

THE 2026

girl scouts
river valleys

Troop Cookie Companion

YOUR HANDY-DANDY SIDEKICK
FOR THE COOKIE SEASON

**AS THE TROOP
COOKIE MANAGER,
YOU'LL LEAD THE
WAY TO:**

EMPOWER YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Let Girl Scouts take an active role in decisions.

CHOOSE THEIR PATHWAY

Ensure all Girl Scouts and their families know about the flexible and customizable cookie participation options.

INFORM AND CONNECT

Provide families with the resources and cookie deadlines they need to stay on track.

PROMOTE COLLABORATION

Sharing cookie duties across the troop is important from scheduling cookie booths to picking up inventory, more hands means less work.

CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Recognize milestones and keep the troop motivated and proud of their growth and success.

LIVE THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE & LAW IN ALL YOU DO!



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 and supporting your troop's Girl Scouts and caregivers along the journey that is the annual Cookie Program.

While you provide that stellar support, our commitment to you is to ensure our volunteers and Girl Scouts have what they need for a successful season: timely and clear communications, resources, and of course, access to the cookies needed to reach their goals.

Use this Troop Cookie Companion to view a handy checklist, a cookie calendar, and key highlights for 2026. We'll provide more information and resources for your role online, in your email, or through supplies provided by your Community Product Leader.

Don't forget, your Community Product Leader and our team are here to guide you throughout the way. We're grateful to team up with you to make the 2026 cookie season a rewarding experience for your troop.

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.

CONFIDENCE. CHOCOLATE. CARAMEL. THE WHOLE PACKAGE.

When customers buy cookies, they're helping to fund ambitions for Girl Scouts that expand their worlds and help them learn, what we call, the five essential skills: goal setting, money management, business ethics, decision-making, and people skills. All proceeds stay local, which means that after the cost of baking the cookies and program logistics, 79% of the cost of each package is reinvested in River Valleys Girl Scouts.

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 Troop Cookie Manager Guidebook and on Cookie Central. **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 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. All troops that place an initial cookie order will receive the 2026 Exploremores year bar patch for each girl selling.



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



Digital Cookie Mobile App Improvement Alert: Users will experience clearer cookie booth naming conventions and can opt-in for push notifications. Along with credit card, Venmo, & PayPal payment options, troops and Girl Scouts can also track cash sales in the mobile app. Girl Scouts River Valleys will continue to cover the fees for all that use Digital Cookie and the mobile app to process customer payments.



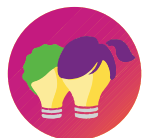
Enhanced Troop Training Options: We're offering live, virtual cookie training sessions on Zoom for both new and returning troop volunteers. Connect with your Community Product Leader to learn about local training options.



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. Remember, River Valleys staff is available to answer your cookie systems questions all season long.

COOKIE RESOURCES



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



Smart Cookies (abcsmartcookies.com): The online system that helps volunteers manage the Cookie Program. With Smart Cookies, you can 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 for the upcoming cookie season. 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 delivery options to customers. Girl Scouts will use the Digital Cookie mobile app to take credit card and Venmo/PayPal payments at a booth or for other in-person sales.

As a troop cookie volunteer, you will access Digital Cookie to: set up the troop site to accept credit card/Venmo/PayPal payments at cookie booths, set up the troop-shipped only link to be included in the national Cookie Finder, monitor online sales, and more. You'll receive an email with a link to register your Digital Cookie account in early-January. Girl Scout caregivers will receive an email to register their account on February 11. We'll feature a full toolkit of tip sheets, training videos, and support resources on Cookie Central.

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

River Valleys Cookie Calculator (www.cookiecalculator.org): Visit this online tool to get your recommendation on how many cookies to order for your troop's initial cookie order.

Cookie materials: Your Community Product Leader will provide you with your printed materials and a package of cookies to sample. Of these, you'll keep the receipt booklets, the Cookie Booth Kit, and a sample package of Exploremores. You'll give the other items to each Girl Scout in the troop. These items include: a cookie order card, girl rewards flyer, and a Family Guide.



COOKIE PROCEEDS

For the 2026 cookie season, **all troops will earn \$1.00 per package in proceeds.**

Senior and Ambassador troops can opt-out of girl rewards and receive an additional \$.05 per package by emailing girlscouts@girlscoutsvr.org by April 1, 2026. Opt-out troops will still receive Cookie Program patches. Instead of troop proceeds, Juliette Girl Scouts (individually registered members) earn Juliette Program Credits, which are earned based on a range of packages sold. Juliette Mentors will receive an email from River Valleys with additional details.

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, choose to pick up inventory as needed, or all of the above. Check out the many ways to sell in the online Troop Cookie Manager Guidebook. You can also team with your Girl Scouts to brainstorm even more ways to help grow their people skills, set goals, and learn how to overcome challenges when things don't go as planned.

SETTING GOALS

Girl Scouts and troops set cookie sales goals and create a plan to reach them. Knowing how to set and reach goals is vital to succeed in school, on the job, and in life. Sharing these goals inspires customers to give their support. Here are a few tips for goal setting:

TROOP GOALS

- Invite the troop to brainstorm what they want to do with their cookie proceeds. What would that cost? How many cookies will they need to sell to make it happen? Once they have a goal, discuss what they need to do to reach it. Share progress towards the goal through the sale to keep them motivated.
 - Returning troops: Review your 2025 sales or use the recommendations at cookiecalculator.org. Discuss with your troop how they would like to adjust their goal for this season.
 - New troops: Use cookiecalculator.org to review a recommendation based on your troop's Girl Scout grade level (Daisies, Brownies, etc.). Questions? Connect with your Community Product Leader for advice.

GIRL SCOUT GOALS

- Discuss individual goals with each member of your troop. Do they feel the goal is achievable? How do they plan to reach the goal? What skills do they hope to grow and develop?
 - Did they participate last year? Share the sales information from last year. Do they have a reward level they're motivated to achieve? Reflect on experiences selling in the previous season and how things may be different this season, and get a feel for the family's comfort level.
 - Are they new to cookies? What are the ways they feel comfortable selling? Are they aware of the cookie rewards and want to earn certain items?
- Include parents/guardians! Do they agree with the goal? Is it realistic? The Family Cookie Business Meeting (read more in the online guidebook) is the time to ensure families are on board with both the Girl Scout and troop goals.

INITIAL ORDER REWARD

Troops that place an initial cookie order will receive a 2026 Exploremores patch for each Girl Scout selling. These patches will arrive with the rest of the cookie rewards in mid-May to your Community Product Leader.

HOW TO GET COOKIES

There are three main ways that troops get cookies:

- Initial order: Placing an initial order ensures Girl Scouts have the cookies they need to start sales on February 20. Use our handy Cookie Calculator to help you determine the order that fits with how your troop plans to participate in cookie sales.
- Cookie Cupboards: Need cookies for booths or for additional sales? Visit a Cookie Cupboard for a restock. Cookies can be picked up by the case or package.
- From other troops: Troops that have too much inventory can connect with troops that need inventory. Connect with your Community Product Leader to learn about the tools your Community uses to move cookies. It's a great option to pick up cookies on days when cupboards are not open.

MANAGING THE COOKIES

Once you've picked up the cookies, it's important to keep tabs on your troop's inventory. Here's a few tips to assist with inventory management. Find more in the Troop Cookie Manager Guidebook:

- Provide receipts and verify the counts with families every time cookies or money are exchanged.
- Allocate cookies and any cash/check payments to Girl Scouts in Smart Cookies on a weekly basis. Checks can be made payable to Girl Scouts.
- Use the booth tally sheet to record inventory, financials, and participating Girl Scouts. Credit participants using the Smart Booth Divider in Smart Cookies each week.
- Verify cookie counts when picking up inventory from a cupboard or another troop. Review all transfers in Smart Cookies against your receipts.
- Promote Cookie Share! Collect monetary donations from customers to support your troop's organization of choice. Total your donations at the end of the sale and use leftover inventory to fulfill your donation orders.

If your troop has extra cookies, work with other troops in your Community or post your inventory in the Cookie Swap Rally in Rallyhood to connect with troops in neighboring areas. Your Community Product Leader is also available for tips on handling extra cookies.

HOW COOKIE MONEY WORKS

Your troop is financially responsible for cookies from the initial order, a cupboard, or another troop when picked up.

Girl Scouts receive cookies from the troop. You will transfer these cookies to the Girl Scouts in Smart Cookies. Families will collect payment from customers and then provide payment to the troop. When customer payments are processed through the Digital Cookie sales links or the Digital Cookie Mobile app, these payments are credited to the Girl Scouts and troop in Smart Cookies. After being provided with their initial cookie order, families must have 50% or more of the total money due turned in before being provided with more cookies. **Receipts must be provided for all cookie and money transactions.** Deposit cash and checks into the troop bank account on a weekly basis.

The payment for the cookies and council proceeds will be removed from the troop bank account in two ACH withdrawals-one during the sale and another a few weeks after the sale ends. Your Troop Balance Summary in Smart Cookies will give you a full overview of the troop inventory, proceeds, PGA, cookie transfers, and more. For Girl Scout Juliettes, the Juliette Mentor will be mailed deposit slips to use to deposit any cash/checks received directly into the River Valleys Wells Fargo account. This mailing will also include details on how cookie money works for Juliettes.

TROOP COOKIE MANAGER CHECKLIST

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

BEFORE THE SALE: NOW-MID FEBRUARY

- ☐ Receive Cookie Program materials from your Community Product Leader.
- ☐ Complete training as directed by your Community Product Leader.
- ☐ Watch for an email to register your Smart Cookies & Digital Cookie account for the season. Add noreply@abcsmartcookies.com & email@email.girlscouts.org to your safe senders list to ensure you receive the emails. Login to Smart Cookies and enter the number of girls selling under Troop Information. Verify or enter your troop's bank account information.
- ☐ Distribute cookie materials to Girl Scouts.
- ☐ Host a Family Cookie Business Meeting. Instruct all families to complete the online Family Cookie Responsibility Form.
- ☐ **Before January 18 at 11 AM:** Go to Smart Cookies and enter your booth selections (for troops participating in the cookie booth lottery).
- ☐ **Starting January 21:** Start signing up for additional cookie booths as part of a first-come, first-served process (if your troop is participating).
- ☐ **By January 23:** Go to Smart Cookies and submit the troop initial order. Select a delivery location/time if your troop is assigned to a Mega Drop delivery.
- ☐ Arrange for pickup of the troop's initial cookie order on your chosen delivery date.
 - o Count your initial order delivery once you get home and report miscounts to Girl Scouts River Valleys within 24 hours.
- ☐ **By February 1:** Complete the required online Troop Cookie Manager Responsibility Form.
- ☐ Set a cookie schedule. Let families know when orders are due and when cookies will be ready for pickup each week. Inform families of the date when all unsold cookies can be returned to the troop before the end of the sale.

DURING THE SALE: FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 29

- ☐ Read every edition of The Cookie Press for important updates for your role.
- ☐ Need additional cookies? Visit a cookie cupboard or place a planned order by the posted deadline (for troops that utilize a cupboard that requires planned orders, such as Regional cupboards).
- ☐ Monitor families' cookie inventory and be ready to arrange cookie transfers between Girl Scouts, if needed.
- ☐ Use Smart Cookies to manage troop inventory and distribute cookies to Girl Scouts. If your troop participates in booths, set up the Troop site in Digital Cookie, then download the mobile app to take in-person credit card/Venmo/Paypal payments.

AFTER THE SALE: MARCH 30-JUNE 12

- ☐ **By April 6:** Make reward choices for girls.
- ☐ **By April 6:** Ensure final deposits are made in the troop bank account. If needed, complete the online Finance/Inventory Issue Form to report any issues. Final Juliette deposits due in River Valleys Wells Fargo account.
- ☐ **By early June:** Pick up rewards from your Community Product Leader and distribute them to girls.
- ☐ Complete the 2026 Cookie Program survey.
- ☐ **Celebrate a job well done!**

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
or use the QR code to be automatically directed

Social: To connect with other volunteers on Facebook, search
"Girl Scouts River Valleys Troop Product Program Volunteers"

Rallyhood: Council Wide Troop Product Program Volunteers GSRV

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