



**Girl Scouts of
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Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouting

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Cookie Program Prepares Girl Scouts for Real Life

December 15, 2011—Each year, the public anticipates what may be the most wonderful time of the year—Girl Scout Cookie Season. Itching to satisfy cravings for Thin Mints and Caramel Delites, the families and friends of Girl Scouts across the country prepare to buy Girl Scout Cookies. While patrons get ready to purchase, the Cookie Program itself prepares Girl Scouts for future careers and responsibilities each year. And this one will be no exception.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the country, serving not only as a fundraiser, but a priceless learning experience for every girl who participates in it. As an essential part of Girl Scouting's business and economic literacy initiative for girls ages 5-17, the Girl Scout Cookie program provides girls with self confidence and leadership skills and develops their marketing and public relation ability. Girls involved in the program manage inventory, learn money management skills, set goals, and make sales. Funds earned from cookie activities help send girls to camp, on trips and they afford them opportunities to explore math and science.

"The Girl Scout Cookie Program is a valuable part of the Girl Scout experience. The skills they gain truly help mold them into future leaders," Dr. Liz Brent, Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama CEO, said. "More than that, they get to have fun and see the success of their hard work." The program encourages girls to be whatever it is that they aspire to be, whether they dream of becoming the president of the United States, a teacher, doctor or a rockstar. Besides the support of friends, families and volunteers, this program is a core component in helping to build girls of courage, confidence and character that make the world a better place.

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