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## **Fact Sheet: The Cookie Legacy**

### **From 1912-2012....**

- Girl Scouts was founded by Juliette Gordon Low on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Ga., which means we're turning 100 years old in 2012!
- The Girl Scout Cookie Program started in 1917 and is about 95 years old.
- Girl Scout cookies were originally cooked in the kitchens and ovens of Girl Scouts and their mothers.
- The earliest mention of a cookie sale found to date was that of the Mistletoe Troop in Muskogee, Oklahoma, which baked cookies and sold them in its high school cafeteria as a service project in December 1917.
- Greater Philadelphia became the first council to sell commercially baked cookies in 1934.
- In 1936, the national Girl Scout organization began the process to license the first commercial baker to produce cookies that would be sold by girls in Girl Scout councils.
- During the 1960s, when baby boomers expanded Girl Scout membership, cookie sale volume increased significantly.
- In 1960, licensed bakers first began wrapping Girl Scout Cookie boxes in printed aluminum foil or cellophane to protect the cookies and preserve their freshness.
- By 1966, a number of varieties were available. Among the best sellers were Chocolate Mint, Shortbread, and Peanut Butter Sandwich cookies.
- In 1978, Girl Scouts of the USA began to supply bakers with standard cookie package layouts and pictures. For the first time in history, the boxes featured Girl Scouts in action, such as hiking or canoeing.
- Today, Girl Scout cookies come in a colorful variety, with five standard cookies that include Shortbreads, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Peanut Butter Patties, Caramel Delites and Thin Mints.

### **More Fun Facts!...**

- The cookie sale starts **January 1, 2012**
- All Girl Scout cookies are kosher.
- The Thin Mint is the #2 top-selling cookie in the U.S.! (Oreo is number 1.)
- The top-selling cookie for Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama is the Caramel Delight.
- The Girl Scout Cookie Program provides girls with skills in finance, marketing and public relations and valuable experiences that build confidence.
- The Girl Scout Cookie Program is run by girls, for girls!
- There is a Girl Scout Cookie App! It's called Girl Scout Cookie Finder.
- Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama serves more than 9,000 girls and 3,500 adults in southern Alabama.
- Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.
- Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama is excited about its centennial year's cookie season!