

**PRESSES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cookie Program Prepares Girl Scouts for Real Life

The public anticipates the few months of the year when their cravings for Thin Mints are fulfilled, but to millions of girls, cookies provide an opportunity to travel, explore science and math, and learn about a future career.

Baltimore, MD – After the end of this year’s Girl Scout Cookie® Sale Program, Girl Scouts will be able to examine their troop activities to identify how they implemented skills like budgeting, marketing, goal setting and advertising. For several months before the cookie program kicks off, girls and troops make plans to achieve their pre-determined cookie goals and set out to accomplish both individual and group success. The Girl Scout Cookie® Sale Program in its entirety teaches girls financial responsibility, business proficiency and lifetime skills.

Cookie College, provided by Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Council, enabled girls and adults to enhance their Girl Scout Cookie® Sale Program experience by learning the fundamentals of business management in a college setting at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. These skills help them identify their goals and how many boxes of cookies they need to achieve their goals. These same skills will also be used in everyday life after the Cookie Sale is over, as the girls continue to grow and become successful leaders.

“This is a concrete example of the Girl Scout mission in action,” stated Girl Scouts of Central Maryland CEO Traci Barnett. “For years Girl Scouts has touted the leadership benefits afforded girls who participate in scouting,” Barnett said. “The fact that 66% of women of professional achievement were Girl Scouts at some point in their youth makes it clear that Girl Scouting does indeed develop skills in girls that will help to make them successful in their future endeavors.”

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Opportunities to attend science and math camps are part of the future-focused activities available to today's Girl Scouts. At these camps, girls participate in math and science activities like astronaut training and Xbox game testing.

The overall top selling troop, Troop 1553 in Harford County, used the proceeds from the Cookie Sale to participate in Space Academy offered by the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, in Huntsville, Alabama through the Girl Scouts STUDIO 2B *destinations* program. This program allows girls to develop confidence in their own skills and provides girls who are serious about science, math, and physics, the opportunity to participate in activities that are similar to what real astronauts do, such as simulated shuttle launches, rides, and landings; build model rockets and assemble space station components; and conduct experiments and learn about assorted jobs for different missions.

In addition to STUDIO 2B *destinations*, the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Council also encourages girls to develop math, technology, and science skills through its Astronomical and Cosmic Exploration of Space club. ACE of Space, as it is more frequently called, gives participating girls the opportunity to listen to lectures by NASA scientists, ask questions about related topics and participate with experiments.

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Celebrating its 45th Anniversary, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard and Harford counties. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Where Girls Grow StrongSM