

Cookie Season Sensitive Issues

The cookie season is filled with lots of moments of learning and growing. At times, there are external forces and people that are out of the control of Girl Scouts, volunteers and council as a whole. Certain sensitive issues and topics may arise throughout the cookie season, whether you're at a cookie booth or selling cookies door-to-door. Utilize this sensitive issues one-pager to get familiar with ways to address certain topics. This document is not intended to cover every situation. Adult volunteers must always use their best judgment when supervising Girl Scouts.

Boy Scouts or Scouting America

Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) is a separate organization from Girl Scouts of the USA and Girl Scouts of Hawaii. The two organizations and their local affiliates are independent not for profit organizations and are governed separately. Additionally, Girl Scouts of Hawai'i is not affiliated with Aloha Council Boy Scouts.

Religious Affiliation

Girl Scouts of Hawai'i is not affiliated with any denomination.

We are committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment where all members are empowered to be themselves as they discover their strengths, rise to meet new challenges, and become leaders in their communities and the world.

There are many ways Girl Scouts can pursue their relationship between their religion and spirituality, and the Girl Scout Promise and Law, such as through the My Promise, My Faith pin.

Palm Oil

Palm oil is found in the majority of baked goods sold in the U.S. and it remains a necessary ingredient in our cookies to ensure their shelf life, serve as an alternative to trans fats, and bring consumers the highest quality products. GSUSA and our baker are members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). As a member of the RSPO, our baker is sourcing palm oil from reputable, ethical, and sustainable producers by auditing farms and decertifying and decommissioning those that are not adhering to these strict guidelines.

Genetically Modified Agricultural Crops (GMOs)

Our baker determines whether to use genetically modified agricultural crops (GMOs) in Girl Scout Cookies based on a range of market-related factors. There are some conventional ingredients, such as sugar, which are most prominently available in the United States as GMO. Our baker actively follows the latest scientific research.

It's important to note that there is worldwide scientific agreement that there are no safety concerns with the currently commercialized ingredients derived from GMOs on the market. The World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the American Medical Association all share this assessment.

All customers are welcome to conduct their own research and purchase Girl Scout cookies at their discretion.

Planned Parenthood

GSUSA and Girl Scouts of Hawaii have no relationship, formal or informal, with Planned Parenthood. GSUSA and Girl Scouts of Hawaii do not take a position on, or develop materials pertaining to, sex education. It is, however, their role to help youth develop self-confidence and decision-making skills that will empower them to make wise choices in all areas of their lives.

Girl Scouts of Hawaii's policies allow parents or guardians to make all decisions regarding their child's participation in programming that may be of a sensitive nature. Girl Scout members, including volunteers and leaders, should always submit written parental permission for any locally planned program that could be considered sensitive in nature.

Raspberry Rally

Raspberry Rally was offered a couple cookie seasons ago as part of a pilot online-only sales strategy. GSUSA developed this strategy with the goal of providing girls with new opportunities to enhance their digital sales exposure and develop their omnichannel business skills. Raspberry Rally also allowed GSUSA to test a new flavor and expand our cookie portfolio by introducing an exciting new flavor profile to the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

GSUSA's top priority for the cookie season is minimizing logistical challenges in order to simplify the program experience for councils, volunteers, and girls. Raspberry Rally will not be available for order next season, and is a national decision.