troop travel, and summer camp. Each cookie season, Girl Scouts develop important life skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. All proceeds from cookie sales stay with local councils and troops to power Girl Scouts’ amazing experiences year-round.

How to Purchase Girl Scout Cookies This Year

If you know a Girl Scout, reach out to her. If you don’t know a Girl Scout, visit gsgccc.org or use the Girl Scout Cookie Finder by entering your zip code. There you can find a troop selling at a nearby booth, or you can purchase cookies to be shipped directly to you from troops nationwide. This link can also be used to find a local booth, purchase cookies, and/or to donate cookies for local community causes. You can also text COOKIES to 59618 to stay informed about Girl Scout Cookie news.



Donate Cookies: Gift of Caring

Give cookies to a friend, enjoy them yourself, or donate them to a local cause—every bite counts and all proceeds stay local! Through Gift of Caring, customers may purchase one or more boxes of Girl Scout Cookies and donate them to a special cause—while supporting Girl Scouts! GSCCC proudly supports the USO as the Council-sponsored Gift of Caring charity. (Although girls are encouraged to designate their Gift of Caring cookies to the Council-sponsored charity, they can select any organization of their choice.) GSCCC delivers donated cookies to the USO who will then distribute them to an active duty military or domestic veteran audience.



Girls will earn their Gift of Caring patch by selling thirty-six donated boxes!



Girl Scout Cookies at Work

All the proceeds from the Girl Scout Cookie Program stay local. Proceeds help reach Girl Scouts in underserved areas and maintain camps and properties. Girl Scouts pool their money as a troop and use their proceeds to fuel adventures throughout the year—like STEM, outdoor experiences, travel, and community projects. Did you know that the Girl Scout Fall Product Program can help fuel awesome troop adventures?



Girl Scout Troop 4047 finishing the Eastern Bluebird boxes.



Girl Scout Junior Emmalin with completed cat scratchers.

Girl Scout Juniors from Troop 4047 used some of their Cookie Program proceeds to help address the diminishing habitat of the Eastern Bluebird. They researched the issue and then worked with a Virginia Master Naturalists to build, install and maintain Bluebird boxes in their area. They included this project as part of earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest award for a Girl Scout Junior.

Girl Scout Junior Emmalin earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award by repurposing Girl Scout Cookie boxes into something useful for our furry friends in need. Emmalin decided to recycle cardboard cookie boxes to create cat scratchers for Virginia Beach SPCA. She collected cardboard cookie boxes throughout the course of her cookie season to use in her scratchers. We love this project because she is enriching the lives of animals in the care of Virginia Beach Animal Services while also keeping recyclable materials out of landfills. Way to go, Girl Scout!

Girl Scout Cookie Program's Five Skills

- Goal Setting:** Girls set sales goals and create a plan to reach them. This matters because girls need to know how to set and reach goals to succeed in school, on the job and in life.
- Decision Making:** Girls decide when and where to sell, how to market their sales, and what to do with earnings. Girls need to know how to make smart decisions throughout their lives.
- Money Management:** Girls develop a budget, take orders and handle customers' money. Whether it's an allowance or a paycheck, girls need to know how to manage money.
- People Skills:** Girls learn how to talk (and listen!) to their customers, as well as how to work as a team. This matters because it helps them do better in school and, later, at work.
- Business Ethics:** Girls act honestly and responsibly during every step of the Cookie Program. This matters because employers want to hire ethical employees and leaders in all fields.





Little Brownie Bakers clipart, photos and resources available for download.

Photographs: Photos of cookies, cookie boxes, theme clipart, logos and images of girls selling cookies are available for free download at www.littlebrownie.com/clipart.

Videos: Thirty and 60 second public service announcements are available at www.youtube.com/girlscoutvideos

Recipes: From S'mores® Campfire Cupcakes to Do-si-dos® Peanut Thai Chicken, you can find tasty and creative recipes at www.littlebrownie.com/cookies.



Adventurefuls® Cowboy Beans

Ready in 90 minutes
Makes 6 servings

Ingredients

6 Adventurefuls®, crushed
1/2 lb. ground beef
1/2 lb. raw bacon, diced
1 small onion, diced
1 can pinto beans (16 oz.)
1 can red kidney beans (16 oz.)
1 can white kidney beans (16 oz.)
1/4 cup ketchup
1/2 teaspoon dried mustard
2 tablespoons molasses

Equipment

Small mixing bowl
Mixing spoon
3-quart saucepan
Spatula
Oven safe dish

1. Cook the meat:

In a 3-quart saucepan, brown ground beef, bacon, and onions. Do not drain.

2. Add in all the beans:

Drain the beans and save liquid in a small bowl. Stir in the beans to browned ground beef.

3. Spice it up:

Stir together the crushed Adventurefuls, ketchup, dried mustard, molasses and a half cup of the reserved bean juice in a separate small bowl. Once combined, add to the rest of the mixture in the sauce pan. Bring to a simmer.

4. Bake:

Move contents from the saucepan to an oven safe dish. Bake at 350° for 1 hour, checking every 15 minutes. If beans appear too dry, add more bean juice (1/4 cup at a time). Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly before serving.



Thin Mints® Brownies

Ready in 55 minutes
Makes 6 servings

Ingredients

1/2 box of crushed Thin Mints®
1 box brownie mix
2 eggs (3 eggs for cake-like brownies)
1/4 cup of water
1/2 cup of vegetable oil

Equipment

Large mixing bowl
Mixing spoon
13" x 9" x 2" baking pan

1. Make the batter:

Crush Thin Mints into medium size chunks. Mix all ingredients into mixing bowl. Do not use electric mixer — batter will be stiff.

2. Bake:

Spread batter evenly in greased baking pan (13" x 9" x 2"). Bake in center of oven at 350° for 30 to 35 minutes.

3. Serve:

Allow to cool before cutting. Serve with mint-flavored tea.

History of Girl Scout Cookie Program... a Treasured Tradition!

It all started in 1917 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The cookies were personally baked by the Mistletoe Troop and sold in their school cafeteria as a service project. The profits were used to send gifts to doughboys fighting in World War I. A statue of a Girl Scout stands at the entrance to the Three Rivers Museum in Muskogee to commemorate this historical event.

As Girl Scout troops across the country contemplated ways to raise funds, the bake sale concept became more prevalent. In July, 1922, The American Girl magazine published a recipe that was being used by troops in Chicago—a simple sugar cookie.

So, how did the Girl Scout cookie sale go from the girls' kitchens to having commercial bakers? It all started in 1934, when the Greater Philadelphia Council contacted the Keebler-Weyl Company, requesting their assistance. The company agreed to bake and package vanilla Girl Scout Cookies in the trefoil shape. Thus, the first council-wide sale of commercially baked cookies was initiated. Other nearby councils were impressed with the success of the Greater Philadelphia council and requested to be included in the bakery orders. Hence, Keebler-Weyl was the first commercial company to bake the cookies and became the official baker of Girl Scout Cookies.

Because the cookie sale was becoming so profitable for Girl Scouts, it went national in 1936. Girl Scouts of USA (GSUSA) began licensing commercial bakers in all parts of the country to make sure that Girl Scout cookies could be found in every corner of the U.S.

By 1937 more than 125 Girl Scout councils were holding cookie sales. The licensing of bakers continued to grow, and at one time there were 29 bakers. Burry became the largest supplier in the nation during the 1960's. In 1980 it became Burry-Lu and was later purchased by ABC Bakers of Richmond, Virginia in 1989. Today, there are only two official licensed bakeries, Little Brownie Bakers and ABC Bakers.



2026 Cookie Classic Run!

Sign up now for the 12th Annual Cookie Classic
Saturday, January 17, 2026
Chesapeake's Dismal Swamp Canal Trail
Registration is open, sign up today!

The Cookie Classic Run is a celebration of Girl Scouts, Girl Scout families, and all who support the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place!

We welcome runners of all abilities to join us for this family-friendly event as we launch the 2026 cookie season and as runners kick off their 2026 race season. All distances are out and back, on the flat and fast asphalt at Chesapeake's Dismal Swamp Canal Trail. Participants will receive T-shirts, goodie bags and more! 5K and 10K finishers will receive a medal and a special gift.

Categories:

- Samoa Stroll 1 Miler
- Trefoil Trek 5K
- Tagalong 10k
- Do-Si-Don't Show - Virtual 5k

What's in store at the Cookie Classic:

- Finisher Festival-Cookie sampling included!
- Day before race packet pick-up (free)
- Day of event race packet pick-up (free)
- Event patch for registered 1 Miler finishers
- Event medal for registered 5k and 10k finishers
- Event finisher gift(s)
- Age and gender place awards for 5k and 10k
- Chipped timing for all registrants

