

# WestchasePatch

THE NEIGHBORHOOD FILES, SCHOOLS

## Local Girl Scouts Send Cookies to Troops Overseas

In its second year, this cookies to troops program is bound for success

By **Deb Kelley** February 16, 2011

Westchase Brownie Troop 678 is making a difference for soldiers overseas one box of cookies at a time.

Through the second annual *Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's* (<http://www.gswcf.org/>) Gift of Caring Project, Cookies from Home, the community can purchase from the wide selection of Girl Scout cookies and the proceeds will go to U.S. military troops serving abroad. The initiative is a partnership between the Girl Scouts and the Support Our Troops organization.

In its first year in 2010, the 14 members of Troop 678 donated almost 200 boxes, including Thin Mints, Do-Si-Dos, Dulce de Leche, Lemon Chalet Cremes, Samoas, Tagalongs, Thank You Berry Munch, and Trefoils, to active military personnel far from home. The Brownie Troop consist of second and third graders.

"This year, booth sales haven't even started yet and the girls have already collected preorders of 107 boxes donated," said Cookie Mom, MJ Kramer. "We expect to exceed last year."

Seven year old Brownie Gracemary Allen explained the importance of the program.

"We help people and send cookies across the seas to people like my uncle who is in the military in the Middle East," Gracemary said.

Sophia Stafford, 8, added that selling cookie is fun and she is confident that "the soldiers like our cookies."

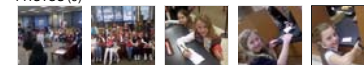
Since the programs inception, about 45,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies were donated to U.S. military from Girl Scout and Brownie Troops throughout West Central Florida.

Girl Scout booth cookie sales begin on February 25 and will run approximately three weekends. Look for the red, white and blue posters with a cookie dressed in military uniform to figure out which troops are participating in the military program.

You can also order online. Visit [www.gswcf.org](http://www.gswcf.org) (<http://www.gswcf.org/>) and click on Cookies from Home link.



PHOTOS (6)



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