



**SCOTT MEACHAM  
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER**

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**Thin Mints® Announced as  
Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie**

*College Savings Accounts Awarded To Hard Working Girl Scouts*

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK** --- Oklahomans have spoken, the votes have been tallied and we now know Oklahoma's favorite Girl Scout Cookie. At a State Capitol news conference Wednesday, State Treasurer Scott Meacham announced that Thin Mints finished first in the winner-take-all competition with 32.4 percent of the vote. The Samoa® finished a close second with 30.7 percent. The only other cookie finishing in double digits were Tagalongs® with 13.9 percent.

Treasurer Meacham awarded 12-year-old Alexis Koehler from Tulsa a \$1,000 Oklahoma College Savings Plan (OCSP) account. Alexis demonstrated excellent sales skills in selling 3,183 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to family and friends. Ashley Haan of Bethany was the top salesperson in Western Oklahoma. The 13-year-old broke the record for the western half of the state by selling 2,806 boxes. She, too, was awarded a \$1,000 OCSP account funded by an anonymous donor.

The OCSP partnered with the Girl Scouts- Western Oklahoma and Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma councils on the "Vote for Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie" contest which conducted an online vote at the OCSP website [www.ok4saving.org](http://www.ok4saving.org) during the annual Girl Scout Cookie sales.

"Receiving the \$1,000 Oklahoma College Savings Plan account means so much to me," said Koehler, top cookie saleswoman in Oklahoma. "I really worked hard for this and I'm so excited to have won."

Treasurer Meacham said the statewide online contest, which ended March 31, was designed to promote the Girls Scouts organization and encourage parents to learn more about saving for their child's college education.

"Partnering with the Girl Scouts during their annual cookie sales drive was the perfect opportunity to build awareness about the importance of saving for college," said Meacham, Chairman of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. "And today, a week before the April 15<sup>th</sup> tax deadline is the perfect opportunity to remind parents to open or contribute to the Oklahoma College Savings Plan."

**(more)**

The CEO's of Eastern and Western Oklahoma Girl Scouts expressed their appreciation for the Oklahoma College Savings Plan offering the \$1,000 OCSP account to the top cookie salesperson saying it was a terrific way to remind young people about the very important goal of planning for college.

“Everyone has their favorite Girl Scout Cookie, but in the end it was our local Girl Scout Troops and Oklahoma's parents and grandparents who are the winners as we build awareness about both of these great programs,” said Meacham.

Meacham says one of the easiest and most efficient ways to help save for the future costs of college tuition, including room and board, books and fees, is through the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. Oklahoma families can deduct up to \$20,000 from their state taxable income each year for contributions to the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. Single taxpayers can deduct up to \$10,000 per year.

Contributions made by April 15 by an Oklahoma resident to an OCSP Account are eligible for a 2008 Oklahoma income tax deduction. All contributions and earnings to an OCSP account are federal and Oklahoma income tax-deferred, and distributions are also federal and Oklahoma income tax-free when qualified withdrawals are made to fund an array of student expenses at most institutions of higher learning. Funds may be used at virtually any private or public college nationwide, and the savings can be applied to tuition as well as other qualified expenses including fees, books, supplies and certain room and board costs.

For more information about the Oklahoma College Savings Plan or to open an account, visit the website at [www.ok4saving.org](http://www.ok4saving.org) or call 1-877-654-7284.

The Oklahoma College Savings Plan is a state-sponsored, tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. Introduced in April 2000, the Oklahoma College Savings Plan currently has over \$250 million in total assets and more than 40,000 accounts, as of March 27, 2009.

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