

# News Release

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Girl Scout Cookie Booth Incident**

### **A Reminder that Safety is a Top Priority for Girl Scouts of Western Washington**

(Seattle, WA) March 10, 2023. Girl Scouts of Western Washington has been made aware of an incident involving Girl Scout Cookie sellers on March 9, 2023 in Port Orchard, WA.

Between 6:00-8:00 PM when members of Girl Scout Troop 41394 were selling Girl Scout Cookies at one of our 800+ trusted partner locations, over \$300 in cash was stolen from one of the booths while they were making change for an order.

All of the Girl Scouts involved are thankfully reported safe, and no one was hurt during the encounter. The Port Orchard Police Department was notified of the incident and local officials are currently investigating.

“I’m disheartened to hear about the incident in Port Orchard—both for the young people who had to experience the robbery and because I know this isn’t the first time an incident like this has happened, and nor will it be the last,” said Andrea Anderson, CEO of Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

“The Girl Scout Cookie Program is a fundraiser for local youth to raise money that will help them achieve a year’s worth of goals and adventures. It’s unfathomable that anyone would take away this opportunity from them. Troop 41394 has decided to continue selling cookies through the end of the season, and I am so proud of them for continuing to demonstrate courage, confidence, and character through this terrible experience,” Andrea added.

Safety remains a top priority of Girl Scouts of Western Washington. Girl Scout Cookie sellers and their adult chaperones are directed to follow safety guidelines developed by Girl Scouts of the USA, which can be found [on our website](#).

If Girl Scouts experience, or a third-party witnesses, any harm or violence directed toward Girl Scout Cookie sellers, please report the incident to local law enforcement and contact Girl Scouts of Western Washington at [customercare@girlscoutsww.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsww.org).

The 2023 Girl Scout Cookie Program continues in Western Washington through March 19. Customers can locate nearby cookie booths on our website at <https://www.girlscoutsww.org/findcookies>.

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**About Girl Scouts of Western Washington**

Girl Scouting builds youth of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. At Girl Scouts of Western Washington, our community is strong and our vision is clear. We invest in our community through Girl Scouts. Our community represents every race, ethnicity, income level, sexual orientation, ability, and religion; reflects a spectrum of gender identity; and connects across geographic locations. By focusing our attention on community members who are furthest from racial, economic, and social justice, Girl Scouts can be an instrument of change, promoting equitable outcomes for all. We wholly commit to taking action to grow as an anti-racist and anti-oppressive organization so that, through Girl Scouts, our members are affirmed as they strive to make our community and world better.

We acknowledge that Girl Scouts of Western Washington's many offices and properties in the Western Washington region occupy the ancestral lands of many indigenous communities. Though displaced, these people are the past, present, and future caretakers of this land. To say this is to acknowledge a debt to those who were here before us and to recognize our role as colonizers and our responsibility to respect and honor the intimate relationship Indigenous peoples have to this land. This acknowledgment is a small step toward reconciliation and improved relations with the tribal communities in our region. It's done to remind us of the history that has shaped our present and will continue to shape our future. It also reminds us to be intentional in our relationship with the land and with the people indigenous to this region. Our council's work needs to be informed by that history best serve our communities and realize our commitment to be an anti-racist organization.