

Girl Scout Cookies – Sensitive Issues & FAQ

We know questions sometimes arise about the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Here's a quick **Myth vs. Fact** reference for booths and conversations, followed by expanded details.

Myth vs. Fact – Quick Reference

Myth	Fact
Girl Scout Cookies are unsafe due to metal contamination.	All cookies undergo multiple safety checks, including metal detection. There is no unsafe product in the marketplace.
Girl Scouts teaches religion or promotes one faith.	Girl Scouts is secular but values spiritual growth; girls are encouraged to connect their own beliefs to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
Girl Scouts partners with Planned Parenthood.	GSUSA has no partnership or relationship with Planned Parenthood.
Girl Scouts distributed a Planned Parenthood brochure at the UN.	This claim is false. GSUSA had no role in the brochure's distribution.
Palm oil in cookies is bad for the environment.	Our bakers use RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and are committed to ethical sourcing.
Cookie sale profits go to a national office or outside groups.	100% of net proceeds stay local to fund Girl Scout programs and troop activities.
Girl Scouts is politically affiliated or takes positions on elections.	Girl Scouts is a nonpartisan organization. We do not endorse or oppose political candidates or parties. We do advocate for issues that support girls' leadership and development.
DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) is about pushing a political agenda.	DEI in Girl Scouts means creating a welcoming space where every girl belongs, feels safe, and can thrive—regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, or family background.

Expanded Answers

Is there metal in Girl Scout Cookies? Are they safe to eat?

Recent online posts have raised concerns about “metal in Girl Scout Cookies.” Here are the facts:

- **No cookies currently in the marketplace are unsafe to eat.** If there were a safety concern, Girl Scouts and our licensed bakers would immediately issue a public recall.

- The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) requires strict quality control testing for all ingredients.
- Our bakers use **multiple layers of inspection** (metal detectors, sieves, and visual inspections) to ensure product safety.
- If there is ever a confirmed issue affecting product safety, councils are notified immediately, and customers are given clear instructions for returns or refunds. This is not the case in this claim

Bottom line: **Girl Scout Cookies are safe to eat.** We take product quality and customer safety seriously, and our bakers follow some of the highest food safety standards in the industry.

Does Girl Scouting support families of faith?

Yes. Girl Scouting supports girls from all backgrounds and beliefs. While we are a secular organization that refrains from teaching religious or spiritual beliefs or practices, we believe the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one. We greatly value our longstanding partnerships with religious organizations across many faiths that share the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

We encourage girls to deepen their own faith connections through recognitions provided by their faith communities and the **My Promise, My Faith** pin. We support the right of faith leaders to ensure that Girl Scout programming delivered in their place of worship aligns with their faith's teachings.

Does GSUSA have a relationship with Planned Parenthood?

No. Girl Scouts of the USA does not have a relationship or partnership with Planned Parenthood.

Did GSUSA distribute a Planned Parenthood brochure at a United Nations event?

No. In 2010, GSUSA participated in the 54th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. Inaccurate online stories claimed Girl Scouts distributed a Planned Parenthood brochure. We had no knowledge of the brochure and played no role in distributing it.

Why is palm oil used in Girl Scout Cookies?

Palm oil is widely used in baked goods because it provides the right texture and volume without trans fats. It also requires less land to produce than other vegetable oils and supports millions of farmers globally.

Our bakers are committed to sustainable practices:

- **RSPO Members:** Both bakers are members of the **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil**.
- **Certified Palm Oil:** Girl Scout Cookies use **Mass Balance RSPO certified** palm oil, indicated by the RSPO “Mixed” logo on the package.

Why not offer whole wheat, sugar-free, organic, low-carb, etc.?

Girl Scout Cookies are produced once a year, making specialty runs challenging. Demand has not been high enough to make it feasible, but we continuously review trends and needs. Always check the ingredient labels — you may find a variety that fits your dietary preferences.

Does any part of Girl Scout Cookie revenue go outside Girl Scouts?

No. After paying the bakers, **100% of net proceeds stay local** — supporting your council, your troop, and girl-led experiences and service projects.

What is Girl Scouts’ position on politics?

Girl Scouts is a **nonpartisan organization**. We do not endorse or oppose candidates or political parties. We do advocate for issues that support girls’ leadership, healthy development, and equitable opportunities.

What does DEI mean in Girl Scouts?

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Girl Scouts means creating a safe, welcoming environment where every girl belongs — regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, or family background. This is not about pushing a political agenda; it’s about living the Girl Scout Promise and Law.