

# "What If?" Scenarios

## What if someone asks you, "What's the difference between Girl Scouts and Scouting America?"

- Girl Scouts and Scouting America are two completely different organizations.
- Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world! And research shows there's no better place to discover their full potential.
- Talk to cookie customers about what the Girl Scout experience has been like for you and your troop.

*PRO TIP:* Stay positive. Don't put other organizations down. Just lift Girl Scouts up!

## What if someone asks about a cookie we don't sell anymore?

- Thank them for loving Girl Scout Cookies!
- Ask them what they loved about that cookie, was it chocolate? Was it fruit flavored? Based on their response, recommend a different cookie.
- Some cookies come and go based on their popularity/food trends and to make room for new and exciting flavors.

*PRO TIP:* If you have a Digital Cookie page, share it with customers. Explain that purchasing cookies either at a booth or online helps you reach your goals.

## What if someone steals money or cookies from the booth?

- Try to get a good look at the offender so you can describe them to security or the police.
- Call 911, and alert security (if applicable).
- Report any incidents to your council according to its guidelines.

*PRO TIP:* Never attempt to physically recover stolen items or confront a suspect.

## What if you're approached by an angry customer or someone makes you uncomfortable?

- Try to get a good look at the person in case you need to describe them to security or the police.
- If the situation calls for it, call 911 and alert security.
- If it feels safe to do so, we want you to feel empowered to capture the person with your smartphone's video, photo, or audio recording to provide evidence to police.

*PRO TIP:* Never argue or negatively engage with a customer. Try to stay calm.

## What if a customer complains about where the cookie proceeds go?

- You can say, "Girl Scout Cookie proceeds stay local to power amazing adventures and life-changing opportunities for girls, such as STEM activities, trips, community projects, and charitable donations. The more cookies you buy, the more you help troops and Girl Scouts gain the skills needed to take on the world!"

*PRO TIP:* Always practice good listening skills before replying. Do not engage with someone if the situation escalates.

## What if you're asked to leave by store management or security?

- If a problem arises with property/store management or security guards, follow their instructions.
- Report the request to your troop cookie volunteer so they can work with the service unit or the council to resolve the matter.

*PRO TIP:* Bring a copy of the authorization if it's available from your council.

## What if someone asks why Girl Scouts use palm oil in their cookies?

- Palm oil is an ingredient found in most baked snacks sold in the U.S.
- Palm oil ensures shelf life and serves as an alternative to trans fats.
- We continue to explore alternatives, but there are no viable or readily available alternatives at this time.
- Girl Scouts of the USA is a member of RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) which supports efforts to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil products.

*PRO TIP:* If someone is asking questions that you can't answer, feel free to direct them to <http://www.girlscouts.org/cookie> for more info.

## What if another troop shows up at the same time?

- Contact troop cookie volunteers to verify sign-ups in case someone has arrived at the wrong location.
- Work together to find a solution. Consider splitting the time or having one troop per door.
- Do not involve store management with troop conflicts.

*PRO TIP:* Girl Scouts and their adult volunteers should always behave in a manner appropriate to a public setting.