

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Girl Scouts Partner with Local Meals on Wheels as Programs Become Even More Crucial During Pandemic

**Cicero, N.Y.** (April 13, 2020) — Prior to local outbreak of COVID-19, the [Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways](https://www.gsnypenn.org/) (GSNYPENN) Council (serving 24 counties in New York and two in Northern Pennsylvania) designated Meals on Wheels programs across its service area as the 2020 Sweet Support community partner for its cookie program. Through this annual service project, customers choose to gift their Girl Scout Cookie purchases to assist a designated community entity.



With social distancing and shelter at home mandates now in effect across NY and PA to help mitigate spread of the coronavirus, Meals on Wheels programs are more critical than ever. Local programs are experiencing an increase in the number of elderly community members requesting meals. To-date, roughly 550 cases (6,600 individual boxes) of Girl Scout Cookies have been donated to Meals on Wheels. Even more are being shared each day thanks to the generosity of the public and troops obtaining more customer cookie donations.

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.

“We are very happy to partner with Meals on Wheels as our Sweet Support community recipient. As fate would have it, this partnership comes at a critical moment. We are grateful to help provide a special treat for those seeking this service during these challenging times,” says GSNYPENN CEO Julie Dale.

“We distributed a box of cookies to around 400 of our meal recipients on one day of deliveries along

with their home delivered meals. At a time when coronavirus is on everyone’s minds, providing Girl Scout Cookies put a smile on our meal recipients’ faces. We, and I am sure our recipients, are grateful to GSNYPENN for their generosity,” says Mason Kaufman, Executive Director, Meals on Wheels of Syracuse.

“Due to the pandemic, many of our older neighbors are trying to avoid grocery shopping; or children that checked on them daily are now having to shelter at their own homes. For various reasons, the demand for our services, providing daily meals along with a welfare check, has doubled in three weeks’ time. Our staff and volunteers have had to deal with many challenges to meet increased demand. A bright spot has been Girl Scout Cookie donations. Giving a little unexpected surprise of a box of cookies is nice for the people we serve, as well as, for our dedicated volunteers who remain committed to our mission. We

*GSNYPENN has donated roughly 6,600 boxes (550 cases) of Girl Scout Cookies to-date to regional Meals on Wheels programs across its council territory, with more donations on the way. Pictured are MOW staff accepting donations in Seneca County, NY (top left), Tioga County, NY (top right), Bradford County and Tioga County, PA (bottom left) and Cayuga County, NY (bottom right). (Photos courtesy of Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways)*



*(map graphic courtesy of Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways)*

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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).