

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Girl Scouts Reflect on Historic, Challenging 2020 Cookie Season**

*GSNYPENN girls sold 1,784,697 boxes of cookies, donated 33,207 to Meals on Wheels and hometown heroes, and worked with community partners during unique cookie season*

**Cicero, N.Y.** (July 28, 2020) — Area troops in the Girl Scouts of [NYPENN Pathways Council](#) (GSNYPENN) sold 1,784,697 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies during the 2020 program—which was unique, historic and challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

33,207 of those boxes were purchased by customers through the Sweet Support Council Gift of Caring annual service project and/or donated by the council to Meals on Wheels and numerous hometown entities serving on the front lines of the pandemic across GSNYPENN's territory (24 counties in New York, two in northern Pennsylvania).

“The hard work and dedication of our girls and volunteers each cookie season is always unmatched. This year, we encountered a hurdle we’ve never experienced before due to the pandemic—making for both a unique and historic cookie program,” says Julie Dale, GSNYPENN CEO.

“Our members did what Girl Scouts do best—lead and help. Through the assistance of community partners and customers who supported our girls, we were able to raise funds for troops and also deliver a sweet treat to communities served by Meals on Wheels and our hometown essential workers during a time when they truly needed it most. We’re so grateful for the continued support of our Girl Scouts.”

Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls learn financial literacy, practice entrepreneurship and develop essential leadership skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics. Purchases support local Girl Scouts who use their cookie earnings to power experiences for themselves and their troops. Funds raised always stay local to help troops in several ways including community service projects, programming, camp adventures and more.

With social distancing/shelter in place mandates in effect to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus during what is traditionally the busiest time of GSNYPENN's cookie season, the council and its troops were forced to cancel all community booth sales and get creative fast. Staff and members moved quickly to extend the season end date from March 29 to May 31, market online sales via girls' Digital Cookie links, encourage customers to make purchases to be donated to Meals on Wheels and/or hometown heroes on the front lines of the pandemic in their communities, instate no-contact cookie deliveries, and partner with local businesses to help troops sell remaining inventory.

Due to local effects of the pandemic, regional Meals on Wheels have experienced an increase in the number of elderly community members requesting services and Girl Scout Cookies became a special treat for these recipients. 7,332 boxes were distributed to these meal programs across GSNYPENN's service area. Meals on Wheels supports more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. The network serves virtually every community to deliver nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that enable seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity, strengthening communities one senior at a time.



In addition, thousands of boxes of donated cookies were also distributed to hometown heroes, essential workers and other local entities on the front lines of the pandemic. This included doctors, nurses, and healthcare staff; police and fire departments; EMTs and paramedics; postal carriers; grocery workers; cleaning companies; school district staff and student meal delivery programs; nursing home residents and staff; the Food Bank of Central New York; local and regional food cupboards and pantries; and more.

The GSNYPENN council and its members would like to thank the following local businesses for their extraordinary support of troops during the 2020 cookie season:

Alexandria Bay Big M Supermarket	Alexandria Bay	NY
Gigi's Place	Apalachin	NY
Atlantic Seafood	Baldwinsville	NY
Cam's Pizza	Baldwinsville	NY
Sunshine Ice Cream	Baldwinsville	NY
Village Ace Hardware	Baldwinsville	NY
3rd Rail General Store	Berkshire	NY
Social on State	Binghamton	NY
Top This Pizza	Brewerton	NY
Bear Creek Restaurant	Brewertown	NY
Lakeport Market	Bridgeport	NY
Brookton's Market	Brooktondale	NY
Cam's Pizza	Camillus	NY
Primo's De Tico's Grill	Carthage	NY
Arctic King Ice Cream	Central Square	NY
Buttercup Cheese	Central Square	NY
Joa's By The Bay	Central Square	NY
Mark's Service Center	Central Square	NY
Red Onion Grocery	Central Square	NY
Advance Auto Parts	Cicero	NY
Scoops Ice Cream Shoppe	Cicero	NY
Spera's Old Fashioned Meat Market	Cicero	NY
Thee Diner & Ice Cream	Cicero	NY
Jason's Auto Repair	Clay	NY
Utica Coffee	Clinton	NY
Simmons Tree Farm	Copenhagen	NY
AT&T	Cortland	NY
P&C Fresh	Cortland	NY
Matthews Motor Company	Covington	PA
Brown's Pharmacy	Deposit	NY
Dexter Market	Dexter	NY
Dryden Agway	Dryden	NY
Pizza and Bones	Dryden	NY
Elmira Save-a-Lot Supermarket	Elmira	NY
Endicott Originals	Endicott	NY
Rossi's Pizza Endicott	Endicott	NY
Toad's Too Ice Cream Oasis	Freeville	NY
Burke's Home Center	Fulton	NY

Kathy's Cakes & Big Dipper Ice Cream	Fulton	NY
Small Town Supply Ace Hardware	Gouverneur	NY
Dougherty Pharmacy Beer Shoppe	Hamilton	NY
Sliders Food Mart	Harrisville	NY
Marino's Italian Restaurant	Hastings	NY
Jones Family Farm LLC	Herkimer	NY
Big Boy's Gas & Tobacco	Hogansburg	NY
Lamphere's Market	Hopkinton	NY
Horseheads Jubilee Foods	Horseheads	NY
Cayuga Lake Creamery	Interlaken	NY
Finger Lakes Beverage Center	Ithaca	NY
P&C Fresh	Ithaca	NY
Rossi's Pizza	Johnson City	NY
Bare Arms	Little Falls	NY
Ed's Pizza Place	Little Falls	NY
Advance Auto Parts	Liverpool	NY
Chuckleberries	Liverpool	NY
Mazzye's Meats	Liverpool	NY
Nichols Supermarket & Discount Liquors	Liverpool	NY
Nojaim Bros of Marcellus	Marcellus	NY
Corky's Collision	Massena	NY
Dougherty Pharmacy	Morrisville	NY
New York Pizzeria	New Berlin	NY
Mangia Macrina's Wood Fired Pizza	New Hartford	NY
Lambertt's Attic	Newark Valley	NY
AT&T	North Syracuse	NY
Mike's Auto	North Syracuse	NY
Toss & Fire Wood Pizza	North Syracuse	NY
Wayne Emmons Agency	Norwich	NY
Ye Olde Polke Store	Norwich	NY
The Old Forge Hardware	Old Forge	NY
Bosco's Meal	Oswego	NY
Cam's Pizza	Oswego	NY
Garafolo's Importing	Oswego	NY
Ontario Orchards	Oswego	NY
Oswego Sub Shop	Oswego	NY
Paul's Big M	Oswego	NY
Raby's Ace Home Center	Oswego	NY
Red's Scriba Market	Oswego	NY
Scriba Meats	Oswego	NY
Seneca Warehouse	Oswego	NY
Ovid Big M	Ovid	NY
Rylee's Place Family Diner	Ovid	NY
Confection Connection Owego	Owego	NY
Originals	Owego	NY

River Rock Diner	Owego	NY
Sugar Maple Café	Owego	NY
Breen's Shop N Save	Palmyra	NY
Happy Valley Inn	Parish	NY
Cam's Pizza	Phoenix	NY
Wrightway Hardware	Phoenix	NY
Lamphere's Market	Potsdam	NY
Deaton's Building & Home Center	Pulaski	NY
Stephano's Pizzeria & Restaurant	Pulaski	NY
Mister Shake	Richfield Springs	NY
LaRoma's Pizzeria & Restaurant	Rome	NY
Mazzaferro's Meat & Deli	Rome	NY
Autumn's Harvest Farm	Romulus	NY
Schrader Farms Meat Market	Romulus	NY
A-Verdi Storage Containers	Savannah	NY
Red's Scriba Market	Scriba	NY
Sherburne Big M	Sherburne	NY
It's My Deli	Sidney Center	NY
Bosco's Village Pub	Solvay	NY
Fun City Service	Spencer	NY
Spencer Shurfine Foodmart	Spencer	NY
Mother's Cupboard Fish Fry Diner	Syracuse	NY
Premier Technologies	Syracuse	NY
Wally's Belvedere	Syracuse	NY
Flynn Beverages	Towanda	PA
Union Springs Shurfine Supermarkets	Union Springs	NY
Luna	Utica	NY
Rosario's Pizzeria	Utica	NY
Utica Coffee	Utica	NY
Northern Ace Home Center	Volney	NY
Local 315 Brewing Company	Warners	NY
Packy's Pub	Washington Mills	NY
Ciccino's Pizzeria	Waterloo	NY
F-n-A's Rhythm and Booze	Waterloo	NY
Burrville Power Equipment	Watertown	NY
Griff's Beverage Watertown	Watertown	NY
Steiners General Store & Diner	Watertown	NY
The General Store	Watertown	NY
Elliotts Farm & Home Supply	Winthrop	NY
Pete's NY Pizza	Wolcott	NY
Arey Building Supply	Wysox	PA

Girl Scouts serves girls in grades K-12. Annual membership is \$25. Financial assistance is available. To register a girl online, visit [gsnypenn.org/join](https://gsnypenn.org/join). To become an adult volunteer, learn more at [gsnypenn.org/volunteer](https://gsnypenn.org/volunteer).

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**Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc.**

Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. We believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ to change the world. Our extraordinary journey began more than 100 years ago with the original G.I.R.L., Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low. Today we continue the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. GSNYPENN is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to administer the Girl Scout program in 24 counties of New York and two in Pennsylvania. We offer every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. Girl Scouts serves girls in grades K-12. Annual membership is \$25. Financial assistance is available. To register a girl online, visit [gsnypenn.org/join](https://gsnypenn.org/join). To become an adult volunteer, learn more at [gsnypenn.org/volunteer](https://gsnypenn.org/volunteer).