

Girl Scout money-earning ideas

Looking for fresh fundraising ideas for your Troop beyond Fall and Cookie sales? ¹²Look for projects where Girl Scouts can feel truly invested — just make sure you complete the money earning application³ for approval.

Make Something Creative

1. **Create Cards** - This is not just for donations at Christmas. Consider all the other holidays — especially ones less publicized such as Grandparents Day and National Scout Day. Be sure to include your troop's contact information on the back in case the recipient wants to donate at a future date.
2. Make **Teacher Appreciation Gifts** - Check school calendars for teacher, staff appreciation days, and hold sales well in advance. Parents are often looking for fresh ideas for these days and a small gift that is also a donation to scouting can be a great solution. Genius Tip: Try these 50 teacher appreciation ideas.
3. Produce **Cookbooks for and by the Kids** - Put together and sell a low-budget cookbook filled with the favorite recipes of troop members and their families. Online tools make this task affordable and easy to accomplish with a professional look.
4. Participate in **Local Community Craft Fairs** - It is always great to find opportunities where large groups are gathered. Be sure to plan to give your members ample time to create beautiful items that will best represent the troop.
5. Produce an **Art Show** - Present scout artwork for sale during a regularly scheduled meeting. Consider staffing different booths with arts and crafts lessons with projects where siblings and families can participate.

Giving back to the Community

1. Plan a **Service-oriented Fundraiser**
2. **Collect Recyclables** - Many items such as inkjet cartridges, small electronics, video game consoles and more can be sent to a recycling organization for cash. These types of projects not only teach scouts about protecting the environment but also prevent products from ending up in landfills.
3. **Coordinate a Literacy Project** - Arrange for troop members to read books to younger children and find sponsors for their time. Contact afterschool programs at your local schools, YMCAs, childcare centers or Club programs.
4. Complete **Chores for the Community** - Have members donate their time to different charities for tasks such as yard work, cleaning, small repairs or other odd jobs and are sponsored to do these chores. The charity receives the benefit of the work completed and the troop receives needed funds from donors.
5. **Pick up Cans and Trash** after Community Festivals - Research opportunities for your troop to help (for a fee) with cleanup after community events such as picnics or outdoor family concerts.

Plan a Special Event

1. Bring together family and community members by **offering special services** or hosting events that contribute to a favorite cause.
2. **Organize a Class for a Fee** - Teaching kids or parents new skills in crafts, cooking, camping survival, first aid and more can be a great fundraiser and possible path to merit badges.

¹ Troops should sell 48 items per registered girl in a calendar year to qualify for additional money earning activities.

² Money earning activities can take place outside of Council sponsored Fall and Cookie Sale period.

³ https://www.gsnorcal.org/en/our.../Finance_Money_Earning_Application_Form.html

3. Sponsor a **Car Wash** with Extras - Find ways to offer something different with this favorite. For example, add packages of varying levels, such as vacuuming service and tire detail for a little more money or a quick window cleaning for less. Offering drinks and snacks for sale while people are waiting can add another source of funds.
4. Host a **Dog Wash** - Offering premade bows and bowties for the pets' collars adds a fun extra touch. Include special deals for families with more than one pet.
5. Host a **Parents Night Out** - With enough volunteers and adult supervision, this is a great way to serve your community's families and raise money, too. Strategic timing can help, so consider parents' needs for Christmas shopping, Valentine's Day dates and other times of the year where extra babysitting help is especially needed.
6. Plan a **Spa Day** – Perfect for older Girl Scouts and Mother's Day (or any day to show extra love and appreciation). Sell personalized spa appointments including manicures, pedicures and facial treatments, all given by members of the troop.
7. Set Up **Restaurant Nights** - Find local restaurants willing to donate a specific portion of an evening's proceeds to your troop, then find creative ways to promote your event in the community.
8. Sponsor a **Father-Daughter** and **Mother-Son Dance**. Sell tickets for your event.
9. Host a **Bike and Trike Parade** - Teach bike safety for younger siblings and community members. This creates an excellent teaching opportunity for the scouts. Ask for a suggested donation to your troop or cause.
10. Host a **Community Meal** - Traditional chili cook-offs, spaghetti suppers and pancake breakfasts are all great ways to raise money and promote teamwork. Consider finding a troop parent with unique cooking expertise willing to guide your troop to a new cooking adventure such as Thai Night or traditional Bolivian cuisine.

Hone Your Sales Pitch

1. **Deliver Dinners** for a Week - Find volunteers from the troop willing to each sponsor one night of the week. The purchased dinners could be homemade by the volunteers or even donated by a restaurant. Genius Tip: Organize meal deliveries with an online sign up.
2. Arrange **Flower Sales** - This is great for celebrating and showing appreciation on holidays and special recognition events. Think about offbeat ones like school award ceremonies, Little League tournaments, **high school proms** and more.
3. Coordinate **Used Book Sales** - It is a great way to give old books new homes and raise some money in the process. Troops can also include handmade items such as crafts and cards for sale.
4. Sell Gift Baskets - This could be connected to a specific holiday, such as Christmas, or before Teacher Appreciation Day. Consider a combination of handmade crafts or baked goods by the troop members, as well as donations from local businesses. **Cannot be a raffle or silent auction.**
5. **Seed Sales** and planting - There are several organizations that offer great options for selling easy-to-grow varieties great for fundraising as well as teaching kids about growing vegetables and flowers.
6. Run a **Concession Stand** - Depending on the school or community event, consider starting out small with a table, water bottles and granola bars. Scale the amount of offerings depending on event needs.
7. Provide **First Aid Kits** - Help kids learn about all that's needed for a basic first aid kit by preparing them together, then look for local health fairs that will allow your troop to distribute and charge a small fee as a donation.