

Welcome to the 2026 Cookie Program Troop Training!

Thank you!!

Thank you for empowering the next generation of women entrepreneurs by supporting your troops in the product programs!

If you have not completed the Troop Cookie Manager Agreement, please take a moment to complete it now and submit it to your service unit Product Program Manager.

Thank you for supporting your troops! Because of you Girl Scouts in your troops are learning skills they will use throughout their lives.

If you haven't' already, please take a moment to review the Troop Cookie Manager agreement. This agreement should be signed and returned to your suppm immediately.

Any leader who assists with the cookie program is required to complete a leader agreement.



There are 2 licensed bakers: Little Brownie Bakers and ABC Bakers. GSWNY proudly partners with ABC



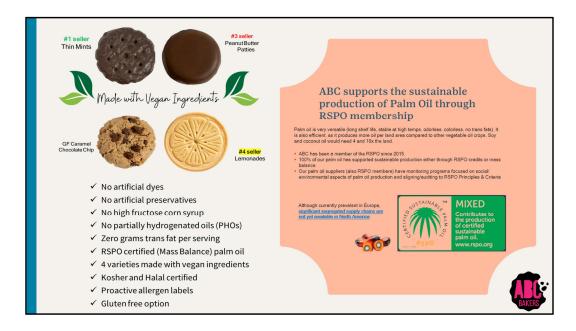
We're excited to officially introduce the newest cookie to our lineup- the Exploremores.

These rocky road ice cream inspired sandwich cookies are filled with a chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond flavored crème and are sure to be a hit!



With the addition of Exploremores this is what your 2026 cookie lineup looks like. ABC continues to have no changes in size or quantity of cookies in their packages. This is a promise they have kept for well over a decade now!

We also want to remind you to review and familiarize yourself with the allergen guide for this year's cookie lineup. We have both of these flyers available on the Volunteer Resources page of gswny.org.



Some ingredient facts about our cookies!

There are 4 varieties made with Vegan Ingredients.

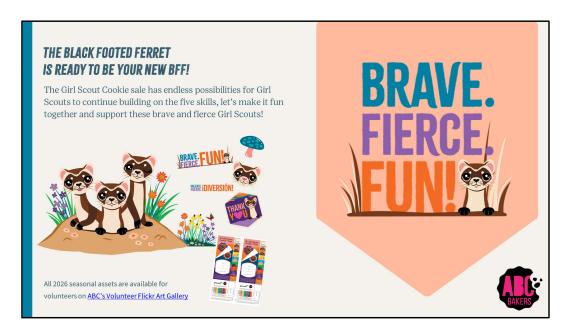
ABC also supports sustainable production of Palm Oil through their membership with the RSPO.

GSWNY Subsidized Shipping

Customers who order 8-24 packages of cookies online for direct ship will receive a \$6 OFF their shipping rate, courtesy of GSWNY's shipping promotion!

The customer will see a message at the point of sale indicating the lower shipping rate.

# of packages ordered	ABC/FedEx Shipping Rate	GSWNY Reduced Shipping Rate
8	\$11.99	\$5.99
9-12	\$13.99	\$7.99 8-24 packages
13-20	\$25.98	\$19.98 \$6 OFF !!!
21-24	\$27.98	\$21.98



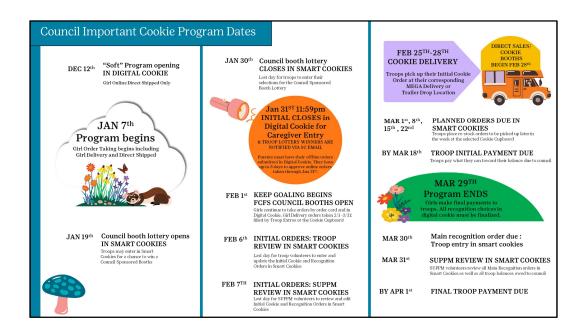
We are continuing our theme of BRAVE. FIERCE. FUN into cookie season. And as you can see, our 2026 Mascot is the Black Footed Ferret.

Facts about the Black Footed Ferret:

- Only ferret species native to North America
- Average life span in the wild is 1-3year, but 4-6 years in captivity
- Thought to be extinct until 1981 when a few were found in Wyoming.
 Today over 400 live in the wild thanks to captive breeding and reintroduction and cloning.
- They are nocturnal, most active at night, and fossorial, living underground.
- Are known for their squeaks, hisses and chatter. They also use dance to communicate!
- A group of ferrets is called a business!

You'll find a Flickr Art Gallery via the link on this slide that provides troops

with digital assets for this cookie season. A link to this can also be found on gswny.org's volunteer cookie resources page				



Let's talk about this year's program.

This year's program officially begins on Jan 7th. However, we are offering a "soft" program opening on December 12th.

On the 12th, girls will receive an email inviting them to login to Digital Cookie, launch their site, and get started. ONLY Direct Shipped orders will be available from December 12th until January 6th.

When the program officially begins on Jan 7th, Girl Delivery will also open up on the girls site. We will also resend registration emails to any Girl Scout who has not already launched their site at that time.

The initial ordering period closes on January 31st at 11:59pm. Caregivers have until this date to enter and SUBMIT their paper order card or offline orders in Digital Cookie.

Caregivers will still have 5 days after the 31st to approve Girl Delivery orders taken through then. If they do so, these orders will move into the initial order and it will adjust troop extras and recognitions accordingly. Troops should plan on finalizing their initial orders on February 6th.

SUPPM's will have the next day to review and edit.

Cookie delivery is Feb 25-28 kicking off our Direct Sale and Cookie Booths.

Please take note of the Initial Payment and Final Payment datesSUPPM's will have the next day to review and edit.

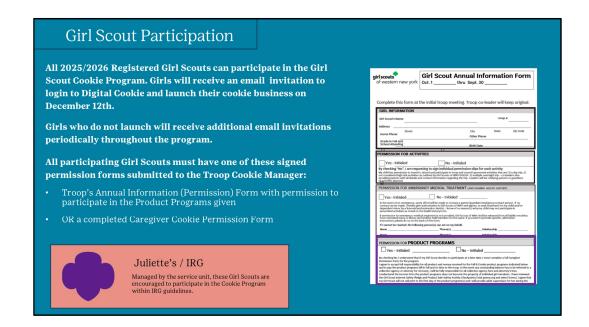
Cookie delivery is Feb 25-28 kicking off our Direct Sale.

Also, please be sure to reiterate Initial Payment and Final Payment dates to troops.

The Girl Experience



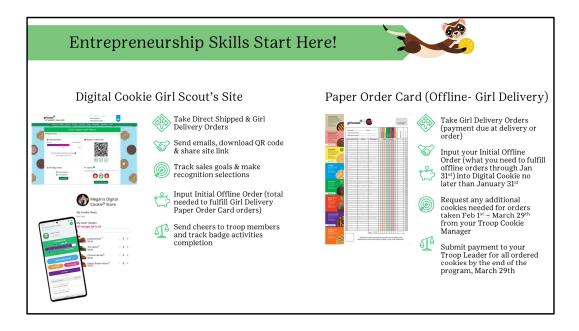
As many know, the cookie program falls under the entrepreneurship pillar of the Girt Scout Leadership Experience and teaches 5 main skill sets represented by these icons: Business Ethics, Decision Making, Goal Setting, Money Management, and People Skills. As you go through this training, keep an eye out for these symbols indicating how each part of the program aligns with these goals.



All registered Girl Scouts can participate in the program. If a troop has at least one leader, then the girls will get an email from Digital Cookie inviting them to launch their site.

Troops should make sure the PP section of their Annual Information Forms is completed for all participating girls. If not, they can also use the Caregiver Cookie Permission form in lieu of the annual form. It is up on the gswny.org volunteer resources page.

Any Juliette's or IRG's, will be overseen by the SUPPM. IRG's cannot participate in troop activities such as booths unless they do so with another troop. And all funds are deposited into the su account. Any proceeds stay in the service unit's IRG fund and can be requested as needed.



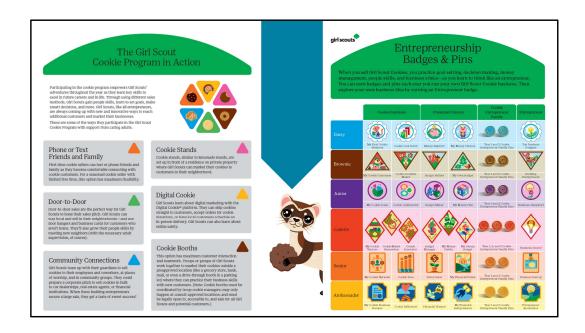
Participating in the cookie program empowers Girl Scouts' adventures throughout the year as they learn key skills to excel in future careers and in life. Through using different sales methods, Girl Scouts gain people skills, learn to set goals, make smart decisions, and more.

Each Girl Scout gets their own Digital Cookie site. Using the browser, with the help of their caregivers, girls can set goals, upload a marketing photo or video they've made, manage their orders, learn more about the 5 skills through videos & games, and so much more!

Each girl has their own unique site url and a downloadable site QR code they can print out for use on their order card or door hangers.

Caregivers can also download the digital cookie app to use when taking orders.

Girl Scouts can also take Girl Delivery orders offline using their Paper Order Card. At the close of the initial order, offline orders are totaled and submitted by the caregiver in Digital Cookie. They can then continue to take Keep Goaling orders which the troop will fill from troop extras or a trip to the Cookie Cupboard. Troop Leaders should communicate with parents that it is VERY IMPORTANT to keep your Keep Goaling orders separate so as to avoid confusion when their initial order arrives.



Girl Scouts, like all entrepreneurs, are always producing new and innovative ways to reach additional customers and market their businesses.

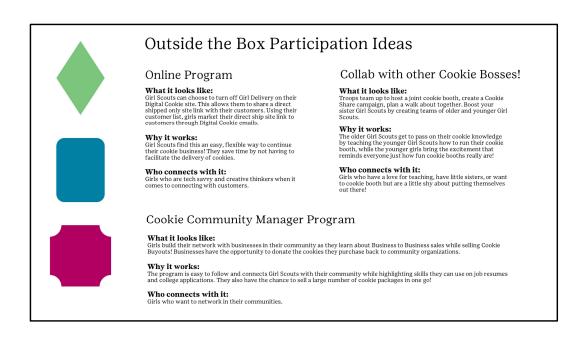
Girls sell cookies by phone or text to family & friends, going door-to-door if their community allows it, reaching out to their family's co-workers or employees, sending emails from Digital Cookies, holding a lemonade stand in their front yard or participating in a cookie booth with their troop.

Recent data from GSUSA says that having a caregiver share their girls' link on their personal social media page OR texting their site link to family and friends is one of the TOP ways customers are purchasing. They also show roughly 25% of people who receive an email from a Girl Scout asking if they want to buy cookies, click through and purchase cookies!

Troops can also help girls get the most from the cookie program by incorporating Entrepreneurship Badges into troop meetings or sending the Cookie Entrepreneurship Family Pin packets home with families.

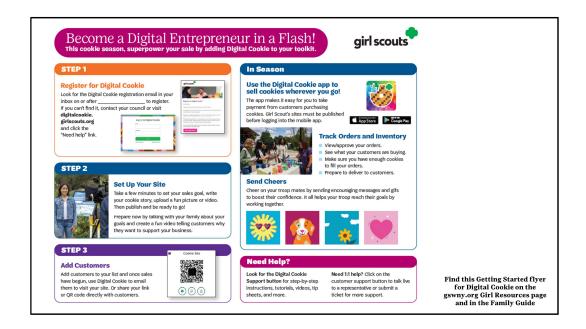
While we're on the topic of sharing girl sites- we do want to briefly mention a few safety reminders (you'll find more information in the troop and family guides).

- Sites shared to social media should only go up on private pages and groups. This means no ebay or fb marketplace.
- Caregivers should only share girls First Name or nickname and NEVER their address



PP Team

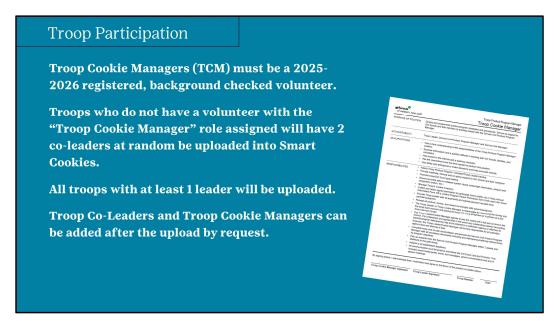
This slide will be in your troop and family trainings. We just wanted to make you aware of it so you can share with your troops.



GSUSA has released this easy step by step for caregivers. It guides them through setting up their girl's Digital Cookie account and site. You'll find this in their Family Guide as well as on the cookie resources pages of gswny.org

Now that we've talked about the logistics of how girls participate, let's see what this looks like in action!

The Troop Experience



Council looks for volunteers with the Troop Cookie Manager role assigned first when uploading troop volunteers into the cookie management systems.

If you do not already have this role assigned in your MyGS account, please do so asap. If you do not see the role, reach out to customer care to have it assigned.

If you have not turned in your signed Troop Cookie Manager agreement, please do so now.



Troop Cookie Managers have access to 2 programs: Smart Cookies which they use to manage their troop's sale and Digital Cookie which has more limited reporting but also troop site access.

Financial and Order data from Digital Cookie flows into Smart Cookies.

As volunteers you will perform most of your management tasks in Smart Cookies. In this program you can review your troop rosters, place your troop orders throughout the program, and- once cookies arrive- you can track inventory, transfer packages to Girl Scouts, and event track finances.

Your Smart Cookies Dashboard will also feature a "To Do" task list that highlights upcoming tasks that are due for your troop.

As Troop Cookie Manager you also get access to the troop's Digital Cookie account.

Through this account you will be able to view Digital Cookie specific reports that include details like customer information, parent initial order entry (even if the parent did not submit it), badge completion and more.

Troops can also publish a Troop Site. We highly recommend that all troops do this as it connects to the GSUSA Cookie Finder.

Per gsusa:

Nearly 1 million annual searches go through the National Girl Scout Cookie Finder. These searches produce hyper localized results based on Zip code.

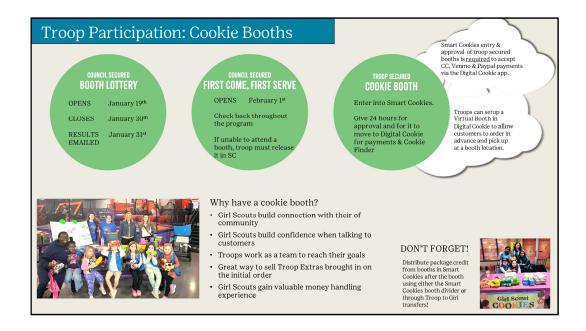
When customer go to the finder and enter a zip code, they not only see upcoming booths in that zip code, but also are show one troop site at random. They can order from the site for direct shipped cookies only. You troop can then distribute package credit to the girls for these orders in Smart Cookies.

Publishing a troop site link is also a required step in using the Digital Cookie app at a cookie booth to accept payment.

New this year:

- Troops can publish their Troop Direct Ship Site Link starting January 7th!
- There is no longer a Troop site lead. All Troop Cookie Managers with access will have the same permissions.

Find Getting Started flyers for both Smart Cookies & Digital Cookie on the gswny.org Volunteer Resources page



Another way troops participate is through cookie booths.

This is a chance for the girls to work as a team to achieve their goals. When your at a cookie booth you'll see the girls building confidence and a sense of connection with the people of their community. Cookie booths is also a great way to get rid of extra cookies!

Both GSUSA and GSWNY secure locations such as the area malls and Walmarts. We offer these spots to troops first in a booth lottery and then after as First Come, First Serve. Troops should check back throughout the season for updates as we add additional slots as we go and troops who need to cancel booths release them for other troops to grab.

Troops can also secure a location within Booth Essentials guidelines. All troop secured booths must be entered into SC for council approval. Once approved, the booth information will move into Digital Cookie, where- if you've already launched your troop site - you can set up a virtual booth pick up and on the day of the booth take payments via the app.

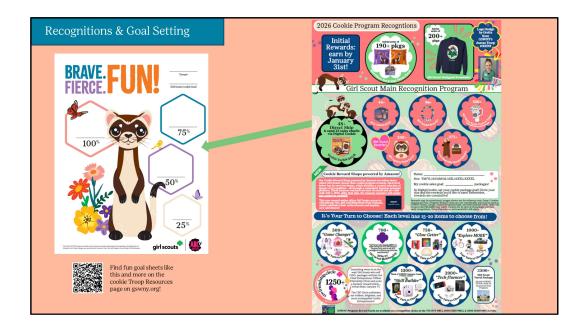
The booth will also appear on the GSUSA Cookie Finder.

Millions of customers use the cookie finder each year, with media and socials all directing customers to the search.

Be sure to keep booths up to date and ask troops to release a booth they can no longer attend. This will help ensure

the cookie finder is a useful tool for customers looking to support Girl Scouts.

After your booth, cookie credit can be distributed to the girls in Smart Cookies using their Booth Divider tool or by just creating a troop to girl transfer.



The GSWNY cookie program also offers Girl Recognitions to help teach girls about goal setting as well as excited them about the program.

Recognitions are cumulative, meaning the more the Girl Scout sells, the more she earns!

This year, you'll find the full reward flyer inside your Family Guide. We've also got a bunch of new exciting additions to this year's recognition line up!



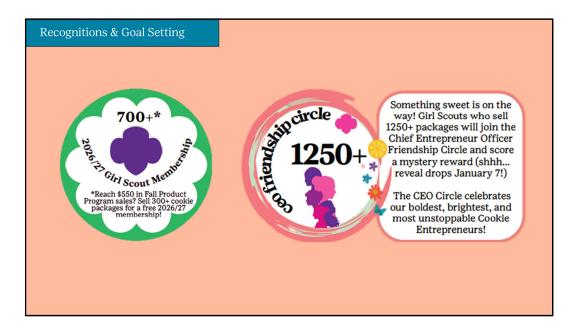
First up, this year's initial rewards! Girl Scouts can only earn these recognitions by January 31st.

This year, were excited to announce that our sweatshirt design comes from one of our own! Gretta from Aurora Troop 30190 won our design contest this past summer.

Girl Scouts who sell 200 or more packages by January 31st will earn this crew neck sweatshirt!

Troops who average 200+ packages per girl selling by Feb 5th will also receive up to 2 themed sweatshirts. Remember that 2 leaders have to be in Smart Cookies in order to claim both sweatshirts.

Please also remind your troops that when ordering their Troop Initial Reward sweatshirts, they should enter the adult sizes under the FIRST girl listed ONLY on their Initial Recognition Order. When you review troop orders, please check that this is what has been submitted as well.



Girl Scouts also have a chance to earn their 2027/2027 Girl Scout Membership by selling 700+ packages of cookies.

➤ If they sold \$550 in the Fall Product Program, they only need to sell 300+ packages to earn this reward.

We also have a new way to recognize our top sellers. Introducing the CEO Friendship Circle recognition level. Girl Scouts who reach this recognition level will score a mystery reward celebrating their accomplishments. We'll reveal the reward on January 7th, so stay tuned!

And finally, we're excited to share a new type of recognition featured levels 500+ packages and higher- the Cookie Reward Shops powered by Amazon! Girl Scouts who reach this level receive a voucher via email to our Cookie Reward Shops online. Each level below has its own fun theme, which includes a curated selection of dozens recognitions- all through a convenient Amazon-powered platform.



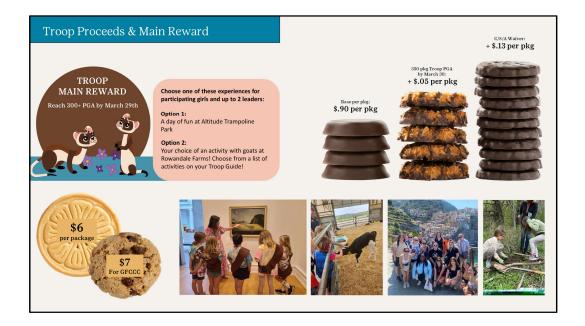
We are excited to introduce a new reward feature for the 500 and above levels. Cookie Reward Shops powered by Amazon.

Girl Scouts who reach these "It's Your Turn to Choose" levels will be issued an Amazon voucher via email to shop a carefully curated storefront of items which are all program related.

Each level has its own fun theme, and the storefront for each level will have dozens of items from which girl's can choose their reward.- all through a convenient Amazon-powered platform.

Guardians will need to have or set up an amazon account as this is where the voucher will be applied and where they will complete shipping information.

Vouchers will expire on July 1st and cannot be reissued, so it is important for families to understand the voucher must be used by July 1, 2026

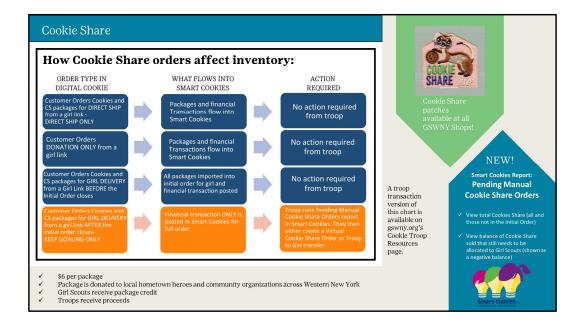


We encourage troops to also set a troop goal for cookies. This is a great way to plan activities and budget for the upcoming year.

Troops who earn their troop reward choose from 2 options.

Troops also earn proceeds for each package they sell. There is a 5 cent bonus for troops with a 350 pkg PGA of girl selling by March 30th.

Older Troops, cadettes, seniors, and ambassadors have the option to waive recognitions for an additional 13 cents per package. This must be unanimous by the troop and girls still receive the patches they earn. Troops who waive are also entitled to the troop rewards and initial reward.



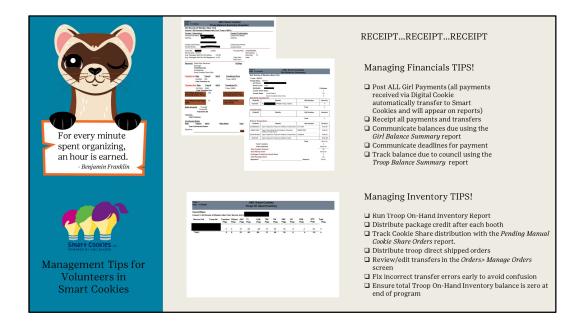
PP Team

Cookie Share is a great way to give back to the community while helping your troop and Girl Scouts reach their goal. Customers purchase a cookie share at \$6. The package is donated to local hometown heroes & community organizations and the Girl Scout & Troop receive package credit.

There are certain situations in which the inventory to fill a cookie share order will need to be taken from the troop inventory and transferred to the girl. In these situations, the troop has 2 options:

- Creates a troop to girl transfer in Smart Cookies for the variety they are donating. Then set aside the package to be donated at the end of the program.
- Or, they create a virtual cookie share order in Smart Cookies. This does
 not pull any packages from the Troop Inventory to fill the cookie share.
 Instead it give the girl package credit and designates the package to be
 donated by council.

To help troop leaders know how many packages of cookie share need to be assigned to each girl, SC has created the Pending Manual Cookie Share Orders report. This report will show the total cookie share sold as well as a what still needs to be allocated (shown as a negative number)



As Ben Franklin said- "For every minute spent organizing, an hour is earned."! Something we often see is that troops who keep good records of their financials and inventory find their program runs much smoother.

To that end, here are some tips to help!

By taking a few minutes each week within the direct sale part of the cookie program to update financials & inventory a troop will find they spot problems before the become BIG problems.

Troops can create, edit, or delete any Troop to Girl transfers they create from the Manage Orders screen.

If anyone is not already familiar with how to read the troop balance summary, girl balance summary, or troop on hand inventory reports- please touch base with me after this training so we can go over them. Once you've gotten the breakdown of these reports, you'll find them easier to read and utilize.

And when in doubt... RECEIPT EVERYTHING! Having a paper trail makes it much easier to fix errors.

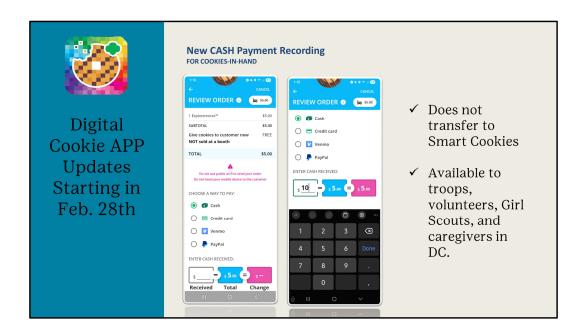


We have some Digital Cookie Updates we'd also like to make you aware of.

Venmo and PayPal, previously available only for cookies in-hand sales, can now be used for all order types, including in-person and shipped orders.- Please be mindful this ONLY APPLIES TO THE APP.

DC has also added push notifications for caregivers who choose to turn them on. These notifications will remind them of pending order needing approval.

You do NOT need to setup a venmo/customer account. This is for the customer to use their own venmo/paypal account.



DC has also added a CASH recording feature to the app that will be available for Cookies in Hand sales an for Troop Cookie Booths.

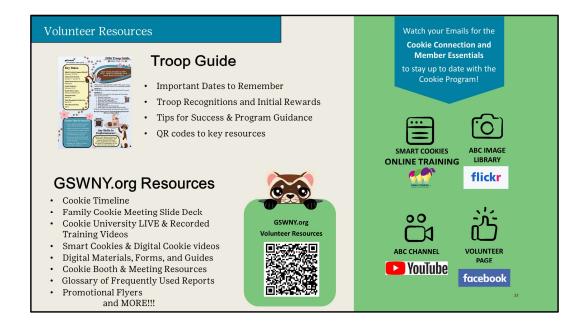
When selected, the user can enter the cash received and the DC app will autocalculate the change.

This information is saved in DC for reference in the Girl and Troop accounts. It do NOT transfer to SC.



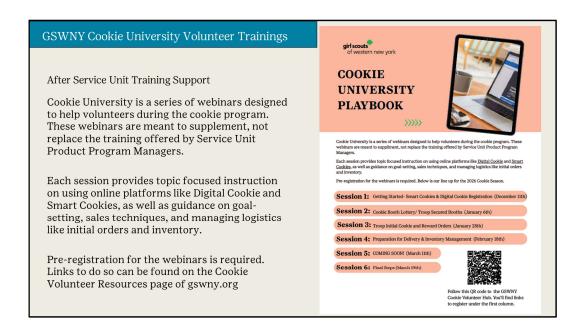
Girl Scouts and their families should receive training & information for the program at a Troop Cookie Family Meeting. This includes their paper materials provided by council- the order card and family guide (this year with the recognition flyer inside!)

The Cookie Girl Resources page of gswny.org has also been updated to make it easier than ever to find additional tools and resources such as link to the Family Cookie Entrepreneurship pin packets many leaders like to share with their families as well as printable door hangers, goal charts, and more!



The Troop Guide is a Troop Cookie Manager's best resource – second of course only to their SUPPM- for the program. It includes all the information they need to go through the program including qr codes to key resources.

Our Volunteer Resources page for cookies on gswny.org has also been updated this year making it easier than ever for leaders to find resources and understand the program. You'll find links to the ABC resources page and training videos directly from the gswny resources page as well.



When troops are finished with training by the service unit, they may still want some supplemental help.

Our council's Cookie University is just that! Troop volunteers can register for any or all of the session. Each session is topic focused and relevant to their immediate next steps in the program.

Leaders can also submit questions in advance to be answered live. Videos are posted to our website after the live webinar for troops who missed the session or need to review it.



If you need additional support, your best and first person to reach out to would be your Service Unit PP Manager. Just like Girls, Parents and Guardians reach out to you for answers, they are there to support you in this program.

ABC also has tech support available for Smart Cookies.

And Digital Cookie has help icons all around their site for both families and troops to inquire about orders or report direct shipped order issues.

And of course, you can always reach out to customer care.



And finally, we'll leave you with a great recipe!

As troop cookie managers, Girl Scouts and their families will be looking to you to set the tone of the sale. We encourage you to share your excitement, communicate deadlines and needs to families in your troop, pass along training and resources they'll need, and do your best to lead your troop to reaching their goals!

Here are your next steps to getting setup. You'll find more information on getting your troop started on the Cookie Volunteer Resources page of gswny.org.

