

Guidance for the Cookie Program during COVID-19 Pandemic

As the year-end approaches, there are many questions regarding the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie Program. What we know for sure is that the 2021 Cookie Program will take place! We have learned how to live and work safely during a pandemic. We will continue to apply what we have learned as we move forward into the new year. Our new knowledge is imperative to maintain a vital and successful 2021 Cookie Program. With all this in mind, Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi is providing the following guidance for a safe and successful Cookie Program. We will update this guidance as necessary.

Our recommendations are based on CDC and health department information, but we cannot guarantee there will be no exposure to COVID-19. Please be flexible so you can react to changing circumstances. Set expectations with your girls and families—understanding that not everyone will be comfortable participating. See below for important considerations. Selling cookies at booths and the level of involvement in the program is a personal decision, and Troop Leaders cannot require participation. Troops are encouraged to work with their Girl Scouts to be innovative and determine how to proceed with their cookie program:

- Check local health department guidance for updates regularly and have a clear communication plan set up with your troop leadership, parents and girls.
- Stay up to date with Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi council communications. Are you receiving Council Connections each weekend?
- Stay in contact with your Service Unit for local booth opportunities and changes.

All in person experiences must adhere to the following:

- Wear masks that cover the nose and mouth securely.
- Maintain at least six-foot distance from customers (when possible).
- Maintain at least six-foot distance from girls/adults from other families that do not reside in the same household.
- Sanitize hands after each transaction.
- **Avoid attending any cookie activity in public if you are experiencing any respiratory symptoms, fever, or other COVID-19 symptoms. If you or someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19, has had direct exposure or have been advised to quarantine you may NOT attend a booth sale or interact with any public cookie sales.**

Alternative booth solutions:

- Drive-Through Booth information will be available as booth season approaches.
- Virtual Booths on Zoom or social media inviting friends, family, and trusted adults to buy cookies online and arrange contactless pick-up or delivery. Just as with a regular booth, you should have at least two adult troop volunteers and two girls present online.
- Virtual Call-A-Thon - Girls meet on Zoom, and call friends and family to sell cookies.
- Door-to-door leave behinds canvassing your neighborhood leaving a sticky note with your Digital Cookie QR code, Digital Cookie link, or an adult's contact information to order cookies in a contactless way.

Guidance for attending the booth:

- Limit of no more than 8 girls/adults together. Most booths are recommended to have two adults and two girls.
- Use contactless and cashless methods of payment when at all possible. Utilize the InHand feature through the Digital Cookie Troop Page to make use of the OCR reader to scan customers credit cards.
- Sanitize hands/tools after each transaction using hand sanitizer per CDC guidance.
- Clear signage to show instructions on making a contactless purchase, encourage distancing, etc.

Recommended Safety Tools for all Booths

- Extra Masks—bring extras in case someone forgets.
- Extra hand sanitizer
- Two tables: one to display cookies and one to place the cookies after the transaction is complete, to facilitate six-foot distancing.
- Painters tape or equivalent to mark where customers, girls, and volunteers should stand. Measuring tape to mark out spaces to stand at least six feet apart.
- Face shields could be used to maintain a barrier between the individuals. Face shields do not take the place of a face mask. Masks must be worn at all times.
- Plastic table-top shields with openings at the bottom for handling transactions.
- Thermometer to check temperature of girls/volunteers working the booth.
- Volunteers, parents, and staff picking up cookies or delivering them must wear face masks and sanitize hands between transactions, always maintaining a six-foot distance.

If you have questions you may contact Jennifer Rothert, the Product Programs Manager, or Sarah Edwards, your COO. You can reach Jennifer directly at 601-726-3324 or via email at jrothert@gsgms.org. Sarah can be reached at 601-326-4475 or sedwards@gsgms.org