



Girl Scouts Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho Money Earning vs Fundraising

Our Council Policy contains a section that addresses donations to the council. It can be found on our website (www.gsewni.org) under IV. FINANCE

Policy 8: GSEWNI is incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)3 by the Internal Revenue Service; as such, a contribution may only be tax deductible when the primary beneficiary is GSEWNI, not an individual girl, adult, troop/group, or service unit. Funds contributed for specific troops/groups, service units, and day camps (t/g/su/dc) will be forwarded by GSEWNI to the identified t/g/su/dc. For a single cash donation to a t/g/su/dc that exceeds \$250, the excess above \$250 shall be contributed to the GSEWNI Opportunity Scholarship Fund if no prior council-approved plan exists for those funds.

In addition to this policy:

- Standard 28 of *Safety-Wise* states that Girl Scout groups are financed by dues, money-earning activities, and a share of money **earned** through council-sponsored product sale activities.
- Standard 29 of *Safety-Wise* affirms that group or troop monies must be **earned**.

Girl Scout programs are designed to help the girls learn and practice goal-setting, budgeting, money management and more.

SafetyWise also states in the “Fundraising” section on pg. 10-11 that, “*Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts **authorized** by the Girl Scout Council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money.*”

Some examples of money earning activities could include: selling GS cookies, recycle aluminum cans, put on a gigantic garage sale, wrap gift packages at holiday fairs, hold a penny drive, fall product sales, etc.

Fundraising is the legitimate process of collecting money by requesting donations from individuals and businesses.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho is a non-profit entity recognized by the IRS as a tax exempt charitable organization. As a charitable organization, GSEWNI can accept tax-deductible donations made to the Council and provide donors with the necessary donor acknowledgement. While a troop is a part of the Council, a troop or service unit does not qualify on its own as a non-profit organization with a unique charitable identification number.