

## **FAQ—Palm Oil**

### **Q: Why does Girl Scouts use palm oil in their cookies?**

Palm oil is an ingredient found in the majority of baked snacks sold in the United States. GSUSA's licensed bakers tell us it continues to be necessary to use palm oil in our cookies to ensure their shelf life, to bring you the highest quality products, and to serve as an alternative to trans fats. While we continue to explore other alternatives, at this time, there are no viable or readily available alternatives on the market.

### **Q: Why can't you use something different?**

The world's food supply is intricately tied to the use of palm oil, so we believe promoting proper manufacturing principles is the most responsible approach to how Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Cookie development is advanced. While we continue to explore other alternatives, at this time, there are no viable or readily available alternatives on the market.

### **Q: What corrective actions is GSUSA taking to prevent child labor?**

To be very clear, child labor has no place in the production of Girl Scout Cookies. If certain suppliers are not following best practices, we expect our bakers and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), of which GSUSA is an affiliate member, to take action quickly to rectify those exceptions.

### **Q: Does GSUSA belong to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)?**

Yes, GSUSA is an affiliate member of RSPO.

### **Q: Does the cocoa used in Girl Scout Cookies come from cacao beans picked by children?**

Our licensed bakers continue to work with their primary chocolate suppliers and with the Chocolate Manufacturer's Association (CMA)—which both licensed bakers of Girl Scout Cookies are members of—on issues of slavery and abusive child labor as they relate to the production and purchase of chocolate. The chocolate suppliers and the CMA strongly condemn the use of slavery and abusive labor practices. Their goal is to support the governments and advocacy groups that will make a difference in the lives of the cacao farmers, as well as to give assurances to consumers that the cocoa has been farmed under appropriate working conditions.

### **Q: Why should I buy Girl Scout Cookies?**

When you buy Girl Scout Cookies, you support Girl Scouts and you power amazing experiences and life-changing opportunities for girls year-round—from awesome trips to community projects to outdoor adventures. Through your support, you help Girl Scouts build essential skills as they begin to think like entrepreneurs and learn to take the lead, both now and in the future. Girls gain these skills from working with others, setting goals, and connecting with customers. It's about the experience a girl has running her very own cookie business, gaining [five essential skills](#) (goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics) as she learns to think like an entrepreneur. Because proceeds from your purchase stay local, you also help create positive change in your community.