



COCO

The Cookie Command Center for Girl Scouts



As a parent or volunteer you can help your Girl Scout visit the COCO page on abcsmartcookies.com where each girl can set her personal goals of what she intends to get out of the cookie program, make plans for how she can reach or exceed her goals, check how she is doing along the way, send e-promise cards to her friends and family to tell them it's cookie time and ask for their support and new this year use the Cocodirect only e-card inviting customers to order, pay and have their cookies shipped directly to them within 48 business hours from the baker. Girls and troop volunteers can register in just a few steps on this secure site and help support each other all along while having fun in the cookie program.

This month we will be highlighting one of the most important skills that a Girl Scout can learn while participating in the cookie program that will last throughout a girls' lifetime.

Setting Goals

One way is with Money Management: Helping girls reach their financial goals: One of your opportunities as a volunteer or parent is to facilitate girl-led financial planning, which may include the following steps for the girls:

1. Set goals for money-earning activities. What do girls hope to accomplish through this activity? In addition to earning money, what skills do they hope to build? What leadership opportunities are presented?
2. Create a budget. Use a budget worksheet that includes both expenses (the cost of supplies, admission to events, travel, and so on) and available income (the troop's account balance, projected cookie sale proceeds and so on).
3. Determine how much the troop needs to earn. Subtract expenses from available income to determine how much money your troop needs to earn.
4. Make a plan. The troop can brainstorm and make decisions about its financial plans. Will cookie and other product sales-if approached proactively and energetically- earn enough money to meet the troop's goals? If not, which troop money-earning activities might offset the difference in anticipated expense and anticipated income? Will more than one troop money-earning activity be necessary to achieve the troop's financial goals? In this planning stage, engage the girls through the Girl Scout processes (girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning) and consider the value of any potential activity. Have them weigh feasibility, implementation, and safety factors.
5. Write it out. Once the troop has decided on its financial plan, describe it in writing. If the plan involves a troop money-earning activity, double check earning guidelines to see if you need to seek council approval and, if so, submit it along with the budget worksheet the girls created.

*Remember: it's great for girls to have opportunities, like the Girl Scout Cookie Program, to earn funds that help them fulfill their goals as part of the GS leadership experience. As a volunteer or parent, try to help girls balance the money-earning they do with opportunities to enjoy other activities that have less emphasis on earning and spending money. Take action projects, for example may not always require girls to spend a lot of money.


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