

Safety Tips of the Month

for Girl Scout Leaders, Parents/Guardians, Volunteers, and Girls

This is the first in a series of *Safety Tips of the Month*. Because it is January, we will address the Girl Scout Cookie® Program. By following these safety basics, parents/guardians, volunteers, and girls can ensure that the Girl Scout Cookie® Program will not only be a fun learning experience but also a safe activity. Everyone involved must use good judgment, exercise common sense, and be safety conscious.

Girls and Girl Scout Cookie® Program

- ☑ *Get parent/guardian permission* - it's needed to participate in the Girl Scout Cookie® Program.
- ☑ *Show you are a Girl Scout* - wear the Girl Scout membership pin and/or Girl Scout clothing.
- ☑ *Buddy up* - always use the buddy system; it's safer and more fun to be with a friend.
- ☑ *Be streetwise* - be familiar with the areas and neighborhoods where you will be selling Cookies®.
- ☑ *Partner with adults* - Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts must be with adults when taking and delivering orders. Girls, ages 11-17, must be supervised by an adult when going door-to-door and must never sell alone. Adults should be present at site sales at all times.
- ☑ *Safeguard money* - avoid carrying large sums of money or keeping it at home or school.
- ☑ *Do not enter!* - Girl Scouts should **never** enter a person's home when taking Girl Scout Cookie® orders or making deliveries.
- ☑ *Go door-to-door during daylight hours* - unless accompanied by an adult.
- ☑ *Remember, all adult volunteers* need to be registered as Girl Scout members for insurance and safety purposes.

Internet Safety

- ☑ *Use Internet* - only to inform family and friends about the Girl Scout Cookie® Program. However, it is best to make contact in person. Girl Scouts and their families **cannot** sell Cookies® on the Internet (the definition of "sales on the Internet" includes online auctions, broadcast e-mail messages, and/or posting on individual Girl Scout, troop, or Girl Scout council Web sites").
 - The safety of the girl members can be compromised by the Internet. Because of the scope and size of the Internet, there is no way to control who sees the solicitation for Cookie® sales and, therefore, who could contact the Girl Scouts involved in the Cookie® Program.
 - There is, unfortunately, potential for fraud on the Internet. There is no way to verify that the order for Cookies® is from a *real* Girl Scout, as anybody can set up a Web site and sell Cookies®.
 - *Protect the girl's privacy* - names, addresses, or e-mail addresses should **never** be given out to customers. Instead, give the Girl Scout troop number and an adult's approved contact information.

Transportation Provided by Adults

- ☑ Always be careful when crossing intersections and parking lots.
- ☑ Be aware of traffic when unloading passengers from vehicles and Girl Scout Cookies®.
- ☑ Ensure that every passenger (adults and girls) wear seatbelts - **always**.
- ☑ Show the girls' Girl Scout leader proof of valid driver's license, vehicle registration, and vehicle liability insurance (meeting the minimum required by the state of Illinois) before transporting girls.
- ☑ In the event of a vehicle accident, the owner's vehicle insurance is the primary applicable insurance.

Resources:

- ▶ *Safety-Wise*
- ▶ *Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity Safety Guidelines (Girl Scouts of the USA)*
- ▶ Girl Scouts - Illinois Crossroads Council's *Panorama: A Guide to Council Services* modules
- ▶ *Leader's Digest Blue Book of Basic Documents*