



2026 Cookie Program Indie Girl Scout Family Guide

Individually registered Girl Scouts, known as Indie Girl Scouts, can sell cookies too! Use this guide as a supplement to the *2026 Cookie Program Family Guide*.

This guide provides additional information you need to know as your individually-registered Girl Scout (Indie Girl Scout) works toward funding her fun adventures while learning entrepreneurial and business skills through the Girl Scout Cookie Program.



Scan here for the
2026 Cookie Program
Family Guide.

NEW for Returning Indie Girl Scouts

Council will create an Indie Girl Scout troop (the service unit number) for Indie Girl Scouts to be managed as a group. We will no longer create and move Indie Girl Scouts to their own troop. Caregivers will no longer have access to eBudde.

Why the change?

- Moving girls has become problematic in Digital Cookie, often resulting in broken/corrupt Digital Cookie girl links.
- No more initial order issues with round-up cases or cupboard orders.
- No more confusion for caregivers with the *Amount owed to council* in eBudde.

Stay Connected

Because your Indie Girl Scout doesn't have a troop leader, your Service Unit Cookie Manager (SUCM), or someone they designate, is your first contact to answer questions and to assist with navigating the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program.

Your service unit cookie manger (SUCM):

Your Indie Girl Scout local volunteer coordinator (if different from SUCM) is:

Rallyhood

You can also join our Indie Girl Scout Rally at rallyhood.com, a place where you can connect with other Indie Girl Scout caregivers and share information and ideas.

1. Go to rallyhood.com/23412.
2. Enter your email address and requested information and click "REQUEST TO JOIN."
3. Once you are approved to join by our staff, you will receive an email confirmation.

Initial Order for PAPER Orders

Please do not send your cookie order cards to Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania.

NEW! Indie Girl Scouts can now order cookies by the package for initial order.

- Enter your initial paper order card orders into Digital Cookie by Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 11:59 p.m.—**or sooner as directed by your SUCM/coordinator** OR
- turn in your paper order card to your SUCM/coordinator on or before Jan. 28 **or sooner as directed by your SUCM/coordinator**.

The Goal Getter Order Card can be used to take additional orders beyond the initial order to help your Indie Girl Scout reach her goals.

Initial Order Delivery and Pick-Up

Your SUCM/coordinator will provide the date, time, and location to pick up your initial cookie order. Count and verify for accuracy before signing delivery receipts. **Be sure to request receipts for all cookies received.**





Additional Product

You can get additional product so your Indie Girl Scout can reach her goals.

- **Service Unit Cookie Cupboard:** Ask your SUCM/coordinator for availability and direction.
- **Council Cookie Cupboard (council offices and volunteer homes):** Council or your SUCM/coordinator can enter in an order to a council cookie cupboard, and you will pick-up at the selected cupboard. Returns/exchanges can only be made during specific time periods; be sure to ask about eligibility.
- **From a troop in your area:** There may be a troop in your area that has extra cookies. Ask your SUCM/coordinator or council for availability.

Booth Sales

Indie Girl Scouts are permitted to participate in booth sales with just a caregiver.

- Indie Girl Scouts are eligible to reserve council and service unit level booth sales according to the traditional troop schedule and guidelines. Ask your SUCM/coordinator or council for more details, if interested.
 - » All booth sales at large businesses and outside of council-arranged booths are considered to be service unit booth sales. Select booth sale sites are set up by your SUCM or service unit cookie booth coordinator, who will tell you how and when to sign up.



- Indie Girl Scouts can also set up their own booth sites at public locations that can be listed on the Cookie Finder. Ask your SUCM/coordinator or council to enter the booth site to be included on the Cookie Finder.
 - » You must include your SUCM/coordinator in all your booth sale plans.
 - » You may NOT approach prominent community businesses/big box stores/franchises (i.e., Walmart, Giant Eagle, local grocery stores, etc.) for cookie booths.
 - » You may only approach small businesses (i.e., small shops, family-owned businesses, etc.). If there is a site outside of your service unit area where you're interested in scheduling a booth sale, contact your SUCM/coordinator or council so they can connect with the other service unit.

Cookie Booth Locations Guidelines

We encourage you to use your best judgment in setting up cookie booths in locations that will be open, accessible, and safe for your Girl Scout and potential customers.

- Certain locations may be inappropriate for young girls based on the standards of the local community, may negatively impact the cookie program experience for girls, and/or may negatively impact the Girl Scout Cookie brand in the community.
- For additional clarity, girls should not sell in front of establishments that they themselves cannot legally patronize.

Business Promotion of Booth Sales

Local businesses can be great partners during the cookie program, especially with hosting booth sales! However, there are specific trademark regulations around the name, brand, and logo of Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Cookies. If a business would like to discuss an official event partnership or sponsorship, please direct them to contact us at customer care@gswpa.org.

No Unattended Cookies

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is a girl-led program. Cookies should only be sold when Girl Scouts are present. Cookies sitting out at a retail location when only adults are present is discouraged. Additionally, businesses may not purchase cookies from a Girl Scout and then resell them in any format, regardless of whether the business is making money off the sale of the cookies.

Indie Girl Scout Finances

Indie Girl Scouts pay the full retail amount for products received and do not retain proceeds for sales. Proceeds are handled by council in the form of **Indie Girl Scout Program Rewards**.



Accepting Customer Checks

It's your decision whether to accept customer checks. Customer checks must be made out to you; **council does not accept customer checks**.

NEW Payment Schedule for Indie Girl Scout Caregivers

Indie Girl Scout caregivers will need to make the following payments to council for cookies:

- **March 19:** 25% of the total outstanding balance due (no additional cupboard cookies will be given until payment is received)
- **April 9:** 100% of the total outstanding balance due

Payment to council:

- Payments can be made in person at any council office by appointment (caregiver check*, money order, or cash) OR mailed to Attn: Product Program, Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania, 5681 Route 6N, Edinboro, PA 16412. (caregiver check* or money order only —DO NOT MAIL CASH).
- OR Payments to the service unit (as directed by your SUCM/coordinator).

**Please note: Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania does not accept cookie customer checks.*

Indie Girl Scout Program Rewards

Due to IRS regulations, girls (including Indie Girl Scouts) cannot receive a direct financial benefit. While traditional troops earn proceeds that are shared by all girls in the troop, Indie Girl Scouts earn Indie Girl Scout Program Rewards (IPR).

- Indie Girl Scouts begin to earn IPR when they sell a minimum of 10 packages of cookies.
- IPR are earned in \$5 increments based on a range of total sales for all cookie packages.
- While IPR are earned in \$5 increments, they can be used in any amount.
- IPR are digital, and you'll be emailed her total amount earned in the cookie program and redemption instructions in April.

Indie Girl Scout Program Rewards can be used for:

- annual membership registration,
- council shop purchases,
- any council-sponsored camp or program registration fees, (Indie Girl Scout Program Rewards are not doubled for council-sponsored camps like Girl Scout Bucks.)
- service unit day camps and events,
- Higher Award project expenses (restrictions may apply—ask for eligibility guidelines), and
- GSUSA Destinations.

IPR do not hold cash value for purchases outside of Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania.

Opt-out of Rewards for Additional IPR

If your Indie Girl Scout is a Junior, Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador Girl Scout, she can choose the *Additional Proceeds Option* to opt out of girl rewards and receive additional IPR. Contact council prior to March 30, 2026, if your Indie Girl Scout chooses this option.

