



## Setting the record straight

### Why do special interest groups use Girl Scouts to promote their causes?

It is this time of year (and they do it every year) that special interest groups try to advance their agenda on the backs of girls and use the media to market their cause. We do not want to fuel this ridiculous, unnecessary fire, but it is important for us to inform our connections, who are misinformed, and set the record straight.

There are **false** claims of a partnership with Planned Parenthood and accusations regarding controversial topics related to Planned Parenthood. John Pisciotta, director of Pro-Life Waco is orchestrating a “cookiecott” based on a lie that Girl Scouts has a partnership with Planned Parenthood. This initiative aims to spread misinformation to the public at large stating that GSUSA has a partnership with Planned Parenthood.

Here are the facts:

- Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and GSGLA do not have a relationship with Planned Parenthood.
- Girl Scouts does not provide financial support of any kind to Planned Parenthood.
- Girl Scouts does not advocate on behalf of any cause or mission outside of the Girl Scout mission, which is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts does not take a position on abortion or birth control, nor do we endorse or provide funding to organizations that advocate on behalf of these issues. We believe these are matters that are best discussed/handled within the family.

### Where exactly does that cookie money go?

One hundred percent of the money that Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA) and its troops raise through the Girl Scout Cookie Program stays local with GSGLA and its troops. All of the revenue from cookie activities—every penny after paying the baker—stays with the Girl Scout council. Girl Scouts selling cookies set their own money-earning goals for the season in order to help fund things like back-to-nature wilderness adventures or participation on Girl Scout robotics teams.

### I heard there’s a new gluten-free cookie this year. Are girls in greater Los Angeles selling it?

This year, a small group of councils (20 out of 100+ councils) have agreed to test-market a gluten-free cookie for 2014. At this time, GSGLA’s licensed Girl Scout bakery, Little Brownie Bakers, does not offer a gluten-free cookie, and the other Girl Scout cookie bakery, ABC Bakers, is testing a gluten-free cookie. Anyone with food allergies can still support leadership opportunities for girls through the Girl Scout Cookie Program by buying cookies to donate through GSGLA’s Gift of Caring Program, which sends cookies to soldiers overseas and to local food banks.

### Are there GMOs in Girl Scout Cookies?

While there currently are genetically modified agricultural crops (GMOs) in Girl Scout Cookies, our bakers determine whether to use GMOs in Girl Scout Cookies based on a range of factors depending on the specific cookie recipe. We work with our trusted bakers, who are industry leaders, to develop recipes for these sweet treats using ingredients that will produce the best-tasting and highest-quality cookies while simultaneously addressing industry trends, scientific trends, and of course, consumer preference. As an organization, we continue to defer to required federal guidelines as they relate to our products.

### Why is palm oil used in Girl Scout Cookies?

Palm oil is an ingredient found in the majority of baked snacks sold in the United States. GSUSA's licensed bakers tell us it continues to be necessary to use palm oil in our cookies to ensure shelf life, to offer customers the highest quality, and to serve as an alternative to trans-fats. One of the primary goals of our Girl Scout cookie bakers is to create the best-tasting cookies possible using the healthiest ingredients available. Our licensed bakers are members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and exclusively source palm oil from members of the RSPO, an organization of growers, buyers, manufacturers, conservationists and interested parties who are striving to develop and follow best practices to ensure sustainability. The bakers also purchase GreenPalm certificates covering 100% of the palm oil used in Girl Scout Cookies.