



Girl Scouts of Central Maryland  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Girl Scouts and USO Stuff-A-Van Event Supports “Operation U.S. Mint”**

Baltimore— On Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Girl Scouts and the USO will be in the parking lot of Marley Station and on December 5 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, they will be at Westfields Annapolis encouraging shoppers to buy Girl Scout Cookies in an effort to *stuff* the Girl Scout van for Operation U.S. Mint.

Every year during the annual Cookie Program Activity, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland selects a Gift of Caring service project. For the last two years that project has been Operation U.S. Mint, which benefits U.S. soldiers and military personnel serving overseas. Throughout the cookie program, Girl Scout Cookie customers purchase one or more boxes of cookies that are then donated to Operation U.S. Mint. Once donated, these cookies are either shipped overseas to various locations where soldiers and military personnel are serving or they are hand delivered at the BWI/Marshall Airport.

Last year Girl Scouts collected nearly 14,000 boxes of cookies for U.S. soldiers and military personnel. Many Girl Scout troops went to the BWI/Marshall Airport to hand service men and women boxes of cookies as they departed to or returned from their overseas tours of duty. One parent said she valued the opportunity because it gave her the chance to talk with her daughter about war, what war meant and about the men and women going overseas: “We watched as parents, girlfriends, boyfriends and children got that last hug, that last kiss and that last good-bye.” The sentiment of the evening was best express by a Brownie Girl Scout who simply said “peace” as she handed a soldier a box of cookies.

Girl Scout Cookie fans can show their support by purchasing and donating one or more boxes of cookies to Operation U.S. Mint. For more information about the program contact Terry Mercer, Product Sales Manager, [tmercerc@gscm.org](mailto:tmercerc@gscm.org).

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*Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties providing programs and activities that allow them to Discover, Connect and Take Action.*

**Where Girls Grow Strong<sup>SM</sup>**

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