



The 2026

Community/Area Cookie Notebook

Your Handy-Dandy *Sidekick* for the Cookie Season

As the Community or Area Cookie Product Leader, you'll be:



THE TRAINER

After first receiving training from Girl Scouts River Valleys, you'll use the Troop Training Toolkit to determine the training option (virtual and in-person) that works best for how you want to deliver training to your troops. Training is crucial as it ensures your troops are ready to take on the cookie season.



THE RESOURCE

For troops, you are the information source for all things cookies—from distributing key program materials, to directing them to helpful resources.



THE HELPER

Assist with and respond to troops who have issues or concerns—like too many cookies or finance problems, and try to be proactive. New troops will especially need the extra support.



THE COOKIE CHAMPION

The cookie season is a joyous, but sometimes hectic, time of year. You are the troops' #1 cookie supporter, so take time to re-energize them throughout the sale.



Scan the **QR Code** with a
mobile device or visit us online at
GirlScoutsRV.org/CookieCentral
to access our hub for all
things cookies!

WELCOME TO THE COOKIE SEASON

Thank you for being a vital part of preparing your local troops and supporting them through the annual Cookie Program.



As you provide stellar support, we're committed to ensuring volunteers and Girl Scouts have what they need for success — clear communication, strong resources, and access to the cookies that fuel their goals. There is a place for everyone in our Cookie Program from that Daisy making their very first sale to the Ambassador wrapping up their final cookie booth.

We'll provide more information and resources you need for your role online, in your email, or delivered to your door. Remember, we're here to support you every step of the way--cheering for your successes and offering help whenever needed. Together, we'll help Girl Scouts gain confidence, learn life skills and unbox the future, one package at a time.

Yours in Girl Scouting,
The Girl Scouts River Valleys Product Program Team

COOKIE VARIETIES

ABC Bakers, Girl Scouts River Valleys baker-partner for the season, offers nine cookie varieties for customers to choose from: the new Exploremores, Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Adventurefuls, Lemonades, Trefoils, Peanut Butter Sandwich, and the gluten-free Caramel Chocolate Chip. All cookie varieties are \$6 per package.

Note: Troops are financially responsible for all inventory picked up from the initial order and/or cookie cupboards. Cookies can be picked up by the case or package at cookie cupboards. Damaged cookie packages can be exchanged for non-damaged packages of the same variety at a cookie cupboard.

COOKIE HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2026

Are you ready for it? It's time for a BFF: bold, fierce, fun season (it's our theme after-all)! We've mixed up a recipe of confidence-building, fun-having, and a big dose of opportunity for both volunteers and Girl Scouts. View more details in the online Community/Area and Troop Cookie Manager Guidebooks. Here are the highlights:



Meet Kit the Black-Footed Ferret! The black footed ferret is the only ferret species native to North America. They are most active at night and live underground. Thought to be extinct, but in 1981 a few were found in Wyoming. Today over 400 live in the wild in the grasslands of the plains. We are ferret-ly certain our rewards line up is packed with mascot items that Girl Scouts are sure to adore.



A new cookie! I scream, you scream, we all scream for the new Exploremores. This rocky-road ice cream inspired cookie is sure to be a hit with customers.



Digital Cookie Enhancements: An easier way to share sales links by text or social for Girl Scouts, improved booth sales reporting and offline sales entry, plus enhanced inventory & financial views are just a few of the updates for the Digital Cookie experience this season.



Enhanced Troop Training Options: We're offering live, virtual cookie training sessions on Zoom for both new and returning troop volunteers. These sessions will cover the latest program updates, answer questions, and help volunteers feel confident managing through the cookie season.



Digital Cookie Mobile App Improvement Alert: Users will experience clearer cookie booth naming conventions and can opt-in for push notifications. Plus an improved and faster process for accepting credit card, Venmo, or PayPal for in-person sales. Girl Scouts River Valleys will continue to cover the fees for all that use Digital Cookie and the mobile app to process customer payments.



Digital Cookie Shipping Promotion: We heard you: shipping promotions are a hit! Watch for details on the 2026 shipping promotion and dates in The Cookie Press. View the shipping rate information on Cookie Central.



New patch programs & rewards: This season brings fresh ways to celebrate and give back! Support Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release through our LemonAID philanthropic program, and showcase your Girl Scout's business savvy with the B2B (business to business) patch program. Check out the cookie reward flyer and Cookie Central for all the details.



Online cookie system updates & support: Make a transfer error? No problem! Troop volunteers can now delete troop-to-girl and girl-to-troop transfers in Smart Cookies. Need help using the Smart Cookies platform after hours or weekends? Email ABCSmartCookieTechSupport@makerspride.com or call 855-444-6682. Digital Cookie also features Contact Us and Help links along with a virtual assistant to direct families, volunteers, or customers to FAQ's or customer service staff for answers to cookie order questions. River Valleys staff is also available to answer your cookie systems questions all season long.

COOKIE RESOURCES

Cookie Central: Your online one-stop hub for all things cookies! Scan the QR code on the cover with your mobile device's camera or visit GirlScoutsRV.org and click on the Caramel deLite cookie on the top of the page. Access online resources such as your Community/Area Product Leader Guidebook, Troop Cookie Manager Guidebook, Online Cookie Systems Guide (for Smart Cookies and Digital Cookie), cookie cupboard information, online training, printable resources, and more.

Smart Cookies (abcsmartcookies.com): The online system volunteers use to manage the Cookie Program. Smart Cookies is used to order and transfer cookies, track progress, run reports, and order rewards. You'll receive an email with a link to set up and register your account in mid-December. Step-by-step instructions and helpful videos can be found in the Online Cookie Systems Guide on Cookie Central.

Digital Cookie (digitalcookie.girlscouts.org): Digital Cookie is the online platform that allows Girl Scouts to sell cookies digitally. After setting up personalized online storefronts, they can take cookie orders, track sales, and offer direct shipping or local delivery to customers. Girl Scouts will use the Digital Cookie mobile app to take credit card/Venmo/Paypal payments at a booth or for other in-person sales.

Troop volunteers will receive an email in early-January to set up their account for the season. After setting up their site, they can use the Digital Cookie mobile app to take booth credit card/Venmo/Paypal payments. Troops can also set up their shipped-only cookie link, booth pickup link, monitor online sales, send cheers to troop members, and more. Community/Area volunteers have the option to access the site to monitor troop online activity.

Girl Scout caregivers will receive an email to register their account on February 11. Cookie Central will feature tip sheets, videos, and support resources for both volunteers and families.

The Cookie Press: A must-read during the cookie season! A weekly e-newsletter sent to your email and found online at Cookie Central for cookie volunteers. The Cookie Press includes helpful tips and reminders all season long.

Looker: Community and Area volunteers use this online tool to access real-time membership data. For instructions on using Looker, visit GirlScoutsRV.org and search for "Looker" using the search bar.

Cookie materials: You'll distribute items to each participating troop after they arrive in late December. Items include: cookie order cards, rewards flyers, receipt booklets, Cookie Booth Kits, copies of the Troop Cookie Companion, and Family Guides. You'll also receive Exploremores packages for each troop (one per troop).

COOKIE PROCEEDS

For the 2026 cookie season, **all troops will earn \$1.00 per package in proceeds**. Senior and Ambassador troops can choose to opt out of rewards and receive an additional \$.05 per package by emailing girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org by April 1, 2026. Opt-out troops will still receive Cookie Program patches. Communities will also have the opportunity to earn proceeds by meeting sales targets. Watch for more details in your inbox.

COMMUNITY/AREA PRODUCT LEADER TRAINING

477 Community Product Leader Basics: A series of gsLearn modules that are geared towards new Community-level volunteers navigating their first year. Complete these modules before attending our annual virtual Community Cookie Volunteer training.

Virtual Community Cookie Volunteer Training: A live webinar in Zoom hosted by River Valleys staff offering up to date information related to your role and a chance to connect with others sharing your role across the council. This year, sessions will be held December 4-8. Need the registration info? Email girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org. An online training in gsLearn will be available for those unable to attend a session.

MANAGING INVENTORY WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY

Just as troops transfer cookies among families, Communities are expected to assist in transferring cookies between troops. Use options like a private Facebook group, Rallyhood, a shared Google doc, or even a text/email chain. Troops can also use the River Valleys Cookie Swaps in Rallyhood to transfer to sister troops outside your Community. Encourage your troops to read and follow the inventory management tips found in the online Troop Cookie Manager Guidebook.

COOKIE PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

We know flexibility and options are important when it comes to participating in this iconic program. There are options to fit the needs and comfort-level of every Girl Scout and troop, whether it's in-person or online, they have cookies on hand or choose to pick up inventory as needed. Direct volunteers to the Troop Cookie Manager Guidebook to view the many ways to sell. Team with troops to brainstorm even more ways to help Girl Scouts grow their people skills, set goals, and learn how to overcome challenges when things don't go as planned.

COMMUNITY COOKIE RALLIES

Hosting a Cookie Rally gives Girl Scouts the chance to get pumped up for the season and sharpen their sales skills. Work with troop leaders to host a local rally, or encourage them to join the free virtual rally offered by Girl Scouts River Valleys in early February.

SUPPORTING JULIETTE GIRL SCOUTS

Email notifications will be sent to you when a new Juliette joins your Community. Connect with the Juliette Mentor to provide materials, training, and support. Juliettes will be mailed encoded deposit slips to deposit any cash/check cookie payments into the River Valleys Wells Fargo account. Instead of troop proceeds, they receive Juliette Program Credits on a card, mailed to their address after the season. The credits earned are based on a range of packages sold. Contact the Product Program Team for any additional guidance on working with Juliettes.

COMMUNITY PRODUCT LEADER CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to ensure you're on track with completing tasks before, during, and after the sale.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM: NOW–EARLY FEBRUARY

- ☐ December 4-8: Attend one of the virtual Community Cookie Volunteer Training Sessions. Communities need at least one person trained to qualify for their Community proceeds by February 1.
- ☐ Review the online Community/Area Cookie Product Leader Guidebook and Troop Cookie Manager Guidebook to learn about your role and the troop responsibilities.
- ☐ Engage with (see suggestions on next page) and offer guidance to volunteers in your Community.
- ☐ By December 21: Complete order for Cookie Rally supplies (if applicable).
- ☐ Inform troops of their training options and distribute sales materials. Refer to Cookie Central for resources to hold an in-person or virtual training, or direct troops to complete River Valleys training.
- ☐ Week of December 29: Receive the cookie materials shipment.
- ☐ By February 1: Verify all troop cookie managers have completed the online Troop Cookie Responsibility Form. You will receive an email notification when a volunteer has completed their form.
- ☐ January through Cookie Go Day: Inform troops of Cookie Rally opportunities (including a council-sponsored rally) to get girls excited and prepared for the season.

DURING THE PROGRAM: FEBRUARY 20–MARCH 29

- ☐ Communicate with troops to see if any have on-hand cookie inventory issues—too many or too few—and help them get connected using tools such as Rallyhood, a Community Facebook group, a text group, or a shared Google Doc.
- ☐ Keep up the cookie spirit by offering support, sharing helpful tips, and inspiring stories of girls accomplishing awesome things through the power of cookies.
- ☐ Read The Cookie Press e-newsletter for important updates for your role and to reinforce with troops.

AFTER THE PROGRAM: MARCH 30–JUNE 12

- ☐ By April 7: Make reward choices for any troops that missed their reward deadline.
- ☐ Week of May 18: Receive the reward shipment and distribute to troops.
- ☐ By June 12: Report any reward shipment miscounts to River Valleys.
- ☐ Complete the 2026 Cookie Program survey.

NOTES

REACHING OUT TO TROOPS

1. Use Looker to run a troop roster report, which will provide you with a list of troop volunteer emails and phone numbers.
2. Send a message to your volunteers 1) introducing yourself 2) providing them with your preferred contact info, and 3) offering to answer any immediate cookie-related questions. Recommended methods:
 - **EMAIL:** Send an email through Smart Cookies.
 - **RALLYHOOD:** Post a message in the Troop Cookie Manager Rally.
 - **SOCIAL:** Post on a Community social media account.

2026 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SEASON

KEY DATES*

Cookie booth lottery open for selections	January 14
Cookie booth lottery runs in Smart Cookies	January 18
Cookie booth first-come, first-served sign-up begins in Smart Cookies	January 21
Troop initial order entry due in Smart Cookies	January 23
Community initial order entry due in Smart Cookies	January 24
Online sales and pre-sales begin	February 11
Initial order delivery dates	February 12-19
Cookie & Booth Go Day	February 20
Cookie Cupboards open	February 20-March 29
First ACH withdrawal from troop bank account	March 20
Cookie Program ends	March 29
Troop reward order entry due in Smart Cookies. Finance/Inventory Issue Forms Due (if applicable)	April 6
Community reward order entry due in Smart Cookies	April 7
Final ACH withdrawal from troop bank account	May 1
Rewards shipped to Communities	Week of May 18

GOT QUESTIONS? GIRL SCOUTS RIVER VALLEYS IS HERE TO HELP.

Call: 800-845-0787 | Email: girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org

Online: Search for Cookie Central at [GirlScoutsRV.org](https://www.girlscoutsrv.org)
or use the QR code to be automatically directed

Social: To connect with other volunteers on Facebook, search
“Girl Scouts River Valleys Community Product Program Volunteers”

Rallyhood: Council Wide Community Product Leaders-GSRV

**All dates subject to change, refer to Cookie Central and The Cookie Press for the most current information.*