



Troop Cookie Newsletter

January 12, 2026

What's Baking?

It's Cookie Time!

The wait is over—the **Girl Scout Cookie Program officially begins today!** Digital Cookie is live, and our young entrepreneurs can start selling cookies online and by order card, to friends and family.

Did You Know?

- Most Digital Cookie shipped orders are placed two weeks before booths open.
- Even better—most Digital Cookie donated packages are added to shipped orders!
- Encouraging Girl Scouts to take full advantage of this early window can help them kick off the cookie season strong and boost overall sales.

Important Reminders

Initial Orders are due January 16 in Smart Cookies. Submit yours by 11:59 PM to stay on track. Need help? [Join our live webinar on Jan 14 for guidance on placing your order!](#)

The How the Cookie Crumbles flyer included in your troop mailing contains outdated information and has since been updated. Please discard the printed version and download and print the [updated flyer](#) if you plan to share it at cookie booths.

The Caregiver/Parent Permission Agreement Form is no longer needed! Caregivers and guardians can now grant permission for Girl Scouts to participate in entrepreneurship programs by completing the [Annual Permissions Form](#) at the start of the Girl Scout year.

Troop Bank Accounts

The deadline for returning troops to verify or update their bank account information in Smart Cookies is approaching on **January 21**.

New troops have until February 18, 2026. [Request a Bank Account](#) or submit your troop account via the [ACH Debit Form](#).

Free Booth Tablecloth

Do not forget to order your free booth tablecloth [here](#) by January 16th!

Booths: Get Ready to Shine!

Round 1 Booth sign-ups begin TONIGHT, January 12 at 8 PM | Max 3 booths per troop

- Local service units only—troops can select booth locations within their Service Unit.

Key Points to Remember:

✘ Missed Rounds: If you skip a round, any missed slots cannot be carried over into future rounds. Be sure to sign up during each round to maximize your booth slot potential!

⚠ Dropping Booths: If you drop a booth, it can only be replaced within the same round.

- Example: If you secure 3 booths in Round 1, then drop them in Round 2, you still only have 6 total booth signups in Round 2, not 9.

Round 2 Booth sign-ups begin January 13 at 8 PM | Additional 6 booths, max 9 booths per troop

- Local service units only—troops can select booth locations within their Service Unit.

Round 3 Booth sign-ups begin January 15 at 8 PM | Additional 18 booths, max 27 booths per troop

- No limit on area/location

Troops can now accept PayPal, Venmo, and cash at booths using the [Digital Cookie App](#) (Must have cookies in hand).

Don't forget to get your booth kits ready by pulling together all the things that can support your troop at booths! A few things to collect include the [new booth tablecloth](#) (order one before January 16th), [booth table tents](#), booth inventory sheet, money pouch, [Cookie Booth Essentials](#), booth flyers, pen/pencil, extra battery pack for your phone, and anything else that can make boothing fun and easy.

Pro Tip:

- Talk to your troop about their boothing interests and ensure they're prepared. Share the [Cookie Booth Essentials](#) with troop families to help them get ready for the exciting weeks of boothing ahead! Consult the [Marketing Timeline](#) for ways to help your troop make their booth shine in the community!

Free Program Alert!

Service Units with the largest growth in new members who register using their [Cookie Booth Table Tent](#) QR code will win a **FREE Badges to Business Program** this fall! Three programs will be awarded – one each to small, medium, and large Service Unit with highest number of membership registrations through the QR code. **The three winning Service Units will be announced in April**, so help your Girl Scouts and Service Unit win big by making sure you are using the Cookie Booth Table Tents at your booth!

Badges to Business Entrepreneurship Program

Our annual event where Girl Scouts learn to think like entrepreneurs! This year's event will be held at Dave & Buster's. Attend a hands-on workshop that encourages you to think outside the box as you earn your Entrepreneurship Badge. This event includes lunch, the badge you'll earn through the program, a \$20 Power Card and unlimited video game play at Dave & Busters!

Camp Opportunities – Plan ahead for discounts!

Girl Scouts interested in taking advantage of reward camp discounts should register and pay their deposit in advance. Registration is ongoing through the spring, though we recommend registering early to save your preferred spot. Check out the this year's [Camp Guide](#) to plan ahead.

- January 21: Camp registration opens for returning campers at 12pm PT
- January 28: Camp registration opens for new campers at 12pm PT

Reward Details: Camp discounts will be applied at the end of the cookie program. These discounts are only good for 2026 camp programs. If the deposit is a barrier, families can select "apply for Financial Aid" for an adjusted fee.

Reminders

The Caregiver/Parent Permission Agreement Form is no longer needed! Caregivers and guardians can now grant permission for Girl Scouts to participate in entrepreneurship programs by completing the [Annual Permissions Form](#) at the start of the Girl Scout year.

Upcoming Dates

January 12 | Girl Scout Cookie Program begins, and Digital Cookie launches – Entrepreneurs can start selling cookies online and by order card. | Round 1 booth selection (max 3 booths per troop).

January 13 | Round 2 booth selection (6 additional booths per troop, max 9) | Returning troop deadline to verify bank account information in Smart Cookies under the My Troop > Troop Information Tab.

January 15 | Round 3 booth selection (18 additional booths per troop, max 27).

January 16 | Initial order due by 11:59PM PT | Delivery slot sign-up due by 11:59PM PT (Cookie Hotline open for help).

January 21 | Camp registration begins for returning campers.

January 28 | Cookie Delivery Begins | Camp registration begins for new campers.

February 2 | 4th round of booth selections, no limit on area/location (unlimited booths).

February 3 | Cookie Delivery ends

February 4 | Cupboards open and first day of booth sales. Deadline to opt-out for an additional 15 cents per package (see Troop Proceeds module for details).

February 18 | Deadline for new troops to submit their banking info, via the [ACH Debit Form](#).

Training Highlights

Join us LIVE for Troop Cookie Chair Webinars:

[Jan 14 | Placing Your Initial Order](#)

[Jan 21| Inventory Management Training](#)

[Jan 28| Open Q&A](#)

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 Site Setup
- Troop Dashboard
- Troop Booth Pickup Order

Smart Cookies Volunteer Training:

- Troop Booth Pickup Order
- Digital cookie Mobile App
- Troop Site Setup/Links

Next Steps

- Safety First! Talk to your troops about staying safe during the cookie program and review & share the [Safety Tips for the Girl Scout Cookie Program](#).

- Digital Cookie Access – Remind caregivers to check their inbox for their Digital Cookie welcome email!
- Digital Cookie Outreach – Remind Girl Scouts to send their first round of emails to their Digital Cookie customers. Share the [Caregiver training for Digital Cookies](#) with families, including this [Digital Cookie Family Flyer](#) to support them with getting Digital Cooke all set up!

Resource Alert!

- [gsHelpCenter | 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program Resources](#)
- [gsHelpCenter | Entrepreneurship Articles](#)
- [Troop Cookie Chair Guide](#)
- [Google Drive | Troop Cookie Chairs](#)
- [Inventory Management Toolkit](#)

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 to date: 0

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,

The recording of the live webinar on 1.5.26 is being emailed to you and can also 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.