



Troop Cookie Newsletter

March 9, 2026

What's Baking?

It's the home stretch! Whether you are starting to wind down or racing to the finish line, we've got this and we've got your back!

Today is the last day of our \$5 flat rate shipping promotion on orders of 8+ packages of Girl Scout Cookies! Let customers know there is still time to stock up on their favorite philanthropic treat! **This special offer ends at 10pm.**

To help troops finish the season strong, we're offering **Risk-Free Return Week.**

- **March 9–15:** Full, unopened cases are 100% returnable. All returns must be completed by **March 18.**
- Troops who check out cookies during this time may have the option to return single packages.
- This option is designed to give troops more flexibility to meet customer demand without worrying about leftover inventory.
- Before returning single packages, please [contact your Cupboard Clerk](#) or review the cupboard notes in Smart Cookies to confirm they can accept them.
- Return capacity may vary by cupboard, so checking first helps ensure a smooth process.
- There is no checkout cap; however, in the spirit of *One Council, One Mission*, please take only what you reasonably expect to sell to ensure inventory remains available for all troops.
- All other standards for return apply.
- Please review the [Cupboard section of the Troop Guide](#) before initiating a return.

Thank you for managing inventory responsibly as we close out the season.

Cookie Hotline Support

Our Cookie Hotline 510-995-2900 hours through March 15:

Monday – Thursday | 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM PT

Friday – Sunday | 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM PT

As we enter wrap-up week, things will move fast, so let's stay ahead of the game. Here are key reminders for troops to finish strong:

Review **End of the Program Checklist** (page 71) in the Cookie Program Wrap Up Section of the [Troop Cookie Chair Program Guide](#), as you prepare to end your program. You can also review, [ABC's Quick Bite - Season Close Troop Checklist](#) for wrapping up the program for a checklist of what to do in Smart Cookies.

Care to Share Match Day – March 12

On Girl Scouts' Birthday, March 12, Girl Scouts of Northern California will match all Care to Share donations made by through the Digital Cookie app or the Girl Scout Digital Storefront. Care to Share donations provide cookie packages to local food banks, military service members, and hometown heroes.

- This includes digital payment (credit card, Venmo, PayPal) or cash processed through Digital Cookie App to qualify for the match.
- Council must be able to track the order in Digital Cookie.

Encourage customers to donate online on March 12 to double their impact!

If you need guidance on allocating Care to Share, check out this [gsHelpCenter article](#).

If you want more information on the Care to Share Program and ways to promote it at your booth, read more in [gsHelpCenter](#).

How CTS Match Day Will Work

Troops who sell CTS cookies on March 12 will receive the credit for the match by 5pm on March 16. TCCs should credit the original CTS sold, and council will credit the match. You will see one or both of the following booth types:

- **CTS Match Ind GS Booth** – Matches tied to **individual Girl Scouts**.
 - GSNorCal staff will properly credit the Girl Scouts for their match
- **CTS Match Troop Booth** – Matches tied to the **troop booth total**.
 - GSNorCal staff will save the total to be matched, but the TCC should distribute how they see fit to the youth in their troop

Please do not change the totals on either of these booths as they are tracked by our auditors. If you see a discrepancy, call the Cookie Hotline immediately.

Troops will also see financial credit for the cost of the CTS match cookies credited to their finance tab.

Allocating Care to Share

Need help allocating Care to Share? Check out some of HelpCenter articles about Care to Share allocation:

- [Allocating Care To Share in Smart Cookies](#)
- [Allocating Care To Share| Scenarios](#)

- [Virtual Cookie Share-Gir Links](#)
- [Understanding Reports in Smart Cookies](#)

Make sure Girl Scouts are getting what they worked hard for by allocating all your Care to Share in Smart Cookies.

Run the **Pending Manual Cookie Share Report** in Smart Cookies and:

1. Update any outstanding Care to Share allocations reflected on the report.
2. Confirm all transfers are entered and fully completed in Smart Cookies.
3. Prepare to share the **Girl Balance Summary** with families in the coming weeks.

Cookies to Castle Giveaway

All Girl Scouts who sell 150+ packages, will be entered to win an all-inclusive family 4-pack to our [GSNorCal Disneyland](#) trip. We currently have **4,586** eligible Girl Scouts in the running! A winner will be announced the week of March 23.

Adventure Points

- Caregivers of Girl Scouts who earned Adventure Points (AP) will receive an email on or before **March 30** with instructions to complete the AP survey and select their rewards. **All communication regarding AP rewards will be sent directly to caregivers.** If there are any issues or delays, Service Unit leadership will be notified promptly.
- Girl Scouts who sell 450 packages earn an Adventure Point hoodie, and will be able to select their size once they receive the AP email March 30. [This is also available for purchase.](#)
- Reward items for levels 1-449 will ship from the baker to the SU Reward Coordinator in May.

As a reminder, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts have an opportunity to earn extra Adventure Point by participating in the Cookie CEO: Pitch Program.

Reward Updates

2 AP National Park Program & Annual Pass

- May 3, 2026 (3 different locations)
- Redwoods National Park
- Lassen National Park
- Muir Woods National Monument

Additional details will be sent to Girl Scouts who select the National Park Program Reward.

3 AP Lego Program

All Lego Programs will happen on the same date and time. Please select from one of the three locations.

- June 13, 2026 from 8am-10am
- West Valley Fair
- Hillsdale Shopping Center
- Stoneridge Shopping Center
- Those who cannot make it can opt for Virtual Lego Day taking place July 27, 2026.

Additional details will be sent to Girl Scouts who select the Lego Program Reward.

Final Rewards Deadline: March 18

Submit final rewards by March 18 at 11:59 PM in Smart Cookies! Log into Smart Cookies and navigate to Rewards > Recognition Order. Select the Recognition Order to create! This [Quick Bite](#) can help!

If caregivers made their Girl Scouts Rewards selections in Digital Cookie, be prepared to pull the Reward Selection Report from Digital Cookie and enter these selections into [Smart Cookies](#).

If you miss the deadline, **Service Unit volunteers will have until March 22 at 11:59 PM** to enter their rewards for you. Council will wrap up all rewards on March 23 and submit them to the baker.

If no reward choice is entered, Council will assume the Girl Scout prefers the physical reward item. For sized items, the best guess, based on age, will be used.

Troops will have access to Smart Cookies for reporting through **mid-July 2026**.

Did your troop opt out of individual rewards?

Make sure to allocate at least one package to each Girl Scout selling so that as a council we can get accurate data about which Girl Scouts participated in the program.

Don't forget that you will still need to **allocate any Girl Delivered with donation** orders to the Girl Scout via the [Virtual Cookie Share Tab](#) in Smart Cookies.

Booth Reminders

- Girl Scouts may only sell within [council boundaries](#). All booth locations must be approved by your Service Unit Booth Coordinator. Additional booth safety information can be found [here](#).
- Review the Cookie Booth Essentials with your Girl Scouts and bring Booth Inventory Sheets to track sales.

- If using troop inventory, remember to “Start Booth” in the Digital Cookie App so the Smart Booth Divider can allocate cookies correctly.
- Orders from the troop link not tied to a booth will appear in [Virtual Delivery-Pending Distribution](#) and must be allocated separately.

Digital Payments

- The [Digital Cookie App](#) allows booths to accept PayPal, Venmo, and log cash payments.
- Cash payments do not transfer from Digital Cookie.

Cookie Finances

[ACH Credit Form](#) Due: March 25 by 9 am

This form is essential for reporting a reduced debit amount due to non-sufficient funds (NSF) caused by:

- Returned customer checks
- Counterfeit bills
- Bank fees
- Stolen products or money

ACH Withdrawal: March 27

100% of ‘Amount Owed Council’ (include any reward charges) will be deducted from the troop account. Troops will be able to see these amounts in Smart Cookies on their Troop Balance Summary.

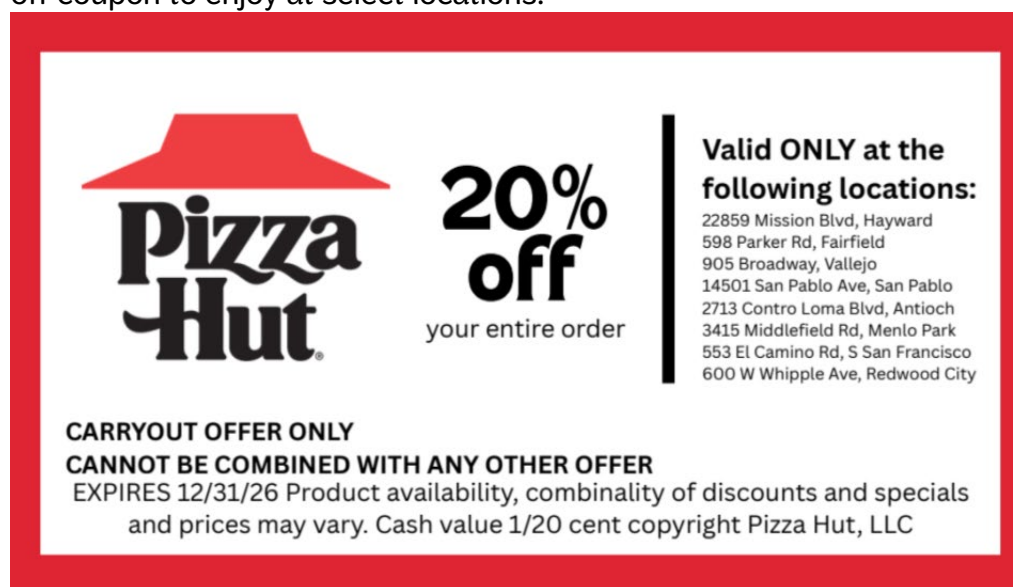
March 22 is the deadline to complete [Parent Past Due Cookie Account Form](#), so communicate with caregivers early if they have outstanding debt.

Coupons!

Jamba Juice wanted to thank our members for partnering with them for booths with a coupon for you to enjoy!



Pizza Hut wanted to thank our members for partnering with them for booths with a 20% off coupon to enjoy at select locations.



The coupon features the Pizza Hut logo on the left, a large '20% off your entire order' in the center, and a list of seven participating locations on the right. Below the coupon, there is a disclaimer: 'CARRYOUT OFFER ONLY CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/26 Product availability, combinability of discounts and specials and prices may vary. Cash value 1/20 cent copyright Pizza Hut, LLC'.

Valid ONLY at the following locations:

- 22859 Mission Blvd, Hayward
- 598 Parker Rd, Fairfield
- 905 Broadway, Vallejo
- 14501 San Pablo Ave, San Pablo
- 2713 Contro Loma Blvd, Antioch
- 3415 Middlefield Rd, Menlo Park
- 553 El Camino Rd, S San Francisco
- 600 W Whipple Ave, Redwood City

CARRYOUT OFFER ONLY
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EXPIRES 12/31/26 Product availability, combinability of discounts and specials and prices may vary. Cash value 1/20 cent copyright Pizza Hut, LLC

Upcoming Programs

Cookie CEO: Pitch Program

For Cadette, Senior, and Ambassadors

This spring, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts can join our Pitch Program to learn how to write and deliver a business pitch to real corporate partners—building confidence, sharpening communication skills, and gaining real-world business experience through virtual or select in-person sessions in San Jose and East Bay. **Earn up to 2 Adventure Points** for participating in this program! [Click for more details.](#)

Financial Literacy

For Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors

This fun Money Moves workshop on **Saturday, May 2** at the San Jose Girl Scouts office helps Girl Scouts earn their financial literacy badges through games and real-life skills, with funding proudly sponsored by the Charles Schwab Financial Literacy Grant. [Register here.](#)

Financial Literacy

For Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

On **Saturday, May 2**, Girl Scouts can attend the *Make Money Moves!* Financial Literacy Workshop at Patelco Credit Union to learn budgeting, saving, credit, interest, and investing from industry experts while earning their Financial Literacy badges, with caregivers invited to learn about Patelco’s free financial coaching. Funding for this program provided by the Charles Schwab Financial Literacy Grant. [Register here.](#)

Girl Scout Day at the Zoo

On **Saturday, May 9**, Girl Scouts, families, and friends are invited to enjoy a fun-filled Day at the San Francisco Zoo and Gardens featuring animal encounters, swaps, lawn activities, conservation learning, and special bridging ceremonies for Daisies and Brownies. This program is also offered as a cookie program reward! See more details and [register here](#).

Upcoming Dates

- **March 12** | Care to Share Match Day
- **March 15** | Girl Scout Cookie Program ends
- **March 18** | Final rewards due in Smart Cookies by 11:59pm PT
- **March 22** | [Parent Past Due Cookie Account Form](#) due by 11:59pm PT
- **March 25** | [ACH Credit Form](#) due by 9am to notify the council of any change to final ACH
- **March 27** | Final ACH*: 100% due to Council (will include any reward charges or credits)

Training Highlights

Join us LIVE for Troop Cookie Chair Webinars:

[March 11: Submitting Final Rewards & Reward Delivery Information](#)

[March 18: Wrapping Up & Submitting Parent Past Due Accounts Form](#)

Watch previous webinar recordings in the 636 Troop Cookie Chair Recorded Webinars 2026 by logging into gsLearn and [clicking here to access!](#)

Read previous Cookie Newsletters in [gsHelpCenter](#).

Want a refresher on upcoming cookie tasks? Here are some gsLearn trainings we suggest you review:

Troop Cookie Chair (TCC) Training to review:

- Inventory Management Module
- Money Management Module
- Booth Sales Module

[Digital Cookie Volunteer Training Resources:](#)

- Troop Booth Pickup Order
- Digital cookie Mobile App

Smart Cookies Volunteer Training in gsLearn:

- Transfers
- Smart Booth Divider
- Planned Order
- Managing Orders

Quick Bites to Review:

- [Troop Season Close Out Checklist](#)
- [Transfers](#)
- [Planned Orders](#)
- [Managing Orders](#)
- [Managing Orders Screen \(Refine Search\)](#)
- [Scheduling Booths – FCFS](#)
- [Smart Booth Divider – Single Booth](#)
- [Troop Direct Ship Orders](#)
- [Troop Site Link & Troop Pick Up Orders](#)
- [Virtual Cookie Share Orders – Girl Links](#)

Next Steps

Allocate Cookies

- Talk to your troop about how you will handle the cookies in the Troop Direct Ship Tab, you can help girls reach goals, or distribute evenly
- If Opting Out of Individual Rewards, make sure to allocate at least one package to each Girl Scout selling so that as a council we can get accurate data about which Girl Scouts participated in the program.
- Run the **Pending Manual Cookie Share Report** in Smart Cookies and:
 1. Update any outstanding Care to Share allocations reflected on the report.
 2. Confirm all transfers are entered and fully completed in Smart Cookies.
 3. Prepare to share the **Girl Balance Summary** with families in the coming weeks

Review the [Troop Season Close Out Checklist](#) as you being supporting Girl Scouts in wrapping up their cookie business for this season.

Spread the Word About Your Extras!

If you have excess cookies, don't let them sit! Post your inventory on the Cookie Exchange Google Sheet in the [Google Drive](#) and share it through all your Service Unit's communication channels—whether it's Facebook, emails, or other platforms. Let other troops know what's available so they can snag what they need. Together, we can keep the cookie magic flowing!

Resource Alert!

- [gsHelpCenter | 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program Resources](#)
- [gsHelpCenter | Entrepreneurship Articles](#)
- [Troop Cookie Chair Guide](#)
- [Google Drive | Troop Cookie Chairs](#)
- [Inventory Management Toolkit](#)
- [Allocating Care To Share in Smart Cookies](#)
- [Allocating Care To Share| Scenarios](#)
- [Virtual Cookie Share-Gir Links](#)
- [Understanding Reports in Smart Cookies](#)

Cookie Sales Tracker

The cookie program fuels both your troop and our council! Cookie proceeds help fund troop activities and support our council by maintaining camps, providing council programming, and caring for council properties — plus so much more!

Check out the [Empowering Girl Scouts flyer](#) or [How the Cookie Crumbles flyer](#) for details!

2026 Council Goal: 3,150,000 packages

Total Sold as of March 5, 2026: 2,551,020 packages

Baking Up Goodness

Let's spread kindness and spotlight those going above and beyond this cookie season! Did you notice a fellow Service Unit, troop, or Girl Scout lending a helping hand, showing teamwork, promoting or developing an entrepreneurial mindset, or embodying our One Council, One Mission spirit?

We'd love to hear about it! **Share your feel-good stories with us through our [Share Your Story form](#)** and help us spread the good word — because together, we make Girl Scouts shine! (📷 Photos encouraged!)

Juliette News

Hello Juliette Girl Scouts Caregivers!

As a reminder, a recording of the live webinar given on 1.5.26 can be viewed [here!](#) You can also find training and information on supporting your Girl Scout Juliette on the [Juliette Participation in Product Programs gsHelpCenter article](#).

Need assistance? Contact us at info@gsnorcal.org or 510-995-2900.